



LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 10, 2017

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Janna Sidley

Helen Torres

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

For Additional Information Contact:
Carole D'Elia, Executive Director
(916) 445-2125

NOTICE OF MEETING

On **Wednesday, August 23, 2017**, the Forest Management Subcommittee of the Little Hoover Commission will hold an advisory committee meeting to hear from key stakeholders to consider the viability of forest bioenergy as a forest management tool. The intent of the meeting is to inform Commission recommendations. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the BMG Conference Room located on the lower level of 925 L Street in Sacramento, California.

There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting. The Commission also encourages written comments

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 Wednesday, August 16, 2017.



LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

AGENDA

Advisory Committee Meeting on Forest Bioenergy

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

BMG Conference Room, Lower Level, 925 L Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

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Meeting Background: The Little Hoover Commission currently is conducting a study on forest management in response to the tree mortality crisis in the Sierra Nevada. Its first two hearings focused on the response to the crisis by state and local government and the private sector. The Commission has scheduled an August 24, 2017, hearing on strategies for long-term forest resilience. Commissioners indicated they wanted to learn about forest bioenergy, but decided that the topic was too expansive to cover in a public hearing. Consequently, Commissioners scheduled an advisory committee meeting to allow stakeholders to present their views on the role of forest bioenergy in California's forest management.

Meeting Goals: For stakeholders to share viewpoints with the Commission's Forest Management subcommittee on the viability of forest bioenergy as a forest management tool. The intent is to inform Commission recommendations.

1:00 – 1:10 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
Pedro Nava, Chair, Little Hoover Commission
Janna Sidley, Chair, Forest Management Subcommittee

Commission Study Process and Advisory Committee Role
Carole D'Elia, Executive Director, Little Hoover Commission

1:10 – 2:50 p.m. **Discussion:** The Commission is interested in lessons learned from using forest bioenergy in response to the tree mortality crisis, and in the potential role of forest bioenergy in long-term forest management.

In response to the tree mortality crisis: Are the directives in the Governor's 2015 Proclamation of a State of Emergency and subsequent implementing legislation and California Public Utilities Commission Resolutions effective in removing and processing the hazard trees? How is progress toward meeting the Proclamation directives being measured? What adjustments could be made for forest bioenergy to be a more effective tool in responding to the tree mortality crisis?

Forest bioenergy as a long-term forest management tool: What role can and should forest bioenergy play in long-term forest management? Bioenergy costs more than other types of renewable energy, and some of the benefits of forest bioenergy as a forest management tool, such as utilization of small diameter trees or jobs creation, are not typically factors that would justify higher electricity costs. If forest biomass does become a forest management tool, how could the higher cost of bioenergy be fairly distributed?

2:50 – 3:00 p.m. **Final Comments**

There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the discussion. Please notify Commission staff if you would like to make a comment.



State of California

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Notice of Meeting

On **Thursday, August 24, 2017**, the Little Hoover Commission will conduct a public hearing on forest management and examine strategies for long-term forest resilience. The hearing will begin at **9:30 a.m.** in **Room 437** of the **State Capitol** in Sacramento.

At the hearing, the Commission will first hear from a panel consisting of members of the Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project. This panel will feature a representative from the U.S. Forest Service as well as a representative from Sierra Forest Legacy, who will discuss the Dinkey project as a potential model for collaboration in forest management. Next, the Commission will hear from a representative from CAL FIRE who will address the department's participation in landscape-level collaborations, reforestation efforts and climate change adaptation. Also present at the hearing will be a researcher from the Water Policy Center at the Public Policy Institute of California who will discuss forested upper headwaters protection. The hearing also will include representatives from the California Air Resources Board and the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association who will address the impact of prescribed fire on air quality. Finally, the Commission will hear from a panel focusing on market development for California wood products. This panel will consist of a representative from the Tree Mortality Task Force's Marketization Working Group and a representative from the California Natural Resources Agency. They will discuss the importance of market development in utilizing the 102 million dead trees and for long-term forest management.

There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the hearing. Public comments will be limited to three minutes per person. The Commission also encourages written comments.

The Commission will convene a business meeting in room 175 of 925 L Street in Sacramento at approximately 12:30 p.m. An additional teleconference location accessible to the public during the biomass meeting will be: 15 Henry Street, Southampton, NY 11968.

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, August 17, 2017.



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Public Hearing on Forest Management
Thursday, August 24, 2017
State Capitol, Room 437
Sacramento, CA 95814

Public Hearing: 9:30 a.m.

The Collaborative Model

1. **Barnie Gyant**, Deputy Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5), United States Forest Service
2. **Susan Britting**, Executive Director, Sierra Forest Legacy

CAL FIRE Panel

3. **Matthew Reischman**, Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Protection and Improvement, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Headwaters Protection Panel

4. **Van Busic**, Assistant Specialist and Adjunct Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, University of California, Berkeley

Air Quality Panel

5. **Edie Chang**, Deputy Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board and **Karen Magliano**, Division Chief, Air Quality Planning and Science Division, California Air Resources Board
6. **Alan Abbs**, Executive Director, California Air Pollution Control Officers Association

Market Development Panel

7. **Evan Johnson**, Science and Policy Advisor, Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery and Co-leader, Utilization – Market Development Group, Tree Mortality Task Force
8. **Claire Jahns**, Assistant Secretary, Natural Resources and Climate Issues, California Natural Resources Agency

Public Comments



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Business Meeting
Thursday, August 24, 2017
925 L Street, Room 175
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Commission will consider agenda items I-VI 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). Members of the public will have an opportunity to make comments about Commission agenda items during the meeting.

- I. Business Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2017
- II. Yountville – Draft Report for Possible Adoption
- III. Special Districts – Draft Report for Possible Adoption
- IV. Subcommittee Reports and Project Selection
- V. Implementation
- VI. Reports from the California State Auditor's Office