

CALIFORNIA VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

- What were the reasons for establishing the entities proposed for reorganization and how has this public need changed?

The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission was established in 1983, to set policy and to oversee the collection of private donations, as well as the design construction and dedication of a memorial to California's Vietnam Veterans on the grounds of the state Capitol.

There is no longer any public need for this commission. The work of the commission has been completed. The memorial has been constructed and dedicated (1988). There is a continuing public need to maintain the existing memorial, which is within the area of responsibility of the Department of General Services, Building and Grounds Division.

- Which functions will be eliminated by the reorganization, and which functions will be performed differently as a result of the reorganization?

Since the Memorial has been completed and the commission is no longer active, there are no remaining commission functions to be performed.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs, as part of its mission to serve veterans, will continue to work with veterans groups and individual veterans on issues of importance to them.

- For each board or commission proposed for absorption into your agency, please describe the structure, process, number and type of positions that will fulfill these functions.

N/A. This commission is to be eliminated and any additional work that might become necessary would be handled by the Department of General Services.

- What savings (if any) will be captured as a result of the reorganization? What will be done with those savings and how will they be accounted for in the budget?

This commission is no longer active. There will be no General Fund savings.

- For boards or commissions that are proposed for elimination, who are the appointing authorities, what are the qualifications for membership, the terms of office and the compensation?

This commission is comprised of nine members – five Governor's appointees, two Assembly Speaker appointees and two Senate Rules Committee appointees. At least six members of the commission shall be Vietnam Veterans. There are no specified terms. Commission members receive no compensation, except for the legislative members, who receive a per diem and are reimbursed for expenses while engaged in commission activities.

- For boards or commissions that are created by the reorganization, who are the appointing authorities, what are the qualifications for membership, the terms of office and the compensation?

N/A.

- How will the new organization guard against special interests inappropriately influencing decision-makers?

The functions of the commission will be transferred to the Department of General Services. Since this commission is no longer active, and the memorial has been completed, there should be no inappropriate special interest influence on the decision-makers.

The mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) is to promote and deliver the benefits provided by the grateful State of California to its deserving veterans and their families. Thus, oversight of memorials is not an activity directly related to this mission and this function is appropriately transferred to the Department of General Services.

- How will the public be better served by reorganizing these boards or commissions and how will this improvement be measured and reported?

Even though the functions of the commission will be officially transferred to the Department of General Services with the elimination of the commission, the California Department of Veterans Affairs has addressed issues relating to the memorial as they arise. Private veterans groups have raised money on occasion to help defray the cost to repair damages caused by vandalism, and the department has assisted in coordinating such efforts between the Department of General Services and the veterans organizations.