

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER W-158-97**

**WHEREAS**, tell percent of California's citizens live in rural areas, and all counties except San Francisco include rural areas; and

**WHEREAS**, California's rural economy is vital to the economic strength of the State as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, California's complex and diverse rural communities require new strategies for rural growth and development in order to bring jobs and economic opportunity to California's rural communities;

**WHEREAS**, the California Rural Development Council has worked cooperatively with federal, state, local, and tribal agencies as well as community-based organizations and economic development interests and has served as a clearing house for ideas and program which can assist rural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rural Growth Strategy prepared by the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in 1997 contains an array of strategies that can be used by rural residents, businesses, and local governments who are seeking to provide jobs and economic opportunities in rural areas and maintain their quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of California seeks to expand its commitment and support to foster economic opportunities in rural Communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PETE WILSON**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this order to become effective immediately:

1. The membership of the California Rural Development Council shall consist of the following:

- a. Secretary of Trade and Commerce, who shall also serve as chair
- b. Secretary of Resources
- c. Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing
- d. Secretary of Health and Welfare
- e. Secretary of Food and Agriculture
- f. Secretary of Child Development and Education
- g. Secretary of Environmental Protection
- h. Director of the Department of Information Technology
- i. Governor's Local Government Liaison
- j. Additional members appointed by the Governor to represent the following categories:

- (1) One representative from each of the six rural areas of the State (North Coast, Northern Mountain Sierra, Central Valley, Central Coast, and Desert) representing a city, county, or special district.
- (2) One member representing tribal governments in California.
- (3) One member representing local community-based organizations.
- (4) One member representing small businesses and one member representing large businesses.
- (5) One member representing the public at large.

Members appointed pursuant to categories (j) (i) to (5) above shall serve without compensation for a term of two years.

2. The Council shall invite the participation of appropriate Members of the Legislature in discussions of specific items before the Council. The Council shall also seek the participation of the following federal agencies in order to further the federal-state-local partnership that is necessary to improve coordination, reduce duplication, address rural concerns, and improve access to all levels of government:
  - a. Department of Agriculture
  - b. Department of Commerce
  - c. Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - d. Department of Health and Human Services
  - e. Department of the Interior
  - f. Environmental Protection Agency
3. The Council shall:
  - a. Improve communication between state and federal agencies and rural areas, and provide a forum for the discussion of issues related to rural development.
  - b. Coordinate the efforts of state and federal agencies in working with local and tribal governments and the private sector in matters related to rural development.
  - c. Recommend policies, strategies, and programs to address the needs of rural California.
  - d. Provide advice to California state agencies on issues affecting rural California.
  - e. Beginning October 1, 1998, report every two years on the status of rural California.
4. A Rural Affairs Liaison shall be designated within the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, to assist rural areas of the state to provide access to State government, departments and agencies. The Rural Affairs Liaison shall provide staff assistance and support to the Rural Development Council.
5. Every agency and department of state government under the Executive Branch is directed and all other state agencies are requested to assist the Rural Development Council to the fullest extent possible.
6. Unless subsequently extended, this Executive Order shall sunset October 1, 2002.
7. Executive Order W-102-94 is hereby superseded by this executive order.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 31st day of July 1997.

Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

Secretary of State