



LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2015

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Jonathan Shapiro

Sumi Sousa

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

For Additional Information Contact:

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director
(916) 445-2125

NOTICE OF MEETING

On Thursday, March 5, 2015, the Little Hoover Commission will conduct a public hearing on ex parte communications as part of the Commission's review of California's Open Meeting Acts. The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Room 437 of the State Capitol in Sacramento.

The Commission is reviewing transparency in state and local government, specifically the effects of amendments enacted in 2008 to the Brown Act and in 2009 to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act on the ability of state boards and commissions to effectively conduct business. At this hearing, the Commission will examine the role of ex parte communications between interest groups and decision-makers during informal rulemaking.

The Commission will first hear from a partner with the Los Angeles-based firm, Strumwasser & Woocher LLP, who will report on his assignment from the California Public Utilities Commission to develop and propose new ex parte rules for the commission. The Commission will then hear from senior counsel and senior policy advisor for the University of San Diego Center for Public Interest Law, who will testify with his perspective on California's governing culture and landscape of ex parte communications in informal rulemaking and quasi-legislative proceedings. Finally, a consultant to the Administrative Conference of the United States, will outline ex parte policies used by federal agencies and discuss recommendations for ex parte communications.

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. Additional teleconference locations accessible to the public during the meeting will be: 1 North Kaniku Drive, Kohala Coast, Island of Hawaii, HI 96743.

All public notices for meetings are on the Commission's website, www.lhc.ca.gov. If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Commission Executive Director Carole D'Elia at (916) 445-2125 or littlehoover@lhc.ca.gov by Thursday, February 26, 2015.



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

**Public Hearing on California's Open Meeting Acts
Thursday, March 5, 2015
State Capitol, Room 437
Sacramento**

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Public Hearing: 9:30 a.m.

New Ex Parte Rules for the California Public Utilities Commission

1. Michael J. Strumwasser, Partner, Strumwasser & Wocher LLP

A Case for Tougher Rules Throughout the Executive Branch

2. Edward Howard, Senior Counsel/Senior Policy Advocate, Center for Public Trust Law, University of San Diego School of Law

The Federal Landscape of Ex Parte Communications Policies

3. Esa L. Sferra-Bonistalli, Consultant and former federal agency Liaison Representative to the Administrative Conference of the United States

**Business Meeting
Thursday, March 5, 2015
Legislative Counsel Conference Room
925 L Street, Lower Level
Sacramento**

(The Commission will consider agenda items I-V 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.)

- I. Business Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2015
- II. Draft Report – Underground Economy
- III. Project Selection
- IV. Implementation
- V. Reports from California State Auditor's Office