



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 2016

For Additional Information Contact:

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LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION TO HOLD HEARING
ON CALIFORNIA'S 4,700 SPECIAL DISTRICTS

On Thursday, August 25, 2016, the Little Hoover Commission will conduct a public hearing on special districts, the 4,700 local and regional government entities that provide water, sewer and other services, run parks and hospitals and collect taxes and fees. The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. 1020 N Street, Room 100, in Sacramento.

The November hearing is the Commission's first look at special districts since its 2000 report, *Special Districts: Relics of the Past or Resources for the Future?* At this hearing, the Commission will largely focus on the nearly 3,000 independent special districts run by elected or appointed boards with assistance of professional staffs. The Commission will hear from six witnesses to set the stage for its exploration of state policy toward special districts. Witnesses will discuss the basics of special district organization, address criticisms of special districts and offer assessments of the Commission's 2000 report. The Commission also will hear from witnesses on what has and has not changed since 2000, explore new challenges and opportunities facing special districts and consider what new areas can be investigated by this study.

At the hearing the Commission will first hear from the advocacy and public affairs director for the California Special Districts Association to gain an overall view of special districts in the state. The second panel includes representatives from the Association of California Healthcare Districts and the North Tahoe Fire Protection District, to discuss how changing times are affecting special districts. The third panel features the executive director of the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO), to address the role of LAFCOs in governing special districts. The final panel includes the principal at CaliforniaCityFinance.com and the president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. They will discuss the role of property taxes and fees in funding special districts.

There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the hearing. The Commission also encourages written comments. A formal agenda and other documents related to this study can be viewed and downloaded from the Commission's website at www.lhc.ca.gov.

Immediately following the hearing, the Commission will hold a business meeting in in the lower level conference room at 925 L Street in Sacramento. An additional teleconference location accessible to the public for the business meeting will be at 15 Henry Street, Southampton, NY 11968.

Pedro Nava
Chairman

Jack Flanigan
Vice Chairman

Scott Barnett

David Beier

Anthony Cannella
Senator

Chad Mayes
Assemblymember

Don Perata

Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
Assemblymember

Richard Roth
Senator

Jonathan Shapiro

Janna Sidley

Helen Torres

Sean Varner

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director



LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

**Public Hearing on Special Districts
Thursday, August 25, 2016
1020 N Street, Room 100
Sacramento**

Public Hearing: 9:30 a.m.

Celebrated and Cussed: An Overview of Special Districts in California

1. Kyle Packham, Advocacy and Public Affairs Director, California Special Districts Association

Missions for Changing Times: Healthcare and Fire Protection Districts

2. Amber King, Senior Legislative Advocate, Association of California Health Care Districts
3. Michael Schwartz, Fire Chief, North Tahoe Fire Protection District

Who's in Charge Here? Local Agency Formation Commissions

4. Pamela Miller, Executive Director, California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions
5. John Leopold, Chair, California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions, Santa Cruz County District 1 Supervisor and Santa Cruz County Local Agency Formation Commission member.
6. Stephen Lucas, Executive Officer, California Local Agency Formation Commission and Butte County Local Agency Formation Commission.

Defining "Prudent:" What's a Fair Share of Property Taxes and Reserves?

7. Michael Coleman, Principal, CaliforniaCityFinance.com
8. Jon Coupal, President, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

**Business Meeting
Thursday, August 25, 2016
925 L Street, Lower Level
Sacramento, CA 95814**

(The Commission will consider agenda items I-IV at approximately 12:30 p.m. The precise time will vary depending upon the testimony of witnesses and will be determined at the discretion of the chair). Members of the public will have an opportunity to make comments about Commission agenda items during the meeting.

- I. Business Meeting Minutes from June 23, 2016
- II. Subcommittee Reports and Project Selection
 - Mental Health Services Act
 - Occupational Licensing
- III. Implementation
- IV. Reports from the California State Auditor's Office

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