



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2012

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

On **Tuesday, June 26, 2012**, the Little Hoover Commission will conduct a public hearing on the California state parks system. The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. in Room 2040 of the State Capitol in Sacramento.

The Little Hoover Commission is reviewing California's state parks system, the nation's largest. The state's 278 parks draw millions of visitors each year, and the state relies on the system for conservation of important ecosystems as well as for preservation of important cultural and historic assets. The system has experienced reduced support from the General Fund, though the system has grown in size. Recent budget cuts prompted the department to list 70 parks for potential closure, starting a discussion about new ways to operate struggling parks.

The June 26, 2012 hearing will focus on an often overlooked part of the parks system: preservation of state historic sites along with millions of artifacts.

In all, the state parks system manages 51 historical parks. Proposed park closures could lead to the disruption of materials and buildings at these sites.

For the June hearing, the Commission has solicited a range of views, including those of state parks management, historic preservation experts and those in leadership positions at trusts and a conservancy.

The June hearing will examine the scale and cultural significance of the state's historical sites and collections and the potential for alternative governance structures.

There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the hearing. The Commission also encourages written comments.

Immediately following the hearing, the Commission will hold a business meeting in the Legislative Counsel Conference Room in the lower level of 925 L Street in Sacramento.

All public notices for meetings are on the Commission's Web site, www.lhc.ca.gov. If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Stuart Drown at (916) 445-2125 or littlehoover@lhc.ca.gov by Tuesday, June 19, 2012.

**Public Hearing on State Parks
Tuesday, June 26, 2012
State Capitol, Room 2040
Sacramento**

Public Hearing: 9 a.m.

California State Parks: One of the Nation's Largest History Keepers

1. Blaine P. Lamb, Ph.D., Chief, Archaeology, History and Museums, Department of Parks and Recreation

Common Ground: Innovative Solutions to Rescue State Historic Parks

2. Catherine A. Taylor, District Superintendent, Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks, Department of Parks and Recreation
3. Sarah Sweedler, President and CEO, Fort Ross Conservancy

Greater Independence from Budget Deficits: Trust Models That Work

4. Jarrell C. Jackman, Ph.D., Executive Director, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation
5. Craig Middleton, Executive Director, The Presidio Trust

The "Values" Question: Raising the Stature of Historic Sites

6. Stephen J. Farneth, Founding Principal, Architectural Resources Group, Inc.
7. Barclay Ogden, Head Director, Library Preservation Department, University of California, Berkeley

**Business Meeting
Tuesday, June 26, 2012
925 L Street, Sacramento
Legislative Counsel Conference Room
Lower Level Conference Room**

(The Commission will consider agenda items I-IV at approximately 1 p.m. The precise time will vary depending upon the testimony of witnesses and will be determined at the discretion of the chair.)

- I. Business Meeting Minutes from May 11 and May 22, 2012
- II. Subcommittee Reports/Project Selection
 - a. Discussion – Property Management Study – Draft Report
 - b. Scoping Memo – Higher Education
 - c. Scoping Memo – Veterans Affairs
- III. Implementation Activity
- IV. Reports from Bureau of State Audits