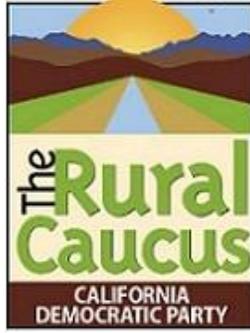


December 5, 2021



Dear Fellow Rural Caucus Members (and Allies), I hope you have enjoyed a lovely weekend getting in the holiday spirit.

As promised, here is the [recording](#) from our November 20 Caucus meeting. There is so much information to be gained from watching it. The big take away is that Democrats deliver ... on clean drinking water, broadband, wildfire preparation, and climate action.

I have also attached a recap of our [SWOT analysis](#), capturing (I hope) everyone's input. You will see that we have added a fifth page for follow up action.

One of the key opportunities to come to light in our brainstorming session is the need for heightened communication about Democrat led accomplishments – like Broadband for All, especially in rural areas, where mis and disinformation is rampant.

Bay Area Regional Chair **Renee Zeimer** proposes a billboard campaign. North Coast Regional Chair **Phil Grosse** and Northern Regional Chair **Elizabeth Betancourt** suggest a letter writing campaign. (Special note: Phil is now our North Coast Regional Chair, as Debra Broner has moved out of state.)

The Caucus Officers will meet to discuss how we can move forward on these ideas, plus your viewpoints. Your feedback and involvement are essential. Please add your thoughts and recommendations via email.

The [video recording](#) is lightly edited. Each of the presentations provides content that we can use in positive, consistent messaging.

At the top is **Phil Grosse's** update on the state's reservoirs and the small, but good news story of the state bringing clean drinking water to Tooleville in Tulare County.

Then follows **Asm. Cecilia Aguiar Curry's** excellent explanation of the preliminary **18 "middle mile" broadband projects** across the state. Her talk begins about 7:30 minutes in.

You will see on the accompanying map that Northern California is notably left out, but all assurances are that additional projects will be announced later this month.

Nevada County Supervisor Heidi Hall gives a great presentation (starting at 18:38) on what counties and cities should be doing to plan for the influx of funding. This is so important. **Our local governments need to prepare strategic plans, maps, and RFP processes for "last mile" broadband deployment.**

North Central Regional Chair **Dean Rewerts** provides a rundown of the additional dollars California will receive for Broadband from the **Infrastructure Bill**, beginning at the 23-minute mark.

State Sen. Mike McGuire, always a great speaker at our Caucus meetings, brings us up to date on the state's unprecedented investments in **wildfire resistance and response**. His remarks come at about 30 minutes into the tape.

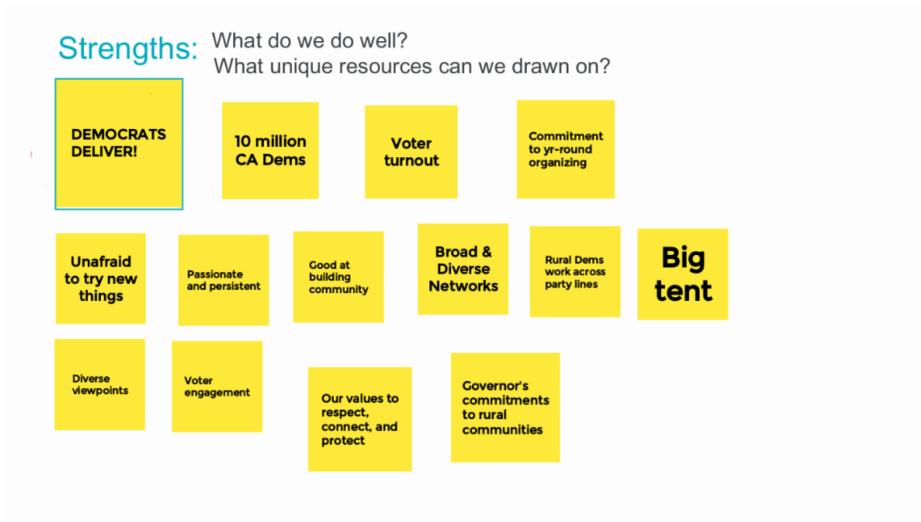
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis' excellent, firsthand account of leading the California delegation to Glasgow for the **Climate Conference** starts at 37:50. Her talk is really worth your time because

1. she gives a real flavor to what it was like to be at COP26,
2. she affirms California's leadership, while cautioning how much work there is to be done and
3. she is such a great supporter of our rural communities.

I was particularly struck by her response to an incisive question from Gold Country Regional Chair **Amy Champ**, recognizing how tough it is for rural Californians to have an electric vehicle if there aren't enough charging stations.

Next is a concise PowerPoint Presentation on **Redistricting** by **Michael Wagaman**, which has caused so much anxiety. The final public meeting is tomorrow, December 6, at 1pm: <https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/meetings>.

Our brainstorming session with the resulting SWOT analysis begins an hour 15 minutes into the [videotape](#). It begins with comments from **Governor Gavin Newsom**, **Senator Alex Padilla**, and **CDP Chair Rusty Hicks**. Significantly, the Governor affirms his support for Rural California. You can click on the matrix [here](#).



[The compilation](#) (as a PDF with five panels) of what we, as a Caucus, see as our greatest strengths, our greatest weaknesses, best opportunities, chief threats, and action items will help us focus for 2022. A special thank you to **Renee Zeimer** and Inland Empire/Desert Regional Chair **Christine Bubser** for their collaboration.

Please let us know what you feel should be added to [the matrix](#).

Wishing you and yours a most wonderful holiday season.

Joy

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