



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Labor & Workforce Development Agency

GOVERNOR Edmund G. Brown Jr. • SECRETARY Marty Morgenstern

Agricultural Labor Relations Board • California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board
California Workforce Investment Board • Department of Industrial Relations
Employment Development Department • Employment Training Panel

Marty Morgenstern: Testimony to Hoover Commission re PERB

I thank the Commission for inviting me to give my input on placing the PERB in the Labor and Workforce Development Agency as part of the Governor's reorganization Plan. I believe this is a very straight forward matter and I will be very brief in presenting my views.

I was asked to address what issues should the Commission consider in evaluating the plan, what are the advantages and risks of this action and does this reorganization position the state to operate more effectively and efficiently.

The PERB was legislatively created (originally as the EERB) as a quasi-judicial agency with responsibility for administering the state's public sector labor laws. The reorganization has no affect on this responsibility. No powers, policies or authority of the PERB are affected by this administrative structuring. It will be no different with PERB than it is with the many other Boards in the Labor Agency, i.e., Agricultural Labor Relations Board, Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, Workers Compensation Appeals Board, Cal/OSHA Appeals Board, Cal/OSHA Standards Board and the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation. The Agency has no authority over the policies, practices or decisions of these Boards, no ability or authority to affect such matters.

What then is the purpose of placing PERB in the Agency? PERB, like any functioning state organization reports to the Governor on administrative matters like budget, PY's, auto usage, office space and a host of others. The Governor's office, like any other organization, must put reasonable limits on its span of supervision if it is to be effective and efficient. Having a cabinet member responsible for implementing the Governor's administrative directives is an important element in effecting good government. Equally important, from an efficiency perspective, is the ability of an agency to coordinate and assist its Boards and Commissions in getting their administrative requests and needs attended to. Whether it's the Governor's need to limit state phones or cars to those critical to our mission or an organizations need for more or different office space or employees, agency can help the process go smoother, faster and more efficiently. This is because we are doing it for many organizations, often simultaneously.

I do not think I need to labor this. I believe this Commission is well acquainted with the agency system in state government and how it serves a Governors need for efficiency. Certainly, now more than ever we need an efficient and cost effective state government. That is exactly the goal of this reorganization.

Again I thank you for inviting me today.

Marty Morgenstern