

AGENDA
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY RURAL CAUCUS
Friday, May 19, 2017
4:45 – 6:30
Sacramento Convention Center, Room 204

WELCOME Lassen County DCC and new Rural Caucus Members!

- I. Call to order
- II. Approval of Agenda, Secretary's Minutes
- III. Treasurer's Report 5 minutes
- IV. Vice Chair Reports 3 minutes each
- V. * Elections for Rural Caucus Officers (14 positions)
- VI. Consent Calendar: Please read the eight resolutions attached below. Seven from Ruth Musser Lopez, one from Lowell Young, Alex Rooker and other co-sponsors. 10 minutes
 - a) Rural telephone and Internet Service Guarantee - Lowell Young
 - b) Oppose Trump's Rescission of Federal Permit Requirements for Cadiz Corporation Groundwater Mine Pump and Pipe Operation
 - c) No Taxation by Annexation – Ruth Musser Lopez
 - d) Equal Access to Justice Via Two-Way Closed Circuit TV - Ruth
 - e) Auto Arrest Cams - Ruth
 - f) Peace and Public Safety – Auto Arrest Cams - Ruth
 - g) Get Your Kicks on Rt. 66 - Ruth
 - h) Excessive Force Reporting Standards - Ruth
 - i) Mt. Baldy Safety Signage - Ruth
- VII. Topics for Discussion? Guest Speakers
 - a) Rural Broadband and Internet
AB 1665 Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Alex Rooker, Mark Toney 10 minutes
HR 800 Kevin Hendrick for Rep. Jared Huffman 5 mins.
 - b) Health Care In Rural Communities and SB 562 The Healthy California Act Assembly Member Ed Hernandez 22nd District, 10 minutes
 - c) Importance of Rural Democrats – Senator Mike McGuire 10 minutes
- VIII. Rural Caucus regional meeting for CD 1. CD 4 updates. Indivisibles!
- IX. Announcements
- X. Speakers Requesting time will be called by Secretary Becky Curry, in the order received.
- XI. Adjourn

*New Officers take their positions at the end of the Convention

Rural Telephone and Internet Service Quality

WHEREAS reliable telecommunications service is essential for many aspects of Californians' personal and professional life, and California law has provided a commitment to universal service through ubiquitous infrastructure and affordable pricing by

- (1) assuring the continued affordability and widespread availability of high-quality telecommunications services to all Californians;
- (2) focusing efforts on providing educational institutions, health care institutions, community-based organizations, and governmental institutions with access to advanced telecommunications services;
- (3) encouraging development and deployment of new technologies and equitable provision of services to meet consumer need and support the ubiquitous availability of a wide choice of state-of-the-art services by supporting adequate long-term investment in the necessary infrastructure;
- (4) bridging the "digital divide" by assuring access to state-of-the-art technologies for rural, inner-city, low-income, and disabled Californians.
- (5) requiring fair treatment of consumers including reasonable service quality standards, sufficient information for making informed choices, and fair processes for resolving billing and service problems;

and has repeatedly directed the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to set standards for universal service and develop strategies to achieve them; and

WHEREAS millions of Californians, particularly in rural areas, rely on landline phone service as their primary option for service because wireless phone service may not be available due to topography or vegetation, and because it may be more reliable and continue to operate during power outages; and

WHEREAS during the past few years all Californians, but especially those living in rural areas, have increasingly experienced telephone service quality problems and interruptions caused by inadequate maintenance of telecommunications network facilities by service providers, and failure to invest in upgraded infrastructure;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party calls for a renewed commitment to universal telecommunications services, including a requirement that all subscribers of telecommunications service be guaranteed access to highly reliable voice service, internet access at speeds appropriate to a modern society, advanced services and network and communications services, including specifically landline service on which rural residents particularly depend, without interruption or interference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be forwarded to the CPUC and Democratic members of the California State Legislature so that necessary changes to legislation and regulation will be made so that all Californians, including specifically those residing in rural areas, are provided high quality, highly reliable telephone and internet services.

Sponsors: Lowell Young, Jamie Beutler, Alex Rooker, Bill Julian

#9030596 Resolution Title *

OPPOSE TRUMP'S RESCISSION OF FEDERAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR CADIZ CORPORATION'S PROPOSED GROUNDWATER MINE OPERATION

Whereas 1 *

WHEREAS, the Cadiz Corporation proposes an unsustainable water mining project of five times more ground water than can be recharged naturally according to federal agency estimates, from a hydrologically connected ground water system underlying the pristine East Mojave Desert, which President Obama said "exemplifies the remarkable ecology of the Mojave Desert, where the hearty insistence of life is scratched out from unrelenting heat and dryness;" AND

Whereas 2

WHEREAS monitoring and empirical testing has shown that human, animal and plant communities in the East Mojave desert rely upon a residual and connected underground water supply system that is naturally balanced by a relatively low amount of annual rainfall providing scarce natural percolating artesian springs and seeps in exceedingly rare riparian areas sustaining safe refuge to a wide variety of rare and endangered plants and wildlife; and recent monitoring by a small population of area residents indicates that the addition of even one well in the hydrologically connected area causes ground water levels to significantly drop which concern is complicated by global warming, drought and desiccation in recent years; AND

Whereas 3

WHEREAS, despite California State Senator Dianne Feinstein's proclamation that the Cadiz water mining project poses a grave threat to the California desert and should not be approved and despite the efforts of the State of California's to provide funding for development of sustainable water supplies for southern California including improved technology for treatment and recycling, salt desalination plants, pipe replacement, new coastal rainwater catchment basins and reservoirs, the Donald J. Trump administration in one of its first acts overturned the Obama Administration's decision to require a federal project permit and environmental review;

Resolve 1 *

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the California Democratic Party supports Senator Dianne Feinstein in her vehement opposition to President Donald J. Trump's callous disregard for empirical scientific evidence and environmental sustainability, and his administration's rescission of federal permit requirements to relieve the Cadiz Corporation's project from federal environmental impact review;

Resolve 2

FURTHER, be it resolved that this resolution shall be copied to the White House and the United States Department of the Interior and, as a sanction, to California Democrat, U. S. Representative Tony Cardenas who callously and without reason of the greater good, supported California Republican U. S. Representative Tom McClintock in his request for the rescission of the federal permit requirements and environmental impact review of the Cadiz Corporation water project.

#9033421 Resolution Topic *

Rural Community Rights

Resolution Title *

NO TAXATION BY ANNEXATION

Whereas 1 *

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California residing in the territory of a local government have certain protections guaranteed by the constitution of the state including protection against frivolous spending of local governments by virtue of the right to vote on taxes that they are to be required to pay by said local government; AND

Whereas 2

WHEREAS, in recent years since a judicial finding was made in the case of Sunset Beach v OC LAFCO (2012) creating “case law” giving perceived license to “tax by annexation,” some local politicians have been ignoring state constitution safeguards and without the affirmative vote of the electors are with ever increasing frequency using annexations, reorganizations, mergers or other such action of a local government to include its territory in a previously taxed special district, service zone, or other legislative construct resulting in the imposition of the existing fee or tax on the newly added territory as a condition of the action; AND

Whereas 3

WHEREAS, rural communities are especially vulnerable to taxation by annexation as they lack the communication devices and resources, legal assistance and local court house facilities typically accessible in urban communities, to pursue complaints and protests against abusive taxes. For example, without a vote of the electors, the City of Needles this year annexed into a pre-existing county fire district after which the county then immediately added a flat tax to every parcel within the City’s territory no matter the size or value causing the poor living in the most modest of conditions to pay the same tax as a corporation owning a large hospital or industrial commercial building, with some on fixed incomes paying as much as 800% more in property taxes;

Resolve 1 *

THEREFORE, the California Democratic Party resolves to support the affirmative vote of the electors for approval of any annexation, reorganizations, merger or other such action of a local government to include its territory in a special district, service zone, or other legislative construct that would result in the imposition of a fee or tax upon property as a condition of such action or where there are provisions for, the ability to, and, or intent to tax or charge fees for any purpose; AND

Resolve 2

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor Brown, Democratic state constitutional members and Democratic members of the California Legislature.

#9044132 Resolution Topic *

Safety, Recreation, Tourism and Economy

Resolution Title *

GET YOUR KICKS ON RT66

Whereas 1 *

WHEREAS, Route 66 or RT66, otherwise known as “The Mother Road,” is a historic two-lane highway listed on the National Register of Historic Places and in the area of the East Mojave Desert is designated as a National Scenic Byway and includes clusters of historic structures and other scenic values attracting a multi-million dollar tourism industry in California every year; AND

Whereas 2

WHEREAS, RT66 also provides an alternative corridor for southern California via 29 Palms and Barstow in the event of an emergency need for evacuation; AND

Whereas 3

WHEREAS, a long section of RT66 bearing through the East Mojave Desert is closed to traffic due to washed out bridges which are not being repaired by the county thus closing off that emergency route out of 29 Palms in particular;

Resolve 1 *

THEREFORE, the California Democratic Party resolves to support the acquisition, repair and maintenance of RT66 for historic, recreational and safety purposes; AND

Resolve 2

FURTHER let it be resolved that the California Democratic Party shall forward this resolution to the State Historic Preservation Commission, the State Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Transportation (CALTrans), Governor Brown, Democratic state constitutional members and Democratic members of the California Legislature

#9044030 Resolution Title *

EXCESSIVE FORCE REPORTING STANDARDS

Whereas 1 *

WHEREAS, there is no federal oversight regarding use of force in arrests and no national database exists at the citizen level on the use of excessive force and national reporting by local or statewide law enforcement agencies is voluntary with no set of standards or definition of types of force by which to compare apples to apples or standard definition of "punishable excessive force," for example as an outlier, in the Jared Pusok, horseback bandit suspect, taser and handcuffs, followed by taser, hits/kicks, officer using body weight, hit/kicks to the head using batons and taser to punch are types of force used which were defended by San Bernardino County; AND

Whereas 2

WHEREAS, California based law enforcement agencies are currently fairly free to describe force in their own best interests, and to collect or not collect data as they please and to categorize "use of force" in as many ways as possible in a convoluted system of "descriptions of force" with sub-categories of lethal force, physical force, passive-aggressive force, allowable force (which may include handcuffs), non-permitted use of force (which may include over tightening of handcuffs) and force by officers on and off duty, number of officers involved and by police division or subdivision, how many times a person is tazed or how many bullets were fired, then also broken down into categories of both the officer and the citizen by gender, race and age and mental illness and whether or not they have tattoos; AND

Whereas 3

WHEREAS, while individuals and groups may benefit from reliable data points, the more categories to spread the various types of force and excessive force, the more difficult it is to collect and spot patterns of abuse by excess of force; AND without a trigger point for when an officer will be prosecuted, sanctioned or sued, the legal question becomes "did the incident create enough national outrage?"

Resolve 1 *

THEREFORE, the California Democratic Party resolves to support a statewide mandate for detailed uniform reporting by police, law enforcement agencies and prosecutors on specific types of force employed by law officers and specific trigger points at which force would be considered excessive and punishable; AND

Resolve 2

FURTHER let it be resolved that the California Democratic Party shall forward this resolution to the State of California Commission on Peace Officer and Standards Training, Governor Brown, Democratic state constitutional members and Democratic members of the California Legislature.

#9036338 Resolution Topic *

PEACE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Resolution Title *

AUTO ARREST CAMS

Whereas 1 *

WHEREAS, at considerable liability for the arresting agency, officers and deputies making arrests, particularly with arrests for resisting arrest, have with more frequency in recent years, been reported to have been conducted using undue and brutal force where video footage of the arrest is lacking; and

Whereas 2

WHEREAS, while law enforcement agencies may require their deputies to wear body cameras, the act of failing to turn cameras on during an arrest is a separate matter, and

Whereas 3

WHEREAS, remote activated cameras activated by ultrasonic signal technology already exists that can be adapted to body cameras required to be worn by law enforcement officers;

Resolve 1 *

THEREFORE, the California Democratic Party resolves to support a policy and requirement that all sworn law enforcement officers/deputies in the State of California must wear body cameras to be activated automatically upon 1) an officer being assigned a dispatch response or 2) engaged in an arresting posture without being dispatched; further body cameras shall be outfitted with a cam-serial-number device to remotely-activate by an ultrasonic signal transmitted by the dispatch who shall also monitor and trigger the device from the time of dispatch or response until the suspect is in lock up or released; and

Resolve 2

FURTHER let it be resolved that the California Democratic Party shall forward this resolution to the State of California Commission on Peace Officer and Standards Training, Governor Brown, Democratic state constitutional members and Democratic members of the California Legislature.

#9032358 Resolution Topic *

Rural Community Rights

Resolution Title *

EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE VIA TWO-WAY CLOSED CIRCUIT TV

Whereas 1 *

WHEREAS all people have the right to equal access to justice, yet low-income communities, migrants, non-English speakers, tribal members, often live in rural communities far from courthouses, thus there exists a resulting unfair deprivation with unequal access to justice by vulnerable populations; and

Whereas 2

WHEREAS the precedence for maximum distance to testify or be heard for the purpose of a judicial proceeding is set by current code, which limits to 75 miles the distance a witness must travel when called to testify in a deposition; and

Whereas 3

WHEREAS many rural court houses were decommissioned as a result of funding cutbacks and now some rural, low income, California residents are required to travel +200 miles, far more than 75 miles, to be heard in the nearest court of law, thus unfairly depriving them of equal access to justice and burdening them with the extra cost in terms of time and travel expenses hoisted upon them;

Resolve 1 *

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party opposes incapacity of the state court system and supports efforts and state funding to reopen decommissioned justice court rooms in rural communities, at a minimum by installing two-way closed circuit television for the purpose of remote communication and hearings between judges, judicial counsel and the parties to judicial matters including witnesses at civil and criminal proceedings and depositions; and

Resolve 2

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the State of California Commission on Judicial Performance, Governor Brown, Democratic state constitutional members and Democratic members of the California Legislature.

#9038610 Resolution Title *

MOUNTAIN BALDY SAFETY SIGNAGE

Whereas 1 *

WHEREAS, the summit of Mount San Antonio in the Angeles National Forest is LA's highest peak better known as "Mount Baldy," is 10,064 feet in elevation boasts spectacular views, it is nonetheless treacherous, with areas such as "Icehouse Canyon" and the seven tenths mile long "Devil's Backbone" trail along a rocky ridge to the "Notch" and the summit portion of the mountain, often coated with ice, buffeted with strong winds that at times gust to 100 miles per hour, with the trail narrowing to little more than 18 inches across one stretch with a precipitous drop off on one or both sides; AND

Whereas 2

WHEREAS, even the strongest or most skilled of climbers might lose footing in Icehouse Canyon or fall from the parapets of Devil's Backbone only to be hard pressed to stop the ensuing downward slide and having done so climb the steep icy grade back to the trail at the top of the ridge or climb out of the canyon with highly potential fatal consequences; AND

Whereas 3

WHEREAS, the California Democratic Party is very concerned that at the expense of lives, safety and considerable cost to the state and local agencies in the past 15 months since April 9, 2017, Mount Baldy has claimed the lives of 6 hikers and put at risk of great peril the lives of search and rescue teams and tracking dogs in efforts to recover lost hikers or their corpses;

Resolve 1 *

THEREFORE, the California Democratic Party resolves to urge the Angeles National Forest to install signage at the trail head and at the dangerous trail portals which signage would include written language and pictorial icons or ideograms expressing the danger of the trail ahead and what precautions might be taken; with strongly suggested language being "enter at your own risk—you may be liable for costs associated with your rescue or recovery;"

Resolve 2

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Angeles National Forest administration.