

## **Rural Counties Task Force**

### **General Information**

The State of California contains 26 rural counties, which generally have populations of less than 250,000 and do not have a single urbanized area greater than 50,000. Rural counties provide food, fiber, timber and mineral products for California industry and residents, as well as recreation for urban residents and tourists. In order to provide a direct opportunity for the small counties to remain informed, have a voice, and become involved with changing statewide transportation policies and programs, a task force was formed in 1988 as a joint effort between the California Transportation Commission (Commission) and the rural counties. There are 26 Rural County Regional Transportation Planning Agencies or Local Transportation Commissions represented on the Rural Counties Task Force (RCTF).

The RCTF is an informal organization with no budget or staff that generally meets every other month. A member of the Commission usually acts as liaison to the RCTF, and Commission and the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) staff typically attend these meetings to explain and discuss changing statewide transportation issues that may be of concern to the rural counties.

With the implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 45 in 1997, demands on transportation systems and the responsibilities of small local planning agencies have expanded significantly. More effort is now being applied in the areas of project specific planning, programming and monitoring. Under SB 45, the value and purpose of the RCTF expanded as well.

Additional information on the RCTF can be found at <http://ruralcountiestaskforce.org/index.html>