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**Statement to the Little Hoover Commission
Commission Public Hearing
Thursday, February 24, 2000
Room 4202, State Capitol**

Thank you, Commissioners, for inviting me to speak at this public hearing of the Little Hoover Commission. I have prepared a written statement as you suggested in your letter of invitation. I will briefly cover the points provided in the statement and be available to answer questions.

Introduction

In your letter inviting me to this public hearing, you posed a number of questions that you suggested I might discuss in my statement. You also suggested that the State needs to evolve its governance mechanisms to reflect the increasingly high-tech demands of the public by adopting e-governance strategies. I can assure you that the questions and strategies you pose regarding the Commission's study into government technology are under serious consideration within the Administration.

As the new millennium unfolds, California government faces a new information technology (IT) challenge – the challenge of achieving statewide IT excellence. In order to meet this challenge the State must strategically and structurally implement an approach that will prepare the State to meet this challenge. The Administration is committed to providing the executive sponsorship, leadership and support necessary for the successful integration of IT as a tool to reengineer and streamline the delivery of State services to Californians.

In collaboration with the Governor's Office for Innovation in Government and the Department of Finance, the Department of Information Technology (DOIT) will champion this endeavor for the Administration.

B. Timothy Gage, the Director of Finance, discussed with your sub-committee earlier this month the Governor's Budget for 2000-2001 that contains numerous provisions for funding exciting new programs within the broad area of IT. Steve Nissen, the Governor's Acting Staff Director, and Special Assistant for Innovation in Government, spoke with you about the Governor's E-Government initiative.

The DOIT's challenge and focus is to ensure the success of this Administration's IT initiatives and make certain the State is positioned to apply IT to streamline the delivery of services to Californians. The DOIT will present this spring a plan to more fully comply with the requirements of Senate Bill 1, Chapter 508, Statutes of 1995 (as modified by AB 1626 of the 1999 Legislative Session). With the executive sponsorship of the Administration and the support of the Legislature, we will be successful in our efforts to improve IT governance in the State, ensuring the successful outcome of IT initiatives. We will apply best practices from both public and private sectors to achieve the goal of IT excellence within the State of California.

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Planning for Success

As part of the Budget process the DOIT has crafted its mission statement to ensure compliance with Senate Bill 1 and states:

The Department of Information Technology is an enterprise knowledge-based organization providing Statewide strategic information technology leadership, and partnering with State entities to maximize technology resources and provide technology solutions for the successful delivery of quality services to California.

The DOIT has developed the following high-level goals and objectives to ensure the successful achievement of the DOIT mission.

DOIT Goals/Objectives

- Establish and maintain a Statewide governance structure, including policies and standardized metrics to ensure the effective planning and use of IT in the State.
- Promote collaboration between State business and IT professionals to ensure the delivery of responsive and customer friendly services.
- Partner with State entities, the Legislature and public and private sector partners to build and maintain a State program that retains its high valued IT professionals and successfully recruits new skilled IT professionals.
- Establish an integrated Statewide infrastructure to support innovative IT solutions and strategies to streamline the delivery of government services.
- Develop IT procurement policies that will ensure the effective and efficient acquisition of goods and services to meet business/program needs.
- Re-engineer IT project approval processes to ensure that project proposals receive appropriate and timely consideration.
- Establish IT “Centers of Excellence” to promote information and resource sharing and knowledge transfer among State entities.

It is the intention of DOIT to elicit input from stakeholders, including State entities, the Legislature and public and private sector partners to accomplish its mission. We will convene stakeholder committees to address specific IT issues and challenges facing our great state.

Through the continued sponsorship of the Administration, the support of the Legislature and groups such as yours we will be successful in building the foundation necessary for the State of California to be a global leader in information technology.

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you the Administration’s vision for information technology in this new millennium. As I look to the future I am honored to be a part of the State of California’s efforts to implement that vision.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY ELIAS S. CORTEZ

ELIAS S. CORTEZ
Chief Information Officer
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