

CPR Report Recommends Improving the Delivery of Environmental and Conservation Services

On August 3, 2004 the Commission chairing the California Performance Review (CPR) delivered a massive report to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The goal of the CPR is to restructure, reorganize, and reform state government to make it more responsive to the needs of its citizens and business community. The CPR report evaluates the performance of California's governmental agencies, and proposes hundreds of reforms directed at nearly every aspect of State government, ranging from the procurement process to environmental regulation.

The Commission is conducting a series of public hearings across the State to inform the public of proposed changes to California laws and the agencies that implement them. The Commission also is taking testimony from parties affected by the proposals, and from the public at large.

This *California Performance Review Bulletin* and subsequent *Bulletins* in this series will apprise readers of developments in this process. For further information concerning these developments and how they may affect your company, contact one of the attorneys or public policy advisors listed above.

▶ Recommendations for Elimination, Duplication, Consolidation, Streamlining, and Fiscal Reforms

The CPR report notes that California spends over \$5 billion per year in its environmental, resource, and agricultural stewardship programs, an amount that exceeds the general fund budgets of 22 other states. While the goals of these programs should not be compromised, inefficiencies in the process require the public to pay more to support these efforts than they should. In order to improve the delivery of needed environmental and conservation services, the CPR recommends:

- Eliminating programs that have outlived their usefulness or duplicate other functions
- Consolidating administration of environmental agencies, combining duplicative

■ Contact Info

San Francisco:

Stanley W. Landfair

415.267.4170

Ann G. Grimaldi

415.267.4104

Christian Volz

415.267.4108

Eric S.C. Lindstrom

415.267.4134

Los Angeles:

Charles Pomeroy

213.243.6256

San Diego:

Robert S. Brewer, Jr.

619.595.540

Washington, DC:

Charles A. O'Connor

III

202.496.7586

Alex Albert

202.496.7213

Atlanta:

James D. Levine

404.527.4090

hazardous materials cleanup programs, merging waste management functions, focusing on pollution prevention, and bringing together land use and acquisition efforts

- Streamlining permitting processes, improving compliance and customer service, delivering information technology to enhance public access, prioritizing enforcement according to public health risks, and breaking down barriers to interagency cooperation
- Implementing fiscal reforms that prioritize funding based on public health risk, environmental needs, and program performance.

▶ **Specific CPR Proposals**

The CPR proposes fourteen specific reforms. Each is identified briefly below. Readers may examine the proposals in further detail by clicking on the links to corresponding sections of the CPR Report.

- Establish a Single Point of Contact for All Public Inquiries to the California Environmental Protection Agency
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res01.htm>
- Consolidate Cleanup, Spill Prevention, and Emergency Response Programs
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res02.htm>
- Consolidate Waste Management Programs
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res03.htm>
- Consolidate Pollution Prevention Programs
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res04.htm>
- Consolidate Pest Control Licensing and Regulatory Programs
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res05.htm>
- Consolidate Funding Programs for Clean Water Infrastructure
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res06.htm>
- Reduce Overhead Costs of the California Environmental Protection Agency
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res07.htm>
- Consolidate the State's Geologic Programs
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res08.htm>
- Centralize California Heritage Programs
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res09.htm>
- Consolidate State Field and Regional Offices
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res10.htm>
- Consolidate Real Estate Services into One Organization
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res11.htm>
- Restructure Funding and Governance for Certain Land Conservancies
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res12.htm>
- Consolidate Resource Land Acquisition Processes
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res13.htm>
- Streamline Permitting to Reduce Petroleum Infrastructure Bottlenecks
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res14.htm>
- Use Technology to Streamline the State-Level Environmental Review Process
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res15.htm>
- Simplify Process for Interagency Work Authorizations
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res17.htm>
- Establish a Risk-Based, Multi-Media, Environmental Compliance Assurance Program
<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprrpt/issrec/res/res18.htm>
- Enact Pending CEQA Guideline Amendments

<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprprt/issrec/res/res19.htm>

- Consolidate Responsibility for Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste Under One Agency

<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/cprprt/issrec/res/res20.htm>

▶ **Public Hearing on Resource Conservation and Environmental Reforms**

The Commission will hold a public hearing on its proposals for resource conservation and environmental protection on September 17, 2004 at California State University Fresno, in Fresno, California, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

If you would like more information about this article, or MLA's participation at the September 17 CPR Committee hearing, please contact one of the attorneys or public policy advisors listed above.

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