



LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2012

For Additional Information Contact:

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(916) 445-2125

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Loren Kaye
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Senator

David A. Schwarz
Jonathan Shapiro

Mark Vargas
Mark Wyland
Senator

Stuart Drown
Executive Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

On **Tuesday, March 27, 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 March 27, 2012, hearing will focus on recent developments in the operation of the park system and ideas for evolution in their management. 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.

For the March 27 hearing, the Commission has solicited a range of views, including those of state parks management, foundations, park associations who provide volunteers and other support, concessions operators as well as an academic perspective of the broader economic benefits of the park system.

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.

Also, the Commission will meet for dinner on Monday, March 26, 2012, at 6 p.m. at Spataro's Restaurant at 1415 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, March 20, 2012.



LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

**Public Hearing on State Parks
Tuesday, March 27, 2012
State Capitol, Room 2040
Sacramento**

Daniel W. Hancock
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Public Hearing: 9 a.m.

The Roles, Benefits and Needs of California's State Parks

1. Michael Harris, Acting Chief Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

Non-Profit Supporters Offer Perspective, Expect Change

2. Elizabeth Goldstein, President, California State Parks Foundation
3. Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director and Secretary of the Board of Directors, Save the Redwoods League

The Economics of State Parks – How Do We Benefit?

4. Patrick Tierney, Professor and Chair, Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism, San Francisco State University

Park Associations: Volunteers Increasingly Important

5. Carolyn Schoff, President, California League of Park Associations; President, The Friends of Pio Pico Inc.

The Role of Concessions in Changing the Parks Model

6. Jack Harrison, Executive Director, California Parks Hospitality Association
7. Eric Mart, Founder and President, California Land Management Services Corporation

**Business Meeting
Tuesday, March 27, 2012
Legislative Counsel Conference Room
Lower Level
925 L Street
Sacramento**

(The Commission will consider agenda items I-V 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. Election of Officers
- II. Business Meeting Minutes from February 28, 2012
- III. Subcommittee Reports/Project Selection
 - a. Discussion – Property Management Study Potential Recommendations
- IV. Implementation Activity
- V. Reports from Bureau of State Audits