



*State of California*

# LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 9, 2017**

**For Additional Information Contact:**

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**Executive Director**

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**LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION TO HOLD HEARING  
ON CALIFORNIA'S STATE PERMITTING PROCESSES**

On Thursday, February 23, 2017, the Little Hoover Commission will conduct a public hearing on state permitting processes, after hearing reports from local regional and public agencies that permitting requirements are hindering infrastructure project work. The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the State Capitol, Room 437, in Sacramento.

At its October 27, 2016, business meeting, the Commission decided to delve deeper into issues raised during its morning hearing on special districts and adaptation to climate change. This hearing will particularly examine public projects increasingly necessary to protect California residents, wildlife and environments – both natural and human-altered – from the anticipated impacts of climate change. The Commission will review allegedly lengthy permitting processes, the practice of local and state agencies paying understaffed state permitting agencies to designate staffers to process their permits faster, and requirements for endowments to fund perpetual maintenance of lands for environmental mitigation purposes.

At the hearing the Commission will first hear from two operating officers with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, who will describe their district's experiences with these requirements. The next panel includes the chief deputy director with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the executive officer of the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board. The final panel features an assistant deputy director with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and an environmental services manager with the Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works.

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](http://www.lhc.ca.gov).

Immediately following the hearing, the Commission will hold a business meeting in Room 175 at 925 L Street in Sacramento. The chair may convene the business meeting to establish a quorum and open the vote for some agenda items at approximately 10:30 a.m. and reconvene the business meeting after the hearing concludes. An additional teleconference location accessible to the public for the business meeting will be at 425 S Palos Verdes Street, San Pedro, CA 90731



# LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

**Public Hearing on State Permitting Processes  
Thursday, February 23, 2017  
State Capitol, Room 437  
Sacramento**

Pedro Nava  
*Chairman*

**Public Hearing: 9:30 a.m.**

Jack Flanigan  
*Vice Chairman*

***State Permitting Practices Slow Us Down and Drive Up Costs: An Overview***

Scott Barnett

David Beier

1. Vincent Gin, Deputy Operating Officer for Watershed Stewardship and Planning Division, Santa Clara Valley Water District
2. Christopher Hakes, Assistant Operating Officer for Water Utility Capital Division, Santa Clara Valley Water District

Anthony Cannella  
*Senator*

Chad Mayes  
*Assemblymember*

Don Perata

***Permitting Practices Improve Projects and Protect Natural Systems***

Sebastian Ridley-Thomas  
*Assemblymember*

3. Kevin Hunting, Chief Deputy Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Richard Roth  
*Senator*

4. Bruce H. Wolfe, Executive Officer, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Jonathan Shapiro

Janna Sidley

***Permitting and Mitigation Are Necessary, but Be Reasonable***

Helen Torres

5. Chris Stone, Assistant Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Sean Varner

6. Maureen Spencer, Environmental Services Manager, Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works

Carole D'Elia  
*Executive Director*

**Business Meeting**

**Thursday, February 23, 2017  
925 L Street, Room 175  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**The Commission will consider agenda items I-VI 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. The chair may convene the business meeting to establish a quorum and open the vote for items I and II at approximately 10:30 a.m. and reconvene the business meeting after the hearing concludes. Members of the public will have an opportunity to make comments about Commission agenda items during the meeting.**

- I. Business Meeting Minutes from October 27, 2016, January 26, 2017 and February 13, 2017
- II. CalVet – Draft Report to be considered for Adoption
- III. Special Districts – Draft Report for Discussion
- IV. Subcommittee Reports and Project Selection
- V. Implementation
- VI. Reports from the California State Auditor's Office