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With Counties, It's Not One Size Fits All

Veteran Sutter County Supervisor Chairs Regional Council Of Rural Counties, Which Fights For Less Populated Regions

SACRAMENTO—Larry Munger, Sutter County's longest-serving supervisor, will be sworn in January 28 as Chairman of the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), a coalition of less populated counties that has been promoting a "rural understanding among" urban-focused policy makers for 35 years.

RCRC represents 30 of the least populated counties in California that make up almost half of California's landmass, seven percent of the state's population, and the origin of 80 percent of its water.

"Most of these counties face similar issues," Mr. Munger said. "By coming together in RCRC we have some clout. And by working together, we become aware of each other's problems—such as timber tax revenues for schools in the mountain counties and flood control in the valley, for instance—and we can support each other on those issues."

RCRC's Board of Directors develops positions on proposed laws and regulations, or recommends laws and regulations to improve conditions in rural counties, while RCRC staff lobby on behalf of the positions adopted by the board and monitor the actions of state lawmakers and regulators.

In 2008, for instance, RCRC defeated proposals to impose firefighting fees on property owners in state responsibility areas, defeated solid waste legislation that would have negatively impacted small counties, secured the inclusion of place of origin water rights language in proposed water bond legislation, and secured \$150 million in the authorization of Proposition 1B funds for local streets and roads.

RCRC was also involved in the debate over 2008 air quality rules that impact diesel truck operations, septic tank regulations, fire hazard regulations, the transfer of

court facilities from counties to the state, and an effort to guarantee funding to smaller counties that cannot afford delays in payments from the state during California's budget crisis.

"There is a lot of work that gets done through RCRC that we would not be able to achieve any other way," Mr. Munger said. "It is important that Sutter County remain a part of RCRC and I look forward to raising awareness of issues important to our county during my tenure as Chair."

Important issues for RCRC include continuation of the Williamson Act, full funding of grants to rural sheriff's departments, and the "Right To Farm Act," which, signed into law in 2008, requires potential buyers of subdivided land to be notified when buying within one mile of a farming or ranch operation. RCRC also supported legislation to extend exemptions in state law that prevent penalties against farmers when, in the course of routine and ongoing agricultural activities, there is an accidental killing of endangered species.

RCRC was founded in 1973. Mr. Munger has been Sutter County's representative since he began his first term as Supervisor in 1995.

Now in his fourth term, Mr. Munger is the senior Supervisor in Sutter County. A life-long Sutter County resident, he owned and managed Munger's Market in Sutter for 22 years. He is self-employed on his ranch in Sutter and owns the South Butte Gamebirds and South Butte Gun Club.

Mr. Munger has served as a member of the following community organizations: Sutter Lions Club, Sutter High School Boosters Club, Junior Livestock Committee (Chairman, 1999), Elk Foundation Committee (Chairman, 1999), California Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Mule Deer Foundation, North American Game Breeders Association, the National Rifle Association and the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, as well as serving on numerous committees of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Munger and his wife, Eleanor, have been married for 37 years and have three children and four grandchildren.

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