

Rural County Representatives of California

Patrick Blacklock
RCRC President & CEO



Andrew Lincoln, Napa County
2025 RCRC Rural County Photo Contest Winner

RCRC Organization



Divisions

- Government Affairs
- Economic Development
- Business Development
- Administration and Finance

Affiliate Entities



Rural Counties[✓]
Environmental Services
Joint Powers Authority
ESJPA



Rural
Advancement
Institute



RCRC 2025-27 STRATEGIC PLAN



Vision

RCRC is the premier advocate and innovative service provider for rural counties in California

State & Federal Advocacy



**Impactful Policy
Advancement**

State Policy Areas

- Forest Health/Wildfire
- Water/drought
- Broadband
- Housing
- Energy
- Health Access
- CPUC
- Agriculture
- Williamson Act
- Wildlife
- Rural Healthcare

Federal Policy Areas

- Forest Health/Wildfire
- Water/Drought
- Wildlife/ Predatory Species Management
- Rural Healthcare

Key Topics

- Recruitment & Retention of Employees Ad Hoc
- Predator Management Ad Hoc
- State Mandate Reimbursement
- Jail Medical Services Study
- Indigent Health Planning / CMSP
- SGMA Ad Hoc Committee



Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) & National Homebuyers Fund, Inc (NHF)



Equitable Access

Golden State Finance Authority

- Provide affordable housing solutions
- Offer financing options for energy efficiency
- Secure infrastructure financing
 - Grant Advanced Line of Credit Program
 - Rural Broadband
 - Forest Resiliency



National Homebuyers Fund, Inc

- Expand Homeownership
- Strengthen Communities



**SINCE 1993 IN
MENDOCINO COUNTY**



Helped **97** individuals/
families purchase homes



Provided over **\$1.2 M** in
down payment
assistance

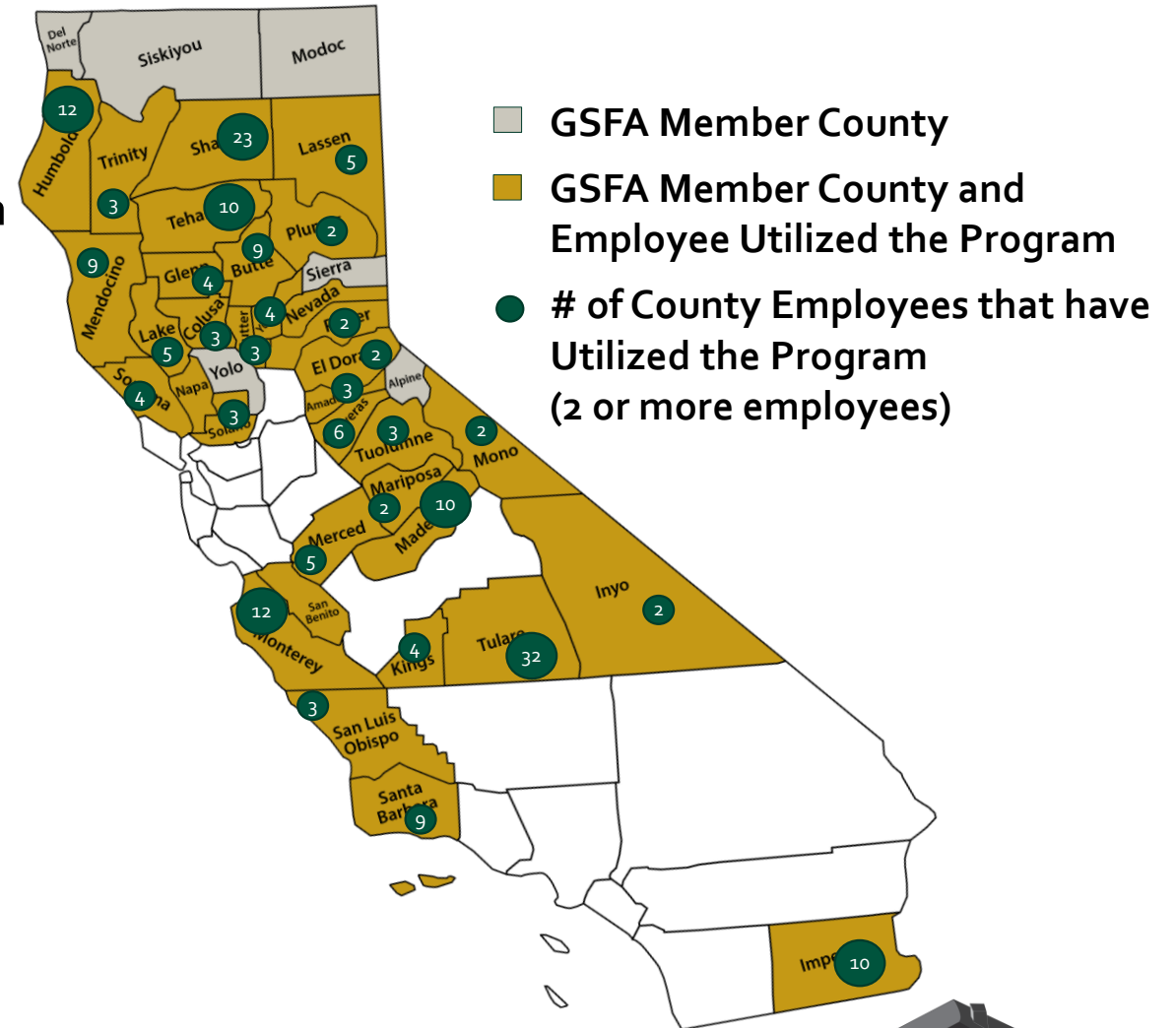
Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA)



Equitable Access

Assist-to-Own Program

- Provides up to **5.5%** assistance for down payment and closing costs on primary residence purchases or refinances for GSFA Member County employees.
 - Enhances employee retention and recruitment
- **Flexible qualifying criteria:**
 - Accepts less-than-perfect credit (FICOs as low as 640)
 - Debt-to-income ratios up to 50%
 - No first-time homebuyer requirement
 - Not limited to low-income borrowers



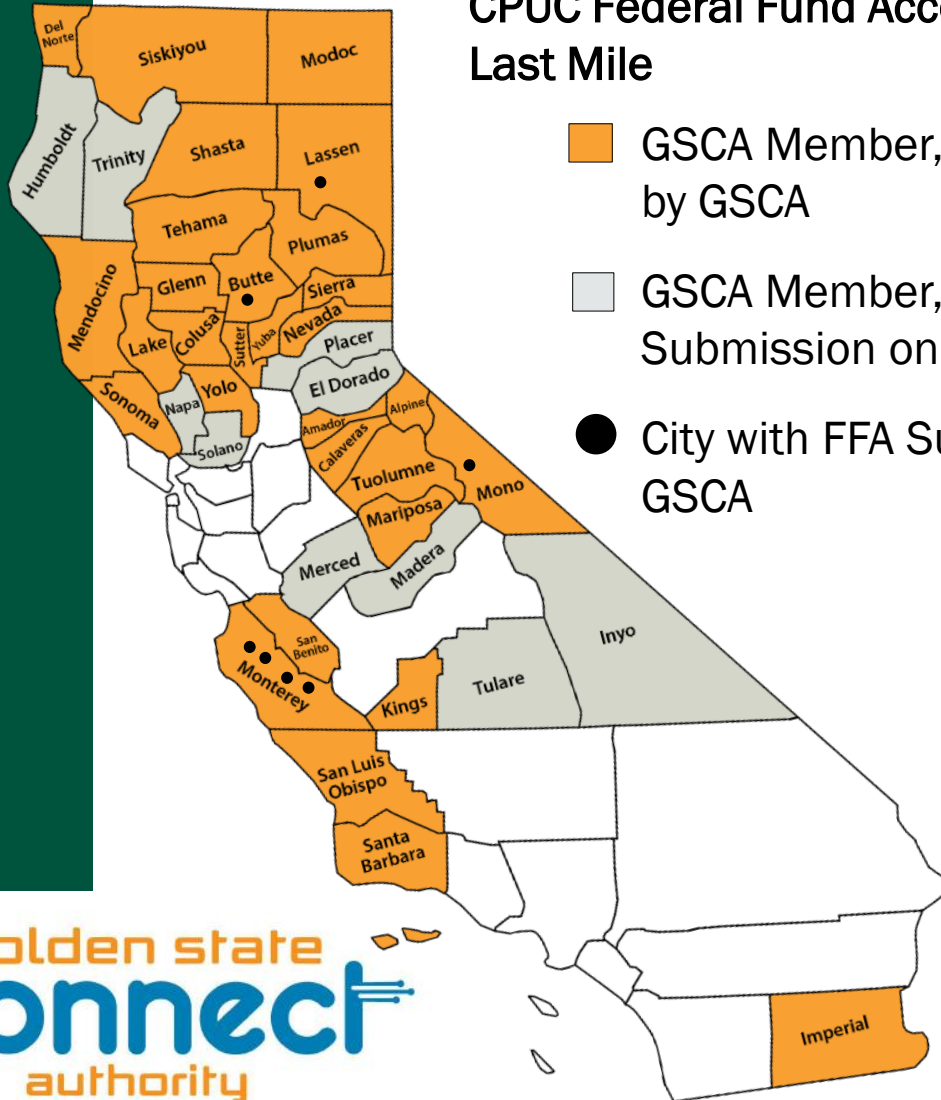
Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)



Equitable Access

CPUC Federal Fund Account (FFA) Last Mile

-  GSCA Member, FFA Submission by GSCA
-  GSCA Member, No FFA Submission on by GSCA
-  City with FFA Submission by GSCA



golden state
connect
authority

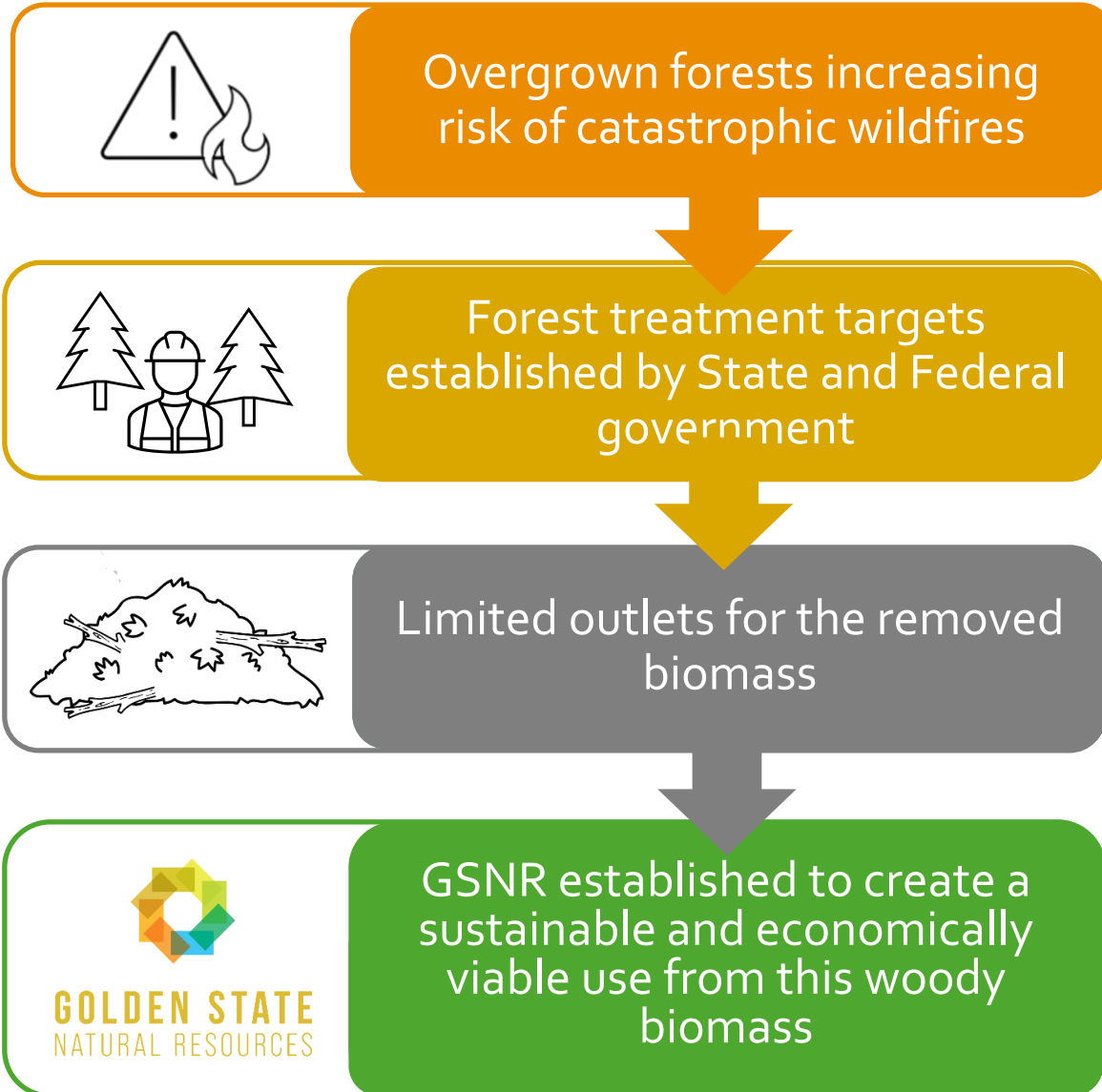
Current Construction in Glenn County



Golden State Natural Resources (GSNR)



Healthy Communities



Modoc National Forest - Summer 2024



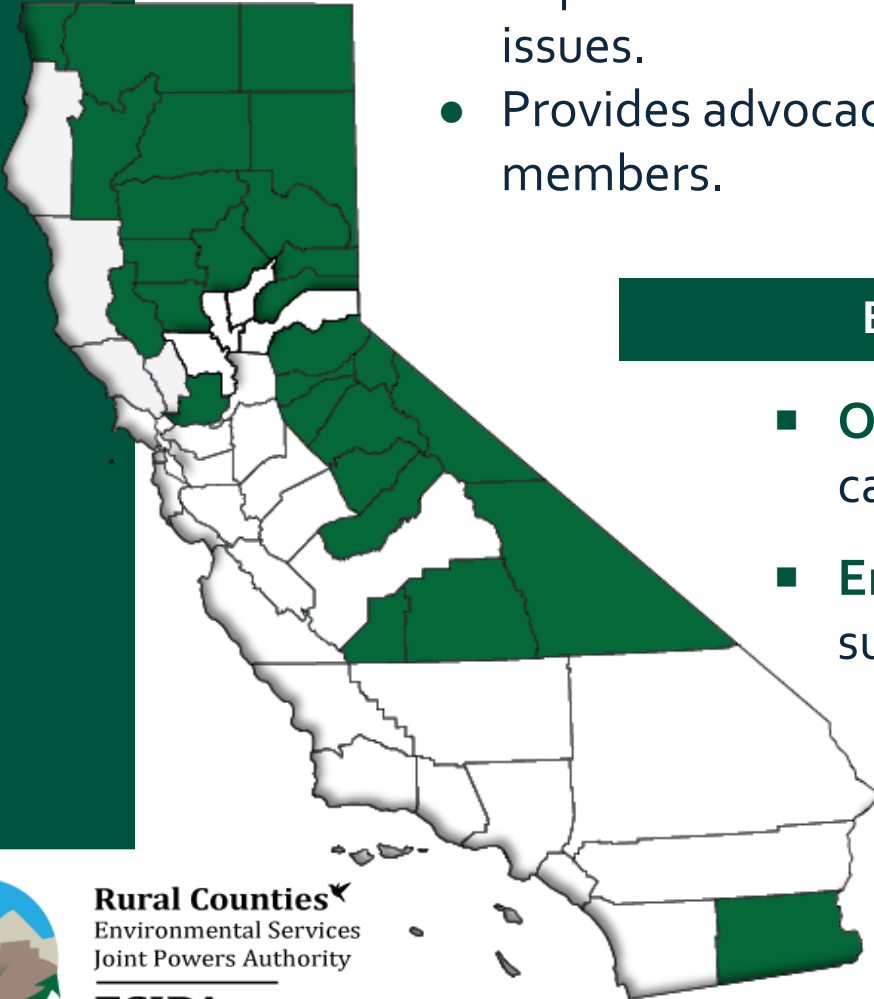
GOLDEN STATE
NATURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority (ESJPA)



Operational
Excellence

- Represents **26 rural California counties** on solid waste policy and regulatory issues.
- Provides advocacy, policy leadership, technical expertise, and direct assistance to members.



ESJPA Business Plan 2026-2028

- **Organizational Health:** Builds program capacity.
- **Engaged Membership:** Expands member support.
- **Increased Visibility:** Strengthens outreach and participation.
- **Impactful Advocacy:** Advances rural priorities through policy



Rural Counties
Environmental Services
Joint Powers Authority
ESJPA

ESJPA 2026-2028 Business Plan



Goal: Organizational Health

Objective: Enhance the organization's financial stability and workforce capacity.

- Strategy: Expand staff capacity to support ESJPA programs and projects.

Metrics:

- Number of staff trained to a level of technical proficiency and program management authority equal to or exceeding a Program Coordinator standard.

Goal: Engaged Membership

Objective: Increase member engagement and enhance services through targeted outreach and the Technical Advisory Group.

- Strategy: Launch pilot programs in select member counties.
- Strategy: Facilitate broader discussions with board members on key materials and initiatives.
- Strategy: Reach out to individual members to further understanding of local issues and concerns and provide timely updates and guidance on state and federal political developments.
- Strategy: Expand technical training and assistance programs to address member needs, with a focus on SB 1383 (organic waste procurement and food recovery compliance) and SB 54 (producer responsibility and packaging mandate readiness) utilizing these sessions as recruitment vehicles to demonstrate ESJPA's expertise and value to prospective Participating Entities.
- Strategy: Promote remote participation options to increase board meeting attendance.

Metrics:

- Number of trainings conducted as part of Technical Advisory Group meetings and otherwise.
- Percentage of member counties represented in attendance at Board Meetings
- Number of new delegate/alternate orientations.
- Number of orientations done for new members
- Grant Benefits:
 - Number of jurisdictions that are solicited for grant-funded programs.
 - Number of grant applications completed on behalf of jurisdictions.

Goal: Increased Visibility

Objective: Increase visibility and awareness of ESJPA operations and programs.

- Strategy: Conduct presentations on ESJPA programs and services to County Boards and provide ESJPA updates at RCRC Board meetings.

Rural Advancement Institute (RAI)



Impactful Policy
Advancement

RAI facilitates academic research and educational opportunities that advance understanding of rural California amongst policymakers and the public.

- **Educational Tours:**

- Behind the Scenes of the Recreation Economy
- Beyond the Lettuce Curtain: Innovations and Challenges

- **Research and Projects:**

- Fire / EMS Capacity in rural counties – UCSB
- Housing Study – Sacramento State
- Healthcare workforce landscape in rural counties – UCSF

Fire and Emergency Medical Services Response Capacity in Rural
Communities of California

Alan Murray
Yuyang Zhang
Theo Funk
Danica Marter

Wildfire Resilience Initiative
University of California at Santa Barbara
wri.ucsb.edu

Report Commissioned by Rural Advancement Institute

September 2, 2025

UC SANTA BARBARA
Wildfire Resilience Initiative



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QUESTIONS?

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- Follow us on social media:



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