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PUBLIC HEARING
COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES

ORIGINAL

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TIME: 9:36 a.m.
DATE: Thursday, January 26, 2006
PLACE: State Capitol, Room 126
Sacramento, California

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

--oOo--

Reported by: Daniel P. Feldhaus
California Certified Shorthand Reporter #6949
Registered Diplomat Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter

Daniel P. Feldhaus, C.S.R., Inc.
Certified Shorthand Reporters
8414 Yermo Way ♦ Sacramento, CA 95828
Telephone (916) 682-9482 ♦ Fax (916) 688-0723
FeldhausDepo@aol.com

A P P E A R A N C E S

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

ANNE SHEEHAN
(Commission Chair)
Representative for MICHAEL GENEST
Director
Department of Finance

JAN BOEL
Representative for SEAN WALSH
Director
State Office of Planning and Research

PAUL GLAAB
City Council Member
City of Laguna Niguel

FRANCISCO LUJANO
Representative for PHILIP ANGELIDES
State Treasurer

SARAH OLSEN
Public Member

NICHOLAS SMITH
Representative for STEVE WESTLY
State Controller

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
Supervisor and Chairmen of the Board
County of Tulare

--o0o--

A P P E A R A N C E S

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

PAULA HIGASHI
Executive Director

CAMILLE SHELTON
Chief Legal Counsel

ERIC FELLER
Commission Counsel

NANCY PATTON
Assistant Executive Director

TINA POOLE
Program Analyst

--o0o--

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Appearing re Item 5:

For the Department of Finance:

LENIN DEL CASTILLO
Finance Budget Analyst
Department of Finance
915 L Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Appearing re Item 9:

For the Department of Finance:

THOMAS TODD
Department of Finance
915 L Street
Sacramento, California 95814

A P P E A R A N C E S

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Appearing re Item 9: *continued*

For the Los Rios and Glendale Community College Districts
(Claimants):

KEITH B. PETERSEN, MPA, JD
President
SixTen and Associates
5252 Balboa Avenue, Suite 807
San Diego, California 92117

Appearing re Item 16:

SUSAN SHERRY
Executive Director
Center of Collaborative Policy

For Education Cost Mandated Network:

ROBERT MIYASHIRO

For San Diego Unified School District:

ART PALKOWITZ
Manager, Office of Resource Development
San Diego City Schools Finance Division
4100 Normal Street, Room 3209
San Diego, California 92103-2682

For League of California Cities and California State
Association Counties Advisory Committee on State
Mandates:

ALLAN BURDICK
Director
California State Association of Counties
SB 90 Service
4320 Auburn Boulevard, Suite 2000
Sacramento, California 95841

A P P E A R A N C E S

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Appearing re Item 18:

JESSE McGUINN
Budget Analyst
Department of Finance
915 L Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Appearing re Public Comment:

For California Teachers Association:

SANDRA THORNTON
California Teachers Association

For Education Cost Mandated Network:

ROBERT MIYASHIRO

For the Los Angeles Unified School District:

RUBEN ROJAS
Los Angeles Unified School District

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ERRATA SHEET

<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Correction</u>
<u>23</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>change recommendation to recommends</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>change Lujano to Escobar</u>
<u>52</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>change to want if to if you want</u>
<u>78</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>chang the ruling to rulemaking</u>
<u>81</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>insert education between the words</u>
_____	_____	<u>special and settlement</u>
<u>81</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>change the second the to this</u>
<u>81</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>change juxtaposition to issue</u>
<u>88</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>change an unplished decision to</u>
_____	_____	<u>a published decision</u>
<u>88</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>change his to this</u>
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BE IT REMEMBERED that on Thursday, January 26,
1 2006, commencing at the hour of 9:36 a.m., thereof, at
2 the State Capitol, Room 126, Sacramento, California,
3 before me, DANIEL P. FELDHAUS, CSR #6949, RDR and CRR,
4 the following proceedings were held:

5 --oOo--

6 MEMBER SMITH: Good morning, everyone. The
7 meeting of the Commission on State Mandates will
8 come order.

9 Paula, will you call the roll, please?

10 MS. HIGASHI: Ms. Boel?

11 MEMBER BOEL: Here.

12 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Glaab?

13 MEMBER GLAAB: Here.

14 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Lujano?

15 MEMBER LUJANO: Here.

16 MS. HIGASHI: Ms. Olsen?

17 MEMBER OLSEN: Here.

18 MS. HIGASHI: Ms. Sheehan?

19 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Here.

20 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Smith?

21 MEMBER SMITH: Here.

22 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Worthley?

23 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Here.

24 MS. HIGASHI: Thank you.

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1 The first order of business today, because it is
2 our January meeting, is the election of officers; and
3 this is held every January. And our regulations provide
4 for the executive director to conduct the election of
5 officers. So I just wanted to open nominations for
6 election of officers.

7 Are there any nominations for chairperson?

8 MEMBER BOEL: Yes, I would like to nominate the
9 Director of Finance, Michael Genest.

10 MS. HIGASHI: Is there a second?

11 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Second.

12 MS. HIGASHI: It's been moved and seconded that
13 Mike Genest, Director of Finance, be elected chairperson.

14 All those in favor of the motion?

15 *(A chorus of "ayes" was heard.)*

16 MS. HIGASHI: Any opposed?

17 *(No audible response.)*

18 MS. HIGASHI: Congratulations, Ms. Sheehan.

19 CHAIR SHEEHAN: We'll get Mike.

20 MEMBER BOEL: Anne knows how to run these
21 meetings.

22 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right, then the next order
23 would be the vice-chair.

24 MS. HIGASHI: Correct.

25 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Are there nominations for

1 vice-chair?

2 MEMBER BOEL: Should I do it?

3 Why don't you do it?

4 MEMBER LUJANO: Go ahead.

5 MEMBER BOEL: Okay, I would like to nominate the
6 Controller's Office.

7 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Do we have a second?

8 MEMBER OLSEN: Second.

9 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right. Any other
10 nominations?

11 MS. HIGASHI: For clarification, so that would
12 be a nomination of Mr. Steve Westly --

13 MEMBER BOEL: Mr. Steve Westly.

14 MS. HIGASHI: -- State Controller as vice-chair,
15 and his designee is Mr. Smith.

16 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay. Any other?

17 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Second.

18 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay, so we have a motion and a
19 second.

20 All those in favor of the motion, signify by
21 saying "aye."

22 *(A chorus of "ayes" was heard.)*

23 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Any opposed?

24 *(No audible response)*

25 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Congratulations.

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1 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Thank you. We'll get Steve,
2 too, now.

3 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Exactly. We'll bring those guys
4 over here, so they can go through this.

5 MS. HIGASHI: Let us know if we need to change
6 the hearing calendar or anything.

7 MEMBER BOEL: We do that all the time.

8 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Exactly. Okay.

9 MS. HIGASHI: The next item is Item 2, Proposed
10 Minutes, from our last meeting on December 9th.

11 MEMBER BOEL: I propose we adopt the minutes as
12 written.

13 MEMBER LUJANO: Second.

14 CHAIR SHEEHAN: No changes, corrections that
15 anybody had?

16 *(No audible response)*

17 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right, so we have a motion
18 and a second. All those in favor, signify by saying
19 "aye."

20 *(A chorus of "ayes" was heard.)*

21 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Any opposed?

22 *(No audible response)*

23 CHAIR SHEEHAN: The minutes are adopted.

24 MS. HIGASHI: This brings us to the Proposed
25 Consent Calendar. We are going to do it a little bit

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1 later in the meeting because we're having some
2 discussions on one of the proposed items.

3 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Hopefully, which will be
4 successful.

5 MS. HIGASHI: Yes.

6 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Very good.

7 MS. HIGASHI: All right.

8 CHAIR SHEEHAN: So we'll wait on that. Okay.

9 MS. HIGASHI: So we'll move to the hearing
10 portion of our meeting. And we have Items 5 and 6. And
11 I'd just like to ask for the -- and 7.

12 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Right.

13 MS. HIGASHI: I would like the parties,
14 witnesses, and representatives on any of those items to
15 please come forward.

16 You might as well come up.

17 CHAIR SHEEHAN: "Come on down," as they say.

18 *(Parties came forward to be sworn.)*

19 MS. HIGASHI: Do you solemnly swear or affirm
20 that the testimony which you are about to give is true
21 and correct, based upon your personal knowledge,
22 information or belief?

23 *(A chorus of "I do's" was heard.)*

24 MS. HIGASHI: Thank you.

25 These items related to the *School Accountability*

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1 *Report Cards'* reconsideration will be presented by Chief
2 Counsel Camille Shelton.

3 MS. SHELTON: Good morning.

4 This item is the reconsideration directed by
5 Senate Bill 512.

6 In July 2005, the Commission reconsidered this
7 test claim as directed by Assembly Bill 2855. Assembly
8 Bill 2855 did not, however, include Statutes 1997,
9 Chapter 912, which amended Education Code section 33126.
10 Thus, the Commission determined in July that it did not
11 have jurisdiction to reconsider the 1997 test claim
12 statute.

13 In October 2005, Senate Bill 512 was enacted to
14 amend Assembly Bill 2855; and it requires the Commission
15 to reconsider the *School Accountability Report Cards* test
16 claim with respect to the 1997 test claim statute.

17 Senate Bill 512 also specifies that the
18 Commission's decisions on both reconsiderations of this
19 claim apply retroactively to January 1, 2005.

20 Staff finds that Statutes 1997, Chapter 912,
21 does not constitute a reimbursable state-mandated program
22 within the meaning of Article XIII B, Section 6, of the
23 California Constitution because it does not impose a new
24 program, a higher level of service, or a cost mandated by
25 the State.

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1 Staff recommends that the Commission adopt
2 the Staff Analysis to deny statutes 1997, Chapter 912,
3 as it amended Education Code Section 33126, as a
4 reimbursable state-mandated program.

5 Staff also recommends, based on the plain
6 language of Senate Bill 512, that the Commission apply
7 the July 28th, 2005, Statement of Decision adopted
8 pursuant to Assembly Bill 2855, and the decision adopted
9 pursuant to this reconsideration retroactively to
10 January 1, 2005.

11 Will the parties and witnesses please state your
12 names for the record, if anybody wishes to appear?

13 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Whoever wants to testify, come
14 forward on this.

15 Thanks.

16 MR. CASTILLO: Lenin Del Castillo with the
17 Department of Finance.

18 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay.

19 MR. CASTILLO: We support the conclusions
20 reached in the staff analysis.

21 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay, is there anyone else who
22 would like to make any statements on this?

23 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Is it appropriate now?

24 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes.

25 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Okay, my problem with this --

1 and then, Camille, you can correct me -- is that I think
2 the way I look at it, that the voters passed sort of a --
3 Prop. 98, which let's us use a Lego house sort of thing.
4 And we're saying that, you know, as we add kind of pieces
5 sporadically, "Yeah, it still resembles a house," you
6 know, but every year we do it. Thirty years from now, it
7 could look like something other than a house.

8 So are you basically saying that because the
9 additions to the report card apply to the report card,
10 that it's what the voters intended to do? I mean, I'm
11 just a little bit worried about the piecemeal sort of
12 adding of little statutes here and there. Yeah, it still
13 resembles a report card. Thirty years from now, we keep
14 doing that, it could be something -- could look like
15 something completely different than what voters intended.
16

17 MS. SHELTON: Prop. 98 required the *School*
18 *Accountability Report Cards*, and also added statutes that
19 listed the conditions that had to be in the report card.
20 And this is legislation that just clarified what
21 needed -- some of the elements needed to be included.
22 They weren't new additional activities, we found. They
23 were just clarifications of existing law through the
24 voter initiative. And then we applied the plain
25 language of 17556(f), which says that the additional

1 language has to be necessary to implement a voter
2 initiative, or it has to be reasonably within the scope
3 of the voter initiative. And those two pieces we found
4 to apply here.

5 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Does that answer your question?

6 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Yes, sort of. But it's
7 troublesome that -- I mean, when you specify sort of
8 what -- and in looking at what was added, they look like
9 they're going to cost the schools more, do they not?

10 MS. SHELTON: But additional costs alone don't
11 equate to a reimbursable state-mandated program.

12 VICE CHAIR SMITH: I understand.

13 MS. SHELTON: You have to find a new program, a
14 higher level of service; and you have to comply with
15 17556.

16 You know, the language of 17556 changed. And
17 the Commission can't determine that that language is
18 inappropriate or unconstitutional. It has to follow the
19 plain language of that statute.

20 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Okay, and then at the end of
21 the analysis, it throws in there that, you know, "Hey, by
22 the way, the schools have not demonstrated, even if --
23 that they haven't used local property tax revenue versus
24 Prop. 98." That is thrown in there as a "just because"
25 or another -- if we did find a higher level of service

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1 and reimbursable activity, it still wouldn't be
2 reimbursable because the schools have not proven that
3 they've used local property tax revenue versus Prop. 98
4 funding.

5 MS. SHELTON: As you recall from the whole
6 discussion we had on this item in July, this particular
7 mandate results from Prop. 98. Prop. 98 had a funding
8 formula; but also required audits and a *School*
9 *Accountability Report Card*. So the finding is tied with
10 the mandate directly.

11 That argument would not apply generally to every
12 single education claim out there. It's really specific
13 to the facts of this case.

14 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Okay.

15 MEMBER WORTHLEY: I have a question.

16 MS. SHELTON: Yes?

17 MEMBER WORTHLEY: I did have a question. I
18 noticed that in the analyses, it talks about -- it
19 references Prop. 98, Section 13, that: "No provision of
20 this Act may be changed except to further its purposes
21 by bill."

22 MS. SHELTON: Right.

23 MEMBER WORTHLEY: The thought that came to my
24 mind is, if that's the case, then it would not be
25 considered a mandate. In any event, the legislation

1 would have passed a bill, which would arguably not be in
2 furtherance of the particular proposition, would it be
3 incumbent upon the parties then to actually appeal that
4 decision in the court as being unconstitutional, as
5 opposed to come to the mandate to seek funding?

6 MS. SHELTON: They could, sure. I mean, there
7 are specific requirements in the Constitution that they
8 needed a two-thirds vote, plus there has to be an express
9 finding that it furthers the purpose of the voter
10 initiative. So that would be, you know, to their own
11 legal strategy, and that would be one way of doing it,
12 sure.

13 MEMBER WORTHLEY: I didn't know whether there
14 was some requirement of administrative remedy that they
15 would have to exhaust that, before they come to the
16 Commission.

17 MS. SHELTON: No, they don't have to exhaust the
18 administrative remedies before coming to the Commission.
19 They're actually two separate issues.

20 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Thank you.

21 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Any further questions on this
22 one from the Members?

23 *(No audible response)*

24 CHAIR SHEEHAN: No one else seeking to comment
25 one way or the other?

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1 MEMBER BOEL: I guess I would have a question.

2 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes.

3 MEMBER BOEL: If we move these, we move each one
4 separately; right?

5 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes -- go ahead.

6 MS. HIGASHI: We are on the first item right
7 now, Item 5.

8 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes, because there were changes
9 to the previous one as a result of this legislation.

10 MEMBER BOEL: Yes.

11 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Exactly.

12 Okay, so do we have a motion?

13 MEMBER BOEL: I make a motion we adopt the Staff
14 Analysis on Item Number 5.

15 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Is there a second?

16 MEMBER OLSEN: Second.

17 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right, we have a motion and
18 a second.

19 All those in favor, signify by saying "aye."

20 *(A chorus of "ayes" was heard.)*

21 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Opposed?

22 VICE CHAIR SMITH: No.

23 MEMBER LUJANO: No.

24 CHAIR SHEEHAN: So the Treasurer's office and
25 the Controller's office will be reflected as voting "no."

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1 Is that correct?

2 VICE CHAIR SMITH: That's correct.

3 MS. HIGASHI: The motion is carried.

4 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay. I just want to make sure.

5 This brings us to --

6 MS. HIGASHI: Item 6.

7 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right, moving on to Item

8 number 6.

9 Camille?

10 MS. SHELTON: Item 6 is the proposed Statement

11 of Decision on this reconsideration on *School*

12 *Accountability Report Cards*. Staff recommendation that

13 the Commission adopt the proposed Statement of Decision

14 which accurately reflects the Staff Analysis and

15 recommendation on the reconsideration.

16 Minor changes, including those that reflect the

17 hearing testimony and the vote count, will be included.

18 In addition, the legislative staff has requested

19 that -- if you turn to page 3 of the Statement of

20 Decision -- that our Statements of Decision include a

21 summary of the Commission's findings on page 1, so it's

22 easier for them to see. So I am requesting authority to

23 put in a summary of the decision before the background,

24 which would just be taken from the executive summary on

25 the test claim.

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1 CHAIR SHEEHAN: They don't want to share our
2 experience?

3 MS. SHELTON: They don't want to read
4 everything.

5 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Oh, how could they say that?

6 MS. SHELTON: I forgot to include it in this
7 one.

8 CHAIR SHEEHAN: That's fine. I don't think
9 there are any objections to making that change, even
10 though we'd like them to share our experience -- I mean,
11 to do it. But I certainly understand.

12 All right, any discussion?

13 *(No audible response)*

14 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Is there a motion on this?

15 MEMBER LUJANO: So moved.

16 MEMBER BOEL: Second.

17 CHAIR SHEEHAN: We have a motion and a second.

18 Why don't we call the roll on this one then?

19 MS. HIGASHI: Okay.

20 Ms. Boel?

21 MEMBER BOEL: Aye.

22 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Glaab?

23 MEMBER GLAAB: Aye.

24 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Lujano?

25 MEMBER LUJANO: No.

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1 MS. HIGASHI: Ms. Olsen?

2 MEMBER OLSEN: Aye.

3 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Smith?

4 VICE CHAIR SMITH: No.

5 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Worthley?

6 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Aye.

7 MS. HIGASHI: And Ms. Sheehan?

8 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Aye.

9 MS. HIGASHI: The motion is carried.

10 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right.

11 MS. HIGASHI: The next item is Item 7.

12 MS. SHELTON: Item 7 is the Proposed Order to
13 set aside the Parameters and Guidelines for the *School*
14 *Accountability Report Cards* Program. As directed by
15 Assembly Bill 2855 and Senate Bill 512, the Commission
16 has reconsidered this test claim, finding that the test
17 claim legislation in its entirety does not constitute a
18 reimbursable state-mandated program.

19 Pursuant to the express language of Senate Bill
20 512, this order, proposed order, is operative January 1,
21 2005. Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the
22 proposed order to set aside these Parameters and
23 Guidelines.

24 CHAIR SHEEHAN: So is there any discussion on
25 that?

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1 (No audible response)

2 CHAIR SHEEHAN: If not, we'll entertain a
3 motion.

4 MEMBER BOEL: I move that we adopt the proposed
5 staff recommendations.

6 MEMBER GLAAB: Second.

7 CHAIR SHEEHAN: We have a motion and a second.
8 Paula, can you call the roll?

9 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Glaab?

10 MEMBER GLAAB: Aye.

11 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Lujano?

12 MEMBER LUJANO: No.

13 MS. HIGASHI: Ms. Olsen?

14 MEMBER OLSEN: Aye.

15 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Smith?

16 VICE CHAIR SMITH: No.

17 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Worthley?

18 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Aye.

19 MS. HIGASHI: Ms. Boel?

20 MEMBER BOEL: Aye.

21 MS. HIGASHI: And Ms. Sheehan?

22 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Aye.

23 MS. HIGASHI: The motion is carried.

24 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay.

25 MS. HIGASHI: At this time I'd like to go back

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1 to the Proposed Consent Calendar, which is numbered as
2 Item 3. All of you should have a pink sheet. And this
3 itemizes what is on the Consent Calendar. Items 8, 10,
4 11, 12, 14 and 15 are before you on the proposed Consent
5 Calendar.

6 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay, so 8, 10, 11, 12 --

7 MS. HIGASHI: -- 14 and 15.

8 CHAIR SHEEHAN: 14 and 15.

9 Item 13 was put over to the next meeting?

10 MS. HIGASHI: Yes.

11 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right.

12 MS. HIGASHI: That would be moved to the
13 March agenda.

14 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And then Item 9, we will have a
15 discussion.

16 THE CLERK: We will be calling Item 9 after this
17 vote.

18 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay, so everyone has the
19 revised Consent Calendar.

20 MEMBER BOEL: I move that we adopt the Consent
21 Calendar.

22 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay.

23 MEMBER OLSEN: Second.

24 CHAIR SHEEHAN: We have a motion and a second.

25 Any further discussion?

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1 (No audible response)

2 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All those in favor, say "aye."

3 (A chorus of "ayes" was heard.)

4 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Any opposed?

5 (No audible response)

6 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right, the revised Consent
7 Calendar is adopted.

8 That takes us to --

9 MS. HIGASHI: This brings us to Item 9.

10 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Right.

11 MS. HIGASHI: Item 9 will be presented by Tina
12 Poole, Commission staff.

13 MS. POOLE: Good morning.

14 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Good morning.

15 MS. POOLE: On April 24, 2003, the Commission
16 adopted the Statement of Decision for *Enrollment Fee*
17 *Collection and Waivers* for: calculating and collecting
18 student enrollment fees for community-college students,
19 waiving certain student fees, reporting to the Community
20 Colleges Chancellor the number of and amounts provided
21 for fee waivers, and adopting procedures that document
22 all financial assistance provided to students.

23 There is one outstanding issue: Staff finds
24 that due to the complexity of this program, reimbursement
25 for training is warranted. Currently, training is

1 offered by the Chancellor's office. The Chancellor's
2 manual states that directors, managers, coordinators, and
3 officers are required to attend the Chancellor's
4 training; and other management and professional staff are
5 encouraged to attend.

6 Department of Finance recommended that the
7 training language be narrowed to only allow directors,
8 managers, and coordinators to be trained. However,
9 personnel, other than directors and managers, implement
10 this mandate. By limiting training, as the Department of
11 Finance recommends, reimbursement for employees who
12 actually implement the mandate would not be allowed.
13 Therefore, we drafted language to clarify that training
14 reimbursement is allowed for those employees who
15 implement the mandate.

16 Will the parties and witnesses please state your
17 names for the record?

18 MR. TODD: Thomas Todd, Department of Finance.

19 MR. PETERSEN: Keith Petersen, representing the
20 test claimants.

21 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay, Mr. Todd, do you want to
22 go first?

23 MR. TODD: Yes, we had this item pulled from
24 consent because we wanted to articulate some concerns
25 with staff's recommendation. Specifically, we are

1 opposed to the revised language that would essentially
2 broaden the provision of training to "all employees."

3 When we had proposed the original language that
4 staff noted, that would restrict training to new
5 directors, managers, coordinators, and officers of
6 financial aid offices, it was with the assumption or
7 the idea that these folks had substantial day-to-day
8 involvement in the operations of the financial aid
9 programs.

10 And as far as we're concerned, to align with the
11 spirit and the intent of the Statement of Decision, these
12 are really the only folks that need this training.

13 The language right now that says "all employees
14 who implement the mandate shall receive training," and
15 obviously the districts would be reimbursed for the costs
16 associated with that training. We think that that's too
17 broad. I mean, I think there are some cases out there
18 where you might have folks with very ancillary
19 connections to financial aid offices who could be argued
20 by claimants to need the training, or the full complement
21 of training. And we don't think that that is
22 appropriate.

23 So for the record, we would continue to support
24 the language that would limit it specifically to new
25 directors, managers, coordinators and officers in charge

1 of the day-to-day operations of the financial aid office.

2 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay.

3 MR. PETERSEN: Well, it's their issue. But
4 essentially, there is nothing in the statute, there's
5 nothing in the Statement of Decision, and there are no
6 facts that would support limiting training to supervisors
7 and directors.

8 The traditional training reimbursement for the
9 17 years I've been doing this does not limit it to
10 specific employees. I don't know why the Department of
11 Finance just picked those people.

12 I used to work for a state agency; and at the
13 state agency I worked at, I was trained when I wasn't a
14 manager. Maybe the Department of Finance doesn't train
15 its managers on new programs. But I think local
16 government trains whoever has to work on something new.
17 As a practical matter, you train people or do something
18 new.

19 I understand the need not to retrain people;
20 that only the first training should be reimbursed. But
21 there's no reason to limit it just to the supervisors.

22 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Any other -- yes?

23 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Well, I just think that it's a
24 continuing mandate that as new employees comes along to
25 implement it this program, and you have the additional

1 costs of having to train them. That makes sense. We're
2 not asking to have the janitors trained, but we're
3 talking about with people working on the program, I think
4 that is appropriate, as reimbursable costs.

5 MEMBER BOEL: Could we get a statement back from
6 the Department of Finance? Have we done this before, to
7 limit this?

8 MR. TODD: I can only speak to this particular
9 test claim in terms of how we crafted some language to
10 limit it. To the rationale, to get to Mr. Petersen's
11 question, "new directors, managers, coordinators, and
12 officers in charge of the day-to-day operations of the
13 financial aid office" came specifically from the
14 Chancellor's office administrative manual, you know,
15 governing this. So we thought that that was
16 appropriate -- that was an appropriate limitation. It
17 was drawn directly, you know, from their own board
18 fee-waiver program manual, as listing the people that
19 would be required to receive this training.

20 We understand and acknowledge that staff pointed
21 out the manual goes on to encourage other people to
22 attend this training. We just think that, you know, the
23 proper scope of training would be involving folks that
24 have substantial operations in financial aid programs.
25 And that's the rationale for the language.

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1 CHAIR SHEEHAN: But, Tina, the language that we
2 have is to reimburse for the training for the people who
3 are actually going to be doing this. So it could be some
4 of those people.

5 MR. TODD: Right.

6 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And I guess the issue is, we
7 want to make sure whoever is on the line doing that is
8 covered. I mean, it may be the list that you're talking
9 about; but I guess the issue is, if there's someone else
10 who needs that --

11 MR. PETERSEN: Yes, that's the point exactly.

12 CHAIR SHEEHAN: -- they should be rightfully
13 reimbursed.

14 And it may be the list. But I think, you know,
15 we're not -- somebody said "everybody to be trained on
16 this."

17 MR. TODD: Well, our only concern is, it says,
18 "all employees who would implement the mandate." And,
19 you know, that doesn't necessarily give us the comfort
20 level that this is going to be restricted, you know,
21 specifically to folks that are really intimately involved
22 in financial aid operations.

23 CHAIR SHEEHAN: But I guess the other issue is,
24 as they file claims, they are going to have to
25 demonstrate why that employee is the one who is doing the

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1 work. So there is still that mechanism to make sure that
2 we are not just training everyone.

3 MR. TODD: Okay. It's just a concern.

4 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay.

5 Anybody else have any questions?

6 *(No audible response)*

7 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Anything else you want to add on
8 this?

9 *(No audible response)*

10 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay.

11 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Madam Chair, I would move
12 approve.

13 MEMBER GLAAB: Second.

14 CHAIR SHEEHAN: We have a motion and a second to
15 approve the staff recommendation.

16 All those in favor, say "aye."

17 *(A chorus of "ayes" was heard.)*

18 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Any opposed?

19 *(No audible response)*

20 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay, thank you all.

21 MR. PETERSEN: Thank you very much.

22 MS. HIGASHI: This brings us to Item 16. And
23 we'll turn all the way to the back.

24 Item 16 is our staff report on mandate reform
25 issues discussion. Assistant Executive Director Nancy

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1 Patton will present this report.

2 MS. PATTON: Good morning. At the last
3 Commission hearing, the Members agreed that large-scale
4 mandate reform should be pursued in 2006. Following the
5 hearing, Chairperson Sheehan discussed mandate reform
6 with Assembly Budget Committee Chair Laird, Legislative
7 Analyst Elizabeth Hill, key policy and budget legislative
8 staff and officials from the administration, and
9 determined that there is significant interest in pursuing
10 mandate reform in 2006.

11 During the last hearing, Members agreed that
12 hiring a facilitator may be helpful in mandate reform
13 discussions and requested that staff develop a proposal
14 for using a facilitator.

15 We are contracting with the Center for
16 Collaborative Policy at CSUS to conduct an initial
17 assessment to determine the feasibility of using a
18 collaborative or facilitative process for addressing
19 mandate reform.

20 The Center will interview 25 to 30 individuals
21 with expertise in the mandates process to make this
22 determination and to determine the scope of mandate
23 reforms to be discussed.

24 The Center will complete this assessment and
25 issue a report on its findings for presentation at our

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1 March 29th hearing.

2 Commission Staff Cathy Cruz will be working with
3 staff from the Center on this project.

4 And Ms. Susan Sherry, executive director and
5 founder for the Center of Collaborative Policy, is with
6 us this morning to provide information on the Center and
7 the process and to answer any questions.

8 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Great.

9 Do you want to come forward?

10 MS. SHERRY: Would you like me to make a
11 statement?

12 CHAIR SHEEHAN: That would be great.

13 MS. SHERRY: Hello, good morning.

14 Yes, I am an executive director. And the Center
15 was founded in 1992, after the minority and majority
16 leaders of both the Senate and the Assembly brought us
17 forward to bring all the stakeholders together that would
18 be pretty much the same crew of folk to talk about growth
19 management policies. We have worked since 1992 with
20 federal, state, local governments, crafting collaborative
21 solutions to gnarly -- we call them "wicked" -- public
22 policy problems. And we bring the diverse folks together
23 and engage them in a very disciplined and very rigorous
24 process to try to reach consensus. And we have done
25 hundreds of projects in California, ranging from water

1 policy, environmental policy, education policy. I am
2 working right now on the Ocean Protection Council with
3 the State Conservation Commission. Just in all areas.
4 And the issue is that we bring diverse issues -- folks
5 together to resolve problems.

6 I think we don't really consider ourselves just
7 facilitators. All of our folks have grounded public
8 policy experience and really understand the political
9 dynamics. We don't hire process people. We hire people
10 who are grounded in policy, who understand how to get
11 people to "yes."

12 And the stakeholders that we will be dealing
13 with in the state mandates process are stakeholders who
14 we have had a long history with, like us -- know we mean
15 business; know we know our stuff. And we'll see.

16 I mean, this is a wicked problem. And I can't
17 promise outcomes, but I can promise you that if there is
18 any chance of a consensus, we will get it out of them.
19 And if not, that would be because they won't budge.

20 So I'll just tell you a funny story:

21 When we completed the growth management project,
22 the Irvine company that was at the table printed up
23 T-shirts that said "I Survived the Susan Sherry Death
24 March."

25 So we do mean business, and people enjoy that we

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1 mean business. And it's not this facilitator flipchart
2 stuff. It's: Get down to it, know the public policy
3 issues, come prepared, know your public policy, sit in a
4 room, put other things aside, leave your weapons outside
5 the door, and come to consensus.

6 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Right.

7 Questions?

8 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Madam Chair? I wanted to
9 thank staff. I think this is a real good way to proceed.
10 And I know that the Controller is very interested in
11 working together with you and with staff and with all the
12 stakeholders to not look at only the low-hanging fruit
13 items that are out there, but I think also the bigger
14 picture.

15 The bottom line is the State needs to work
16 better with our government partners and treat them as
17 partners, and not like special interests. This shouldn't
18 be an "us-against-them"; but I think it's something that
19 we should do; and reform proposals coming from the
20 Commission on State Mandates, I think, is revolutionary
21 for the Commission. I don't think -- have we ever
22 proposed reforms from this body?

23 MS. HIGASHI: We haven't been in the position
24 where we have been encouraged to do so.

25 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Yeah, so I think this is

1 terrific. So thank you.

2 MEMBER BOEL: I'd like to commend staff as well.

3 First of all, I thought this was an excellent
4 written document to summarize things, Nancy. And I was
5 at that workshop on the 8th; and I do think there's
6 possibilities here. And I commend you and commend staff
7 for moving on this process.

8 I do have a question.

9 MS. SHERRY: Sure.

10 MEMBER BOEL: I'd like to know a little bit more
11 about how you go about this process.

12 Do you do individual interviews and then bring
13 people together?

14 MS. SHERRY: Now, what we're doing here, the
15 first leg of the journey is an assessment. We never go
16 into a process without assessing the whole context that
17 we're working in, because that really affects how you
18 design a process.

19 So the first step is an assessment to see: If
20 you throw a party, will people come, and will they come
21 in good faith? And what are their issues?

22 We like to come into it understanding the
23 terrain, so that we start off really quickly.

24 So the first piece you'll be getting at the end
25 of March is our assessment of what are people's issues,

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1 what are their interests, do we think that there's a
2 chance here. We don't like to spend public money on
3 things that we think are D.O.A., you know. And so we do
4 an assessment. And there have been clients we do
5 assessments for that we say, "Don't waste your money."

6 And so once we do that, then we have --

7 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Hopefully, that will not be the
8 case.

9 MS. SHERRY: Right, right. And, of course, our
10 interest is in having a solution. But we look at it very
11 seriously, and don't --

12 MEMBER BOEL: But how do you do that assessment?
13 Do you do it by questionnaire, or --

14 MS. SHERRY: No, we always do individual,
15 private interviews where they have confidentiality; and
16 so the interviews are typically an hour and a half. We
17 have a standardized interview protocol, so that you know
18 you're asking the same questions to everybody, so it's
19 structured like that. Of course, if people want to go
20 off on tangents, that's fine, too.

21 And we bring all the data together, along with
22 our knowledge, which we have a lot of knowledge about
23 state mandates and state government and local government.
24 And we try to figure out, okay, where are the places
25 where there is common ground.

1 Sometimes in the interviews, we can actually see
2 common ground before they have their first meeting -- the
3 people sort of agree on something, "Oh, my goodness" --
4 and then where there are sticking points and where there
5 are big sticking points. And then we try to figure out,
6 based on not only the issues, but the personalities, what
7 the sequence we should follow in terms of what issues you
8 should take first.

9 There is a rhythm to these things, and you have
10 to be very strategic about what you take up first. So we
11 will present a process at the end of that assessment.

12 But typically, our processes go for first
13 assessment, then organization, to make sure people are
14 on the same page, they have ground rules, they know how
15 to behave in the room, they know what the expectations
16 are. We do education, so that people have at least
17 access to the same information base; and then we move
18 into negotiation.

19 And in negotiation, we always include
20 implementation. You don't ever negotiate a solution
21 without negotiating the implementation. You don't --
22 otherwise, things fall apart when you sign the document.

23 So that's sort of an overview.

24 MEMBER BOEL: Interesting.

25 VICE CHAIR SMITH: And then just one quick

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1 question: How do you select who you are going to
2 interview?

3 MS. SHERRY: Well, as you know, if you are
4 embedded in the public -- in the issue, the usual
5 suspects pop out pretty easily.

6 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Okay, I just want to make
7 sure that we are inclusive of all the stakeholders.

8 MS. SHERRY: Totally.

9 VICE CHAIR SMITH: I think everyone who has
10 something to say ought to be heard, one way or the other.

11 MS. SHERRY: Right. You know, in a little --
12 back of the envelope, we do deal makers, deal breakers,
13 and folks who have information that has to be at the
14 table. So that's how we sort of do it.

15 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Well, and I think in the
16 discussions that we have had with staff, as many people
17 that want to be included, we are open to anyone.

18 MS. SHERRY: Right. Within reason. You don't
19 want 300 people within the room; but, yes.

20 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And at a certain point, the same
21 issues --

22 MS. SHERRY: Right.

23 CHAIR SHEEHAN: -- and you'll see those themes
24 emerging.

25 MS. SHERRY: Right. And we do the lists of who

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1 we interview very closely with Nancy and Paula. I mean,
2 very closely. We work collaboratively with the staff
3 because they're the experts. And so it's a hand-in-glove
4 relationship with the staff and with you and Anne.

5 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes. So if there are people
6 that you feel -- you know, give names to Nancy or Paula
7 in terms of that, that will get on the list.

8 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Question. But you're talking
9 about assessment as opposed to actual remediation.

10 MS. SHERRY: Right.

11 MEMBER WORTHLEY: So you might have a more
12 limited scope of people in your assessment, and then when
13 you go to remediation, there might be more people of like
14 interest --

15 MS. SHERRY: Right, right. Or opposite, or
16 opposite. Sometimes you do more with the assessment.

17 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Oh, you do?

18 MS. SHERRY: It depends on where you are.
19 Sometimes you want it from one interest, you want to
20 interview three people. But when you realize that they
21 all really think the same way. And not only that, but
22 the other two feel that this person is good for them and
23 they trust them to go to the mediation meetings.

24 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And that's what will emerge
25 through this first phase. And hopefully, the areas of

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1 agreement are greater than we think, and there may be
2 some areas where we really have disagreement.

3 MS. SHERRY: Right, yes.

4 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And that's what then it would be
5 focused on.

6 MS. SHERRY: Right. It's a transparent process,
7 right.

8 MEMBER GLAAB: Yes, Madam Chair, Members, I just
9 want to echo our Vice-Chairman's comments relative to
10 thanking staff for a fine document. But I also wanted to
11 mention the partnership with other levels of government
12 I think cannot be emphasized too heavily because all of
13 us involved with government have many stories on how
14 things --

15 MS. SHERRY: Oh, absolutely.

16 MEMBER GLAAB: -- go or don't go well.

17 And I think as it pertains to the Commission on
18 State Mandates reform, I think we certainly can move the
19 agenda and do some great things. So I certainly will be
20 supportive of this.

21 MS. SHERRY: Oh, absolutely.

22 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Great.

23 Okay, any other questions on this?

24 So we will -- oh, yes?

25 Come on forward.

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1 Can you just identify yourselves for the record?

2 MR. MIYASHIRO: Yes, Robert Miyashiro with the
3 Education Mandated Cost Network.

4 MR. PALKOWITZ: Art Palkowitz on behalf of
5 San Diego Unified.

6 I just wanted to comment briefly. Yes, we
7 welcome this opportunity and it sounds great. I just
8 wanted to make sure everyone understands, this is about
9 affecting thousands of districts throughout the state.

10 This last workshop in December, I really didn't
11 get much notice and other school districts didn't,
12 either. And it sounds like that won't be a problem in
13 the future.

14 But also as Commission staff often does, they
15 will set hearings or meetings close to the meetings,
16 which allow people who travel here, to come up for a dual
17 purpose. So that might work out. And also something
18 like a Webcast might allow districts to participate, or
19 at least find out what's going on in an effort so that
20 everyone could be part of the collaboration.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Great. Those are good
23 suggestions.

24 Because, you're right, we want to make sure as
25 many people who have a say or follow this are included.

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1 MR. MIYASHIRO: And I just wanted to echo the
2 comments of Mr. Smith and Mr. Palkowitz, that, in fact,
3 we very much appreciate the effort being undertaken here.
4 And I can't recall the Commission on State Mandates
5 actually taking the initiative on the reform issue. So
6 I think it's very important, and it establishes a high
7 degree of credibility for the product that eventually
8 will come forth. And again, we certainly welcome
9 participation in your effort here.

10 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Right. Thank you. Thank you.

11 *(Mr. Palkowitz and Mr. Miyashiro stepped down.)*

12 MR. BURDICK: My name is Allan Burdick, and I am
13 here as staff to the League of California Cities,
14 California State Association Counties advisory committee
15 on state mandates. And since we're doing comments, we
16 should get up and join and say, I think, from the local
17 government standpoint, they are very pleased that we're
18 having a non-stakeholder drive this process. We think
19 that made a lot of sense for somebody looking for
20 something.

21 I'm a little disappointed we didn't get invited
22 to the workshop, so we could have gotten the details on
23 this so we could speak specifically.

24 We haven't -- we don't know anybody that's got
25 direct experience. It sounds very good. But, you know,

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1 we haven't had any chance to really get a real good
2 understanding. I have been very impressed with the
3 presentation and discussion this morning.

4 But we would like to thank -- and since the
5 state is paying for it, I guess -- we do think it works
6 well.

7 I guess the only other thing is, if we happen to
8 make progress well enough --

9 CHAIR SHEEHAN: When we make progress.

10 MR. BURDICK: -- that we could actually reach
11 agreement and come to consensus maybe this year, maybe we
12 don't have to wait until 2007.

13 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Absolutely, if there is some
14 stuff. And I know in some of the discussions with the
15 members upstairs, they will also be very supportive of
16 us.

17 MR. BURDICK: Secondly, we would like to invite
18 the Center to one of our meetings that we could set up
19 specifically of our group --

20 CHAIR SHEEHAN: That would be great.

21 MR. BURDICK: -- to be able to talk to them.
22 They probably want to talk to people individually as well
23 off the record, but I think they could gain a lot from a
24 collaborative process.

25 CHAIR SHEEHAN: I think that would be wonderful.

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1 And staff will help you facilitate that.

2 MS. SHERRY: Yes, that's right.

3 MR. BURDICK: Thank you very much.

4 MS. SHERRY: I talked to Chris McKenzie
5 [phonetic].

6 MR. BURDICK: Oh, okay. Great. We work with
7 them.

8 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Any other questions on this?
9 *(No audible response)*

10 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Thank you, Susan, for coming
11 here.

12 MS. SHERRY: Great.

13 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And we look forward to a
14 successful process.

15 MS. SHERRY: So do we.

16 MS. HIGASHI: I just wanted to clarify, based on
17 Mr. Burdick's comment, there was one workshop, a leg.
18 subcommittee. And certainly the cities and counties were
19 all represented at that workshop when the first
20 discussions occurred. There has not been one since that
21 date. And so there hasn't been a meeting that he has
22 missed.

23 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right. But I think it helps
24 in terms of making sure, as we go forward, that we make
25 sure people know in terms of when we have additional

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1 meetings, workshops, whatever.

2 MS. HIGASHI: And what we can do, too, is we can
3 establish a separate -- another e-mail list sign-up on
4 the Web site; so that, as there are developments, that we
5 can issue them to a mailing list.

6 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes, I think that's very
7 helpful. So I encourage anyone who would like to --

8 MS. PATTON: I think we even talked about like
9 sending a weekly update out to that mailing list, so that
10 everybody will continually updated on where the process
11 is.

12 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Perfect. So what I would say is
13 look for something on the Web site in terms of adding to
14 the list so that people can get the notices, keep updated
15 on what's going on. I think that's a great way to
16 communicate -- and very efficient in terms of that.

17 MEMBER BOEL: And you don't require any
18 endorsements of this now? A vote?

19 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Well, we really discussed
20 did last --

21 MEMBER BOEL: You did?

22 MS. HIGASHI: What will be happening, as Nancy
23 indicated in her report and Susan indicated, we will be
24 getting a report of the assessment, assuming that we can
25 get this project rolling on the time line that we've

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1 projected. We would then have a report coming back to
2 the next hearing.

3 CHAIR SHEEHAN: The March meeting?

4 MS. HIGASHI: In March.

5 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Which I know people were
6 trying -- we've moved the date a little bit.

7 MS. HIGASHI: And it will be an assessment of
8 the issues that are identified, and their recommendation
9 in terms of what next steps might be.

10 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes, exactly. Great.

11 MS. HIGASHI: So we're looking forward to it.

12 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Great. Thank you. We look
13 forward to it.

14 MS. SHERRY: Thanks.

15 MS. HIGASHI: This brings us to Item 17, Chief
16 Legal Counsel's report.

17 MS. SHELTON: I included two recent decisions
18 that have been issued by the courts in this report. The
19 second decision is the Long Beach Unified School District
20 case. And I included it in only for your information.
21 The Commission is not a party to the action but in this
22 case, the Long Beach Unified School District was trying
23 to get reimbursed from the Commission's budget directly,
24 and the Court denied that, finding a problem with the
25 Separation of Powers Doctrine.

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1 So if you have any questions on the case, I
2 would be happy to answer those questions.

3 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Any questions?

4 *(No audible response)*

5 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay.

6 MS. SHELTON: That's all I've got.

7 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right.

8 MS. HIGASHI: Item 18, this is my report.

9 I had given you the pending workload. And as
10 you can see, we still have the same number of test claims
11 and we still have about the same number of incorrect
12 reduction claims pending. We are hoping to make much
13 more of a dent in these numbers.

14 We still have two legislatively-directed
15 reconsiderations pending that are major test claims that
16 will be coming at the April meeting, we believe. That's
17 what we're projecting.

18 And we continue to have some technical cleanup
19 issues, the P's & G's amendments and obviously some
20 statewide cost estimates from previously-approved
21 mandates.

22 I have given you just some excerpts of
23 highlights from the Governor's proposed budget that
24 issued earlier this month. And the good news this year
25 is that there are significant proposals for

1 appropriations to be made to repay the mandate debt down.
2 And this is our second year with the effects of
3 Proposition 1A on the local agency budgets. So these are
4 major changes from what we have seen in the past.

5 In addition, there is one item that is related
6 to mandates that I just wanted to mention, and that is
7 that the Department of Finance has a budget change
8 proposal to set up a Mandates unit with four positions.
9 And I have excerpted the text that was in the Governor's
10 budget documents in terms of what this unit would do.
11 And if you have any questions about that, I would defer
12 to the Department of Finance staff.

13 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Jesse is here.

14 MS. HIGASHI: Ms. McGuinn is here.

15 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Right. Jesse McGuinn from our
16 staff is here.

17 I don't know to want if to take a minute or two
18 and explain what it is we're proposing in the budget.

19 MS. MCGUINN: My name is Jesse McGuinn. I'm
20 with the Department of Finance.

21 We put together a proposal to create a Mandates
22 Unit within finance. There was one in the past, and then
23 it was divested across the department. And then with
24 mandate reform, that we've identified a number of policy
25 issues that we need to have some dedicated resources to

1 developing.

2 This is a first step. And in our request, we
3 laid the groundwork to seek additional resources, that
4 the first step that we are doing with this proposal, if
5 it continues to be included in the budget by the
6 Legislature, would be a group of people to develop
7 processes that are necessary to help streamline the
8 process to get Mandates to move a little more quickly,
9 to do some policy issue papers, to participate in reform
10 by developing policy papers.

11 What we're including is within Finance, some
12 workload associated with organization development,
13 including developing a work plan, comprehensive list of
14 policy issues to be addressed independently and in
15 consultation with appropriate entities, such as the CSAC
16 and the League of Cities. Develop a comprehensive list
17 of procedural issues to be addressed independently and in
18 consultation with appropriate entities. To establish
19 consulting groups consisting of appropriate
20 representatives.

21 We have engaged CSAC and the League of Cities at
22 this point to garner their support for a unit, and lobby
23 their participation.

24 And then one of the big issues is to develop a
25 method to estimate mandated costs sooner than is being

1 done currently, and that we will be able to develop
2 mechanisms that we will be able to hopefully come up with
3 estimates at the time the bill is going through the
4 process, rather than afterwards.

5 Some of the policy issues that -- and it is not
6 an all-exclusive list, by any means. But looking at the
7 basis for which we pay consultants, currently, we pay
8 them on claims rather than allowable costs; looking at
9 administrative costs and whether they should be capped;
10 ensuring only eligible local government entities submit
11 claims; reform claiming processes regarding content,
12 timing, and frequency; payment for actual reimbursements
13 and so on. I can go through the entire list, if you
14 want. But that's just a little flavor.

15 Some of the procedure issues for the mandates
16 unit to develop include the methodology for developing
17 responses to test claims, methodologies for developing
18 responses to Parameters and Guidelines and claiming
19 instructions, and methodology for developing statewide
20 costs estimates. This unit will also be looking at --
21 in addition to program staff, but will also be looking at
22 bills that are keyed "Mandate: Yes," by Leg. Counsel;
23 and to do the budget development for the Commission,
24 proposals to annually revise and repeal expired mandates
25 and provide oversight of audit activities.

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1 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right.

2 MS. MCGUINN: And I'd be happy to answer any
3 questions.

4 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Mr. Smith?

5 VICE CHAIR SMITH: No, I just wanted to -- yeah,
6 a question, but not totally related to this.

7 Did the budget include any positions for the
8 Commission staff?

9 MS. HIGASHI: No, it did not. I mean, it did
10 not include additional positions; but we are in our first
11 year of funding for our BCP. Last year, it was approved
12 when we were given positions. And so the 2006-07 budget
13 continues those new positions.

14 VICE CHAIR SMITH: No problem. It sounds like
15 the just cause to streamline the process. But also, you
16 know, we're not making any dent in our test claims to be
17 determined. I know we still need to do some hiring. But
18 it looks like --

19 CHAIR SHEEHAN: We're down four.

20 VICE CHAIR SMITH: We're down four. But if I'm
21 right, I think the Commission has an obligation to hear
22 test claims within a year of filing.

23 And what's our average now?

24 MS. HIGASHI: Several years.

25 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Okay.

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1 MS. HIGASHI: Yes.

2 VICE CHAIR SMITH: So my point is great about
3 the Department of Finance extra positions. But please
4 keep in mind that we need some --

5 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Our part, yes.

6 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Yeah, I'm willing to meet
7 every week.

8 (Laughter)

9 VICE CHAIR SMITH: So if we can get geared up to
10 be able to get through --

11 MEMBER BOEL: You might be here by yourself.

12 MS. HIGASHI: Mr. Smith, we would be happy to
13 meet every week, too. We would need four times the staff
14 in order to produce the next agenda items --

15 VICE CHAIR SMITH: That's right.

16 MS. HIGASHI: -- to justify --

17 VICE CHAIR SMITH: I would like -- and this is
18 why we're doing the reform, but I'm hopeful that includes
19 those resources.

20 MS. HIGASHI: That would take 12 more attorneys,
21 and at least three or four more support staff.

22 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Fine. Whatever it takes.

23 MS. HIGASHI: If I may, and additional travel
24 and per diem for our public members and elected
25 officials.

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1 CHAIR SHEEHAN: I will share that with
2 Mr. Genest.

3 MS. HIGASHI: If I may, we would support that --

4 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes, indeed.

5 MS. HIGASHI: -- if the department wanted to
6 amend the budget.

7 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Indeed.

8 MS. MCGUINN: If I may, the Commission received
9 additional positions last year, as did the Controller's
10 office.

11 CHAIR SHEEHAN: So we will be making some
12 progress. But you're right, we do need to continue. And
13 it's a matter of filling the positions. And I know we
14 are working on it.

15 MS. HIGASHI: Correct. We have a vacancy in
16 Ms. Shelton's former position, and we have one position
17 that is from the BCP that we could not get it filled in
18 time, by the end of the year. So it's gone off our
19 books. But we need to readvertise and get it back
20 again. But that was because of a number of other
21 collective-bargaining-type delay issues.

22 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay, any other questions for
23 Ms. McGuinn?

24 *(No audible response)*

25 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Thank you.

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1 Okay, anything else you want to highlight?

2 MS. HIGASHI: I just wanted to add one
3 clarification. And it's my understanding that this unit
4 is only going to work on local agency mandates and not on
5 education mandates; correct?

6 MS. McGUINN: At this time. And once the
7 processes are developed, then we will start looking at
8 whether or not we should move education into it.

9 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right, that's correct.

10 MS. HIGASHI: And also, it would be moved to a
11 different section or program within Finance?

12 MS. McGUINN: At this point, it looks like it
13 will be included in the administration unit at Finance.

14 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right. As you know, now it
15 is disbursed throughout, so they are collecting them in
16 one place under that program budget manager. But we will
17 still depend on the experts within each those of units,
18 as we do whatever the -- you know, if it's a public
19 safety issue, if it's mental health, whatever it is, in
20 terms of the experts within those program areas of
21 Finance.

22 MS. HIGASHI: And I just want to add, you know,
23 that we have met with Mr. Deatherage, who is the head of
24 the other section in Finance. And so we will probably
25 continue to have discussions --

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1 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Absolutely.

2 MS. HIGASHI: -- as the budget goes through, and
3 so that there's a smooth transition between the local
4 government side.

5 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And what I can do, and Paula can
6 remind me, as the budget goes through, make sure we keep
7 the Commission informed of how this BCP is moving, and
8 any changes, additions, as we go through the budget
9 process.

10 MS. HIGASHI: We will.

11 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Great.

12 Thank you.

13 Anything else on the Executive Director's
14 report?

15 MS. HIGASHI: Just a couple other things I
16 wanted to mention.

17 On proposed legislation, we had submitted two
18 legislative proposals to the Governor's office, and we
19 have approval to proceed on both of them. At this point
20 they are spot bills; and one was for mandate reform and
21 one was for SB 1033 reform.

22 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Oh, yes.

23 MS. HIGASHI: And we have a willing subcommittee
24 of two members who will be meeting with me after today's
25 meeting so we can start planning how to approach SB 1033

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1 reforms.

2 CHAIR SHEEHAN: This will be the year of mandate
3 reforms on all fronts.

4 MS. HIGASHI: I wanted to just announce some
5 changes regarding our next meeting. It will be on
6 March 29th instead of on March 30.

7 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And is that posted already on
8 our Web site?

9 MS. HIGASHI: I believe it is.

10 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Just so the people know.

11 MS. HIGASHI: And as we are issuing the draft
12 agenda items, we are changing the dates and notifying
13 them. We're still looking for a meeting room, though.
14 Whenever we move a meeting from a Thursday to a
15 Wednesday, we find ourselves in competition with every
16 legislative committee that meets in this building. And
17 so we're in the process of contacting every state agency
18 that has a hearing room.

19 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay, let us know because -- let
20 me know because I can talk to resources -- you know,
21 various -- many of them have big auditoriums.

22 MS. HIGASHI: Right. And our staff is in the
23 process of doing that right now.

24 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay.

25 MS. HIGASHI: For the next agenda, there are

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1 just a couple of changes. Item 13, which we postponed,
2 the Proposed Parameters and Guidelines amendments for
3 *Comprehensive School Safety and Emergency Procedures*.
4 That will be on the next agenda.

5 The other is the statewide cost estimate for
6 Integrated Waste Management is going to be moved to the
7 May agenda.

8 We recently responded to a request for an
9 extension of time for the state agency to respond and to
10 review that estimate. So it is now rescheduled for May.

11 In addition, as I mentioned earlier, we'll have
12 the mandate reform report.

13 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Right. We'll look forward to
14 that.

15 MS. HIGASHI: Are there any other questions?

16 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Any questions for Paula?

17 *(No audible response)*

18 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay, that concludes the agenda
19 items.

20 *Public Comment.* Is there anyone from the public
21 who would like to address the Commission on any issues
22 that -- come forward and identify yourselves.

23 MS. THORNTON: I'm Sandra Thornton, and I
24 represent the California Teachers Association. And I've
25 come to your meetings, and I have spoken with several of

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1 the people involved. It is very difficult for us to hear
2 because you talk among yourselves.

3 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

4 MS. THORNTON: You don't use your microphones
5 and project so the rest of us can hear. So I hope that
6 you would be respectful of our needs to hear. We are
7 being sent here to represent agencies; and we do need to
8 hear what you are saying.

9 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Absolutely. I appreciate that.

10 MS. THORNTON: Thank you.

11 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And don't be bashful for those
12 in the back who can't hear us, to wave us down and remind
13 us to use our microphones.

14 MR. MIYASHIRO: Yes, for the record, Robert
15 Miyashiro, Education Mandated Network.

16 I want to express our appreciation and
17 understanding of the workload that the Commission faces
18 and the kind of backlogged number of cases that are
19 pending. But if at all possible, I would express the
20 interests of our network in having the Williams test
21 claim brought up as a higher priority for staff to do an
22 analysis on.

23 And I would suggest that this particular mandate
24 is a good case study in how the overall reimbursement
25 process, I consider it, as it breaks down. Because if

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1 I just might for a minute, this bill -- this law became
2 effective last year, January. It requires a lot of
3 duties on county offices of education and school
4 districts with regard to the Williams settlement, the
5 background on which is inadequate school facilities and
6 teacher assignments and so forth.

7 School districts and county offices of education
8 are currently implementing that new law. They are
9 incurring costs to do that. And yet there is no decision
10 on whether or not this is going to be a reimbursable
11 mandate, let alone what costs would be reimbursable, what
12 activities, and what would be the claiming instructions.

13 So if you think about the current law being
14 imposed right now, districts incurring costs, and then
15 what will occur if, indeed, the Commission finds this to
16 be a reimbursable mandate according to the time line, two
17 or three years from now, districts will be expected to
18 document costs effective January 1 of '05, without ever
19 having known that it would be reimbursable.

20 And one of the major issues that we have faced
21 is the audits that are done by the Controller's Office
22 and their general conclusion that the documentation is
23 inadequate.

24 The reason it's inadequate is that when costs
25 are being incurred, there is no determination that they

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1 will ever be reimbursed. There are no claiming
2 instructions, there are no Parameters and Guidelines; and
3 yet costs are being incurred now.

4 So to the extent that we can or we would impress
5 upon the Commission and its staff to bring that
6 particular mandate up to the top of the pile, so that we
7 can move forward on this. And there is every intention
8 on the part of the local agencies to comply. But, again,
9 when there is such a lag between effective date of
10 legislation and the reimbursement instructions, it just
11 naturally poses problems.

12 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Thank you.

13 MR. ROJAS: Good morning. Ruben Rojas,
14 Los Angeles Unified School District.

15 And I am here to echo and to confirm what was
16 just shared by Mr. Miyashiro.

17 If there's anything that we can do -- I'm here
18 to appeal to you to please expedite the hearing of the
19 Williams test claim. If there is any process that we
20 need to go through, we are happy to oblige by that. If
21 there's anything that you could suggest to us that would
22 help in your consideration, if you'd like to hear from
23 other school districts, we're happy to make that happen.

24 So I'd like to turn it back to you and ask,
25 what, if anything, can be done?

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1 MS. HIGASHI: At this time, nothing can be done
2 in terms of the Commission taking action because this is
3 not an agenda item, first; and I'll let you know that.

4 What I would like to do is meet with the two
5 of you after the meeting and talk with you more about the
6 issues that you've raised.

7 VICE CHAIR SMITH: I have a question, Madam
8 Chair.

9 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Uh-huh.

10 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Where is the test claim in
11 the queue of the 109?

12 MS. HIGASHI: It was filed last year. So it's
13 going to be pretty much at the bottom.

14 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Okay.

15 MS. HIGASHI: And the difficulty is that we have
16 a number of test claims in the queue for the coming
17 twelve -- the next twelve months. And others, for the
18 next twelve months thereafter. And they're all going to
19 be ahead of this test claim.

20 So if all of the claimants that have other test
21 claims that stand in line ahead of this one, were willing
22 to sign a stipulation, essentially to say that they're
23 willing to stipulate that Williams goes first, then it's
24 not going to be as big of a problem to move it up on the
25 agenda.

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1 But there are a lot of other issues that are
2 much older --

3 CHAIR SHEEHAN: He's coming forward to sign the
4 stipulation right now.

5 (Laughter)

6 MS. HIGASHI: And Mr. Petersen represents the
7 school district claimants on all of the school district
8 claims that are in line ahead of the Williams case.

9 MR. PETERSEN: Yes, we can do what you just
10 said.

11 MS. HIGASHI: But let's talk about it.

12 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Well, and in fairness, for the
13 people who are here, who may be representing some of
14 those other test claims, in fairness to those other
15 claimants, we need to make them aware of it.

16 MR. PETERSEN: All but one are mine of those
17 cases, yes.

18 CHAIR SHEEHAN: On all the --

19 MR. PETERSEN: All the test claims, all 61, all
20 except one are mine.

21 MS. HIGASHI: Except for the ones that are
22 Mr. Palkowitz's --

23 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Right.

24 VICE CHAIR SMITH: I think the point is that --

25 MS. HIGASHI: -- and Mr. Hendee and

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1 Mr. Scribner.

2 VICE CHAIR SMITH: If we're going to replace
3 one, let's replace the school district one, not one that
4 deals with CSAC and League. I think that's what we're
5 talking about. But I think --

6 MS. HIGASHI: But what we would be doing
7 essentially is saying that instead of taking up the next
8 school district claim, this would be substituted and
9 moved up.

10 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And that's the discussion we'll
11 have with them.

12 MS. HIGASHI: And that would be the stipulation.
13 And if everyone in between would be willing to --

14 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Be bumped back down?

15 MS. HIGASHI: -- be bumped back down.

16 MR. ROJAS: If I could add a little more fuel to
17 the fire.

18 I think it's fair to say that the Williams
19 settlement affects or impacts 90 percent of the school
20 districts throughout the state.

21 MS. HIGASHI: Absolutely.

22 MR. ROJAS: So there's a lot of interest here.
23 I think your suggestion is fair and I think it's doable.
24 So we look forward to speaking.

25 MS. HIGASHI: Okay.

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1 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And, no, I certainly understand,
2 as chair of the Allocation Board, we're dealing with the
3 same issue in terms of their physical facilities at many
4 of those school districts.

5 MR. ROJAS: Thank you.

6 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay, anyone else in terms of
7 public comment who would like to address the Commission
8 at this time?

9 *(No audible response)*

10 CHAIR SHEEHAN: If not, we will go into closed
11 session.

12 Was there anything else in open?

13 *(No audible response)*

14 CHAIR SHEEHAN: All right. Do I need to read
15 this?

16 MS. HIGASHI: Yes.

17 CHAIR SHEEHAN: The Commission will now meet
18 in closed executive session pursuant to Government Code
19 section 11126, subdivision (e), to confer with and
20 receive advice from legal counsel for consideration and
21 action, as necessary and appropriate, upon the pending
22 litigation listed on the published notice and agenda, and
23 to confer with and receive advice from legal counsel
24 regarding potential litigation, and pursuant to
25 Government Code sections 11126, subdivision (a), and

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1 17526. The Commission will also confirm personnel
2 matters listed on the published notice and agenda.

3 We will reconvene in open session upon the
4 conclusion.

5 (Closed execution session was held off the
6 record from 10:36 a.m. to 10:48 a.m.)

7 CHAIR SHEEHAN: The Commission met in closed
8 executive session pursuant to Government Code Section
9 11126, subdivision (e) to confer with and receive advice
10 from legal counsel for consideration and action, as
11 necessary and appropriate, upon the pending litigation
12 listed on the published notice and agenda and potential
13 litigation; and Government Code sections 11126,
14 subdivision (a) and 17526 to confer on personnel matters
15 listed on the published notice and agenda.

16 We're reconvening in open session. We met in
17 closed session; so we're back in open on the Williams.

18 What has been the history on the precedence
19 before, when one group wants to jump ahead of everybody
20 else? Has this been done before? What is the history?

21 MS. HIGASHI: There have been -- when *Special*
22 *Ed.* came back on remand, there was generally agreement
23 that everything connected with *Special Ed.* should be
24 moved as quickly --

25 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Moved up?

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1 MS. HIGASHI: Moved up. Because it was such an
2 old case.

3 There have been other situations where -- and
4 I'm trying to think, we moved up *ERAF*, which Finance
5 asked us to move up.

6 CHAIR SHEEHAN: But not this Finance?

7 MS. HIGASHI: No.

8 CHAIR SHEEHAN: It was a few years ago.

9 MS. HIGASHI: Under the Wilson Administration,
10 we have the *ERAF* test claim, we had the *Three Strikes*
11 test claim, we have *Sexually Violent Predators* test
12 claims. They were all three high-visibility programs
13 that were associated with the Wilson Administration; and
14 there was a very significant interest in having those
15 cases decided before the next administration started.

16 So we worked at coming up with briefing
17 schedules and hearing schedules, so that it would happen
18 during the last year of the Wilson Administration.

19 CHAIR SHEEHAN: But that came from within the
20 Administration?

21 MS. HIGASHI: And the parties, too.

22 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Okay.

23 MS. HIGASHI: The parties wanted to do it; but,
24 clearly, there was agreement, and direction to proceed.

25 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Because Williams -- you know,

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1 and certainly Williams is an issue for this -- I mean,
2 this Administration settled Williams.

3 MS. HIGASHI: Right.

4 CHAIR SHEEHAN: But it has not come separately
5 to me in terms of expediting Williams.

6 It doesn't sound like on the school side -- my
7 view is, if the school people are the ones who would be
8 jumped ahead or slowed down or -- fine. Then certainly
9 the Commission could discuss that.

10 MEMBER BOEL: Would they have to go with
11 every -- would everybody -- cities and stuff all have to
12 be -- that were ahead all have to agree to this; or could
13 they just do a switch in the schools, like move one?

14 MS. HIGASHI: I have a list of all of the
15 pending cases, and we have it prioritized by: these are
16 the code remands, these are the statutory remands, and
17 these are the cases in the order of filing date of
18 records -- I guess records closed date. And Camille and
19 I go through this all the time after every hearing, when
20 we readjust and try to figure out what can go forward.

21 Sometimes the complexity of the cases is such
22 that we have to save them for when Camille has time
23 to work on the case, given her litigation schedule and
24 everything else; or if it's assigned to a different
25 person, it might take longer. So we're constantly doing

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1 that adjustment, to try to figure out which are the ones
2 we should be working on this week or next week, in order
3 to bring you the agenda eight weeks out, because we have
4 to have our drafts done ten to eight weeks before the
5 hearing in order for it to make the agenda.

6 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Well, that was a concern that
7 I had.

8 CHAIR SHEEHAN: How complicated is this?

9 MS. HIGASHI: And it can take weeks -- days,
10 weeks to finish.

11 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Because I was thinking, we
12 might have a simple education matter coming before the
13 Commission next meeting, or two meetings from now, and
14 then they want to bump. Well, you can't automatically
15 just replace it with something which takes a lot of time
16 to do the work.

17 MS. HIGASHI: No. Nothing can happen that
18 quickly because we have everything in the queue, records
19 close, statutory due dates, mandate reimbursement. And
20 Camille has worked -- we have the SEMS reconsideration.
21 And that one was a remand -- we still have pieces of
22 *Expulsions* that are all --

23 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Hanging out there, right.

24 MS. HIGASHI: You know, there are about
25 12 claims that are all related to the *Expulsions*

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1 decisions. It was a Supreme Court case that we're trying
2 to bring up. And we still have two vacancies.

3 MS. SHELTON: And *Grad Requirements* that we
4 absolutely --

5 MS. HIGASHI: And the *Grad Requirements*, we have
6 six cases.

7 MEMBER OLSEN: Paula, in terms of workload,
8 what's the earliest point at which the Williams case
9 could jump ahead of everything, assuming that that was
10 okay with everybody?

11 MS. HIGASHI: Even if it were okay with
12 everybody, it's not going to come up until next fiscal
13 year.

14 CHAIR SHEEHAN: At least this summer or fall.

15 MS. SHELTON: It would be July or August.

16 MEMBER OLSEN: And staff workload would allow
17 that to happen? I mean, would it be possible to do that?

18 MS. HIGASHI: It's possible.

19 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Well, conceptually, could you
20 not take --

21 MS. HIGASHI: Fall, winter, at the earliest.

22 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Because you figure out how much
23 work the case is really going to --

24 MS. HIGASHI: Right, exactly.

25 CHAIR SHEEHAN: -- and what other things you're

1 up against.

2 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Conceptually, could you not
3 take a similarly-situated case that's in the queue, that
4 the only reason that this case would be behind it is
5 because in terms of filing, and you could basically sort
6 of replace that case?

7 MS. HIGASHI: Well, what I'm thinking is that
8 right now, you know, we've been threatened many times by
9 the claimants to go to court and just order us to take up
10 their case because it is clearly the oldest case in the
11 file; but they haven't done that. We've been very
12 fortunate.

13 MS. SHELTON: And they can. Under the provision
14 of the Code of Civil Procedure under 1085, they can say,
15 you know, you have that one-year limitation in the
16 Government Code to complete your test claims. And this
17 one has been sitting around for five years. It's the
18 oldest test claim. And they have threatened to do it,
19 and they haven't done it. We really wouldn't have an
20 argument, other than we don't have the staff to complete
21 it.

22 VICE CHAIR SMITH: As far as I see, if it
23 works -- I mean, if they have a school district issue,
24 they can't take away from something in the queue from
25 another stakeholder group, and only if it works. And if

1 they have maybe two -- if it takes two smaller issues to
2 equal one big -- whatever. If you can work it out,
3 great, you know, it sounds like it's important to them,
4 they're willing to go through and get a stipulation
5 signed saying we can do it. If it works, great. I think
6 they're just asking that it be done sooner than --

7 MS. HIGASHI: Four years from now.

8 VICE CHAIR SMITH: -- like, four years. So if
9 it's done in the fall, even a little bit later, I think
10 if we work with them, we can kind of reach a compromise.

11 MS. HIGASHI: But there are a lot of claimants
12 in line. And Keith Petersen acknowledged that he has
13 a bunch of those test claims. And those are all school
14 construction-case test claims, and prevailing wage,
15 school construction, San Diego.

16 MS. SHELTON: And they would have to agree on
17 the *Grad Requirements* IRC remands, too. Because I've
18 already today received information.

19 VICE CHAIR SMITH: They're going to -- they
20 don't know even what they asked for.

21 MS. SHELTON: They want to take it back to Judge
22 Connolly and say, "It's been a year since you issued your
23 decision, and this is not resolved yet."

24 And I said, "Well, we didn't get anything back
25 from the Controller until August, and we have three

1 attorneys, and we have statutory deadlines on
2 reconsiderations that have to come first. And the writ
3 didn't have a deadline."

4 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Go ahead.

5 MS. HIGASHI: And so basically --

6 CHAIR SHEEHAN: I walked into the building with
7 him.

8 MS. HIGASHI: So we basically have a request
9 that is verbal, that was made today before the hearing
10 from San Diego, requesting that all of those -- at least
11 their case be set for hearing on the May agenda.

12 MEMBER GLAAB: But, you know, I have a certain
13 that, notwithstanding the educational community, I
14 have that if we arbitrarily make a decision because we
15 feel good about it, that it's a good idea, and there's
16 not any set criteria for moving things up on the agenda,
17 don't we expose ourselves to those others?

18 MS. HIGASHI: Which is why I said that if we had
19 a stipulation where all of the parties with claims ahead
20 of it in line agree that --

21 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes, then we're indemnified.

22 MEMBER GLAAB: Yes.

23 MEMBER OLSEN: But I'm so cautious on this issue
24 that I think that you almost have to have the cities and
25 the counties --

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1 MS. HIGASHI: Oh, absolutely.

2 MEMBER OLSEN: -- sign off, too, even if it's
3 just flipping two school cases, because --

4 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes. It could impact them.

5 MEMBER OLSEN: -- of what could happen.

6 MS. SHELTON: Remember, there is a Government
7 Code provision that allows the parties to stipulate to a
8 waiver of some of the procedural requirements. So a
9 stipulation is important because it does waive their
10 right to argue about the one year.

11 MS. HIGASHI: Yes.

12 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Is that the only provision for,
13 you know, our process of jumping ahead in the queue?
14 Because I had the same question as Paul: Is that really
15 mechanism?

16 MS. HIGASHI: If you want me to put it on the
17 agenda --

18 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes, a legislative. Well, the
19 other way, they could go upstairs and get a bill and tell
20 us to do it by a certain time. But I didn't want to
21 suggest that.

22 MEMBER GLAAB: But where I'm going with this is,
23 can we -- or is it an idea to have at least some criteria
24 agreed upon by the Commission, that when something
25 presents itself, we at least have Commission approval?

1 It can be very vaguely written, or it can meet a certain
2 criterion; or does that put us in the jeopardy situation
3 that I'm talking about? It just seems that we should
4 have something -- we shouldn't be just reacting.

5 MS. HIGASHI: We've tried to follow the
6 oldest-claim rule or the oldest-record-closure rule. But
7 sometimes it doesn't work because if the top ten cases
8 are all going to take two months to do, we would have to
9 stop meeting for two to three months in order to finish
10 some of those cases.

11 The law clerks that we give the shorter cases
12 to, to help us write up the cases. So we need the
13 flexibility to be able to bring cases up that we can put
14 on the agenda, that we can bring forward without tying
15 our hands.

16 And the others -- you know, depending upon how
17 much criteria, we could put criteria in the regs, if you
18 wanted to put criteria in the regs; or if you wanted to
19 clarify that one of the rulemaking sections, I guess
20 Article I, which we've put in for the ruling this year,
21 is the section that concerns my duties or delegation of
22 duties to me and the appeals of my actions.

23 MEMBER WORTHLEY: I just think that that's a
24 dangerous thing for us to get into, because, as you
25 describe, you need flexibility. And any time we set

1 rules, now you're going to be bound by rules which would
2 impinge upon your flexibility, and we may bite ourselves
3 back.

4 MEMBER GLAAB: Yes, my comment was only the
5 jeopardy issue but still maintain that flexibility,
6 because, clearly, that has to occur; otherwise, we could
7 come to a grinding halt.

8 But my thought is that if we had even one
9 sentence that attempted to establish a criterion by which
10 we could --

11 MS. HIGASHI: Here's the other thing, too --

12 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Well, and that's why we -- we
13 sort of have that stipulation.

14 MEMBER WORTHLEY: We have that.

15 MS. HIGASHI: We have that stipulation provision
16 where the parties -- and the way we've done it in the
17 past, we have had cases like -- when the Open Meetings
18 Act and the incorrect reduction claims were filed, we had
19 400 claimants filing IRCs. So we stipulated to set aside
20 all of these filing requirements, because even with one
21 copy being filed with just a face sheet and claim, we had
22 about, what, 12, 15 archives boxes stacked up against the
23 wall.

24 If we had required them to do the "X" number of
25 copies, to bring in all that documentation, and then to

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1 send them out to the Controller for comment, everything
2 would have come to a screeching halt. And so we got
3 stipulations signed with every one of the representatives
4 in those cases; and that we would hold these until the
5 lead case had been decided. And so we have used it
6 before.

7 Sometimes, like, we have the Proposed Parameters
8 and Guidelines amendment related to *Handicapped and*
9 *Disabled Students*. That is an old request that the
10 claimants took off calendar several years ago, once they
11 realized -- when they saw the Staff Analysis, they
12 requested that it be taken off calendar.

13 Well, now, the Commission has completed all
14 these other actions. We had the parties to that claim
15 sign a stipulation that they would agree to pull that
16 claim from coming up for scheduling until after all of
17 these other cases had been determined.

18 MS. SHELTON: And Paula has the authority under
19 the regulations to do anything to expedite the process,
20 like consolidating the actions and things of that nature.
21 And we do that a lot. We try to consolidate two test
22 claims together that are related, to try to get them all.
23 In that sense, it takes that older one out of the queue
24 and brings it up forward, because it just makes sense.

25 VICE CHAIR SMITH: All the work on that,

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1 Camille, just so it doesn't take any of your time, just
2 say "Look, here's the draft stipulation. If you can get
3 it signed by all of these people in front of you" --

4 MS. HIGASHI: Well, they would have to draft the
5 stipulation first.

6 MS. SHELTON: Yes, we're not going to spend the
7 time to draft it.

8 VICE CHAIR SMITH: If they can do all the work
9 on it, they can do it, great, then we can hear it. If
10 not --

11 MS. HIGASHI: And I think the last time there
12 was a case where every party had to sign off on, it was
13 with the special settlement agreement. Every school
14 district in the state by a certain date had to pass a
15 board resolution agreed to the settlement before it could
16 be implemented. And every school district in the state
17 passed a resolution in support of that settlement.

18 CHAIR SHEEHAN: That's a lot.

19 MS. HIGASHI: Yes. I guess my question is based
20 on the issue that came up during the *Public Comment* and
21 based on just this discussion, does anyone want me to put
22 an agenda item on the next agenda that deals with the
23 juxtaposition?

24 MEMBER BOEL: Not to cover the case.

25 CHAIR SHEEHAN: I'm comfortable with the

1 authority -- you answered my question about what the
2 process is for people who have made this request and to
3 protect us in terms of -- that was my concern. And so
4 I am comfortable in terms of what you use on the
5 stipulation, so that everybody -- we're sort of held
6 harmless on that. So I am comfortable with the current
7 process.

8 But I do think what would be helpful on this
9 particular request for me is, either at the next meeting
10 or you can call me and send e-mails, how complicated is
11 this case? You know, what are the issues involved, what
12 are -- what is going to be an idea of sort of the
13 workload? Even if we get the stipulation, it would be
14 helpful to me to see what is this one going to be like.

15 MEMBER WORTHLEY: And would it be possible --
16 would it be appropriate to leave to their discretion
17 to put on the calendar or on our agenda that in the
18 event that you have problems, let's say, with the
19 stakeholders -- because they're going to be back for
20 another public comment period, so they would have to set
21 a provisional item in that.

22 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Sure. An issue. Yes, it comes
23 back up.

24 MEMBER GLAAB: But only if you please find it
25 necessary. Because it sounds like, to me, you're going

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1 to have some informal discussions.

2 MS. HIGASHI: Well, one, I need to read it.

3 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Right. See, that's the thing.

4 MS. HIGASHI: I read it when it came in the
5 door, and I have some thoughts about it --

6 CHAIR SHEEHAN: What are the issues, yes.

7 MS. HIGASHI: -- which I'm not going to say
8 anything at this point. It would be inappropriate.

9 But, first, I have to check to see --

10 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Right.

11 MS. HIGASHI: -- how many issues are there.

12 I need to look at the work in progress and determine, you
13 know, what is so far enough along that it's moving, and
14 it has to move. And if this were to be agreed to, when
15 would it come up. Because I think that's critical.

16 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Those are the questions.

17 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes, because we don't have that
18 information. I have no feel for that, at this point.

19 MS. HIGASHI: We don't have that information.
20 But I'm happy to put the information together in every
21 respect, except for the issues.

22 MEMBER LUJANO: Good.

23 CHAIR SHEEHAN: The issues in the claim. But I
24 can certainly talk about staffing issues and workload and
25 how many cases that would be bumped or whatever.

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1 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes, just understanding. Okay.
2 Francisco?

3 MEMBER LUJANO: And regarding the workload, how
4 is filling out the vacancies going? Are you having
5 problems finding qualified people?

6 MS. HIGASHI: We have a very specific problem --
7 and I'm glad you asked about that.

8 We've got four positions in the budget. Three
9 of the positions were limited-term positions, which means
10 in state employee talk, they're temporary. That they
11 could disappear at any point in time. Well, any position
12 could disappear from the next budget. So what happens is
13 when you look at the "help wanted" ads on the attorney's
14 Web site for state-employee attorneys, all of the current
15 vacancies are all for permanent positions. Nobody is
16 going to apply for a limited-term position unless they're
17 close to retirement. So that has crippled us.

18 And then the other was, there was a limit in the
19 collective bargaining agreements as to how many staff
20 counsel-III's we could have. And we had to overcome a
21 contract agreement provision in order to have an increase
22 by a fraction, so that we could even advertise and make
23 the offer.

24 By the time we had all of that done, the person
25 we had offered the position to had accepted another

1 offer.

2 MS. SHELTON: A permanent position.

3 MS. HIGASHI: It was for a permanent position,
4 but she knew she had the job. So it brought us to the
5 end of the calendar year, which was the six-month rule
6 where you lose the position if you haven't filled it.

7 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Yes.

8 MS. HIGASHI: And so that limited-term provision
9 is really -- you know, I think that's really going to
10 hurt us.

11 MEMBER LUJANO: Essentially, you have no people
12 to fill it because no one qualified -- or a person who
13 has a permanent position now doesn't want to apply.

14 MS. HIGASHI: They're not going to apply.

15 MEMBER LUJANO: For a limited term position, it
16 just doesn't happen.

17 MS. HIGASHI: Unless they're close to
18 retirement, or they can't get the promotion.

19 MEMBER LUJANO: Then it's workload that you're
20 going to --

21 MS. HIGASHI: Right. So that's what's happened.
22 Camille's position, we will just begin
23 advertising for it soon.

24 VICE CHAIR SMITH: I think as far as I'm
25 concerned, we're in desperate need of some people.

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1 MEMBER GLAAB: Yes.

2 VICE CHAIR SMITH: And whatever form that needs
3 to come in -- I mean, we need permanent -- this is a
4 growing problem, especially with the incorrect reduction
5 claims, the amount of reconsiderations. I don't think
6 three is going to get us down to an obligation of one
7 year.

8 MS. HIGASHI: No.

9 VICE CHAIR SMITH: And I don't think that, you
10 know, having some temporary resources is going to fix the
11 problem, if we can't even get temporary resources. So I
12 think that --

13 MS. SHELTON: We do have one limited-term
14 attorney right now and she's working out great. And
15 she'll have items before the Commission in March.

16 MS. HIGASHI: She has two agenda items in March.

17 MS. SHELTON: She is great. And if we could
18 just duplicate her -- you know.

19 MEMBER WORTHLEY: Clone her.

20 MEMBER OLSEN: What is the possibility for
21 converting limited-term -- I mean, I know there is a
22 process, it's hard to make it happen.

23 MS. HIGASHI: It's a budget process.

24 VICE CHAIR SMITH: It's a budget issue.

25 CHAIR SHEEHAN: But you need to go -- I mean,

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1 I'm happy to sit and support, but you've got to go up
2 through Finance.

3 MS. HIGASHI: I know.

4 MS. SHELTON: Yes.

5 CHAIR SHEEHAN: The other side of Finance.

6 VICE CHAIR SMITH: And we'll support you.

7 Can we support you?

8 MEMBER GLAAB: Yes.

9 VICE CHAIR SMITH: I mean, I would support -- I
10 think the whole Commission would support that because
11 109, 107 -- you know, the thing about the Williams case
12 is that we do have exposure because it takes us four or
13 five years to hear a claim. So no matter what process we
14 have in place, anyone could sue us at any time and say
15 that, you know, we're not following the law, which we're
16 not.

17 MS. SHELTON: I do have to say that argument did
18 come up one time in litigation. I don't remember which
19 case it was. But they were arguing that they had a
20 denial of due process because the process took a long
21 time. Finance asked for an extension. And we gave it --
22 apparently, the Commission gave Finance the extension,
23 and the school districts were -- I don't remember who it
24 was. It was a local agency was arguing that that was a
25 violation of due process because it didn't -- it delayed

1 the process for them. And the Court just, essentially,
2 shut it down.

3 *(Mr. Glaab left the hearing room.)*

4 MS. HIGASHI: And it's in the El Monte --

5 MEMBER BOEL: Nancy still hasn't come back in.

6 MS. SHELTON: I'm sorry.

7 MS. HIGASHI: It's the El Monte Redevelopment
8 Agency case. But it was a suspended mandate case, and
9 it's an unpublished decision.

10 VICE CHAIR SMITH: Maybe at some point we can
11 talk about that, as a commission, about how do we support
12 making those temporary positions permanent, so we can get
13 some people on board and cut through his.

14 MS. HIGASHI: That's something we can initiate
15 the discussion because we are not asking for any money.
16 What we're asking for is the limitation to the budget.

17 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And I think to the extent that
18 you can demonstrate you made every effort to fill the
19 limited term unsuccessfully helps your argument with my
20 colleagues at Finance.

21 MS. HIGASHI: Yes.

22 CHAIR SHEEHAN: That helps, you know, that we
23 tried, and we lost out on this because of that.

24 MS. HIGASHI: And especially now with the
25 proposed collective bargaining agreement moving ahead.

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1 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Yes, exactly. Exactly.

2 MS. HIGASHI: What it has done is created a
3 situation where people aren't moving around.

4 CHAIR SHEEHAN: And then just work through Jim,
5 and then when he gets up to Ben, so I can chat with him.

6 MS. HIGASHI: Thank you.

7 CHAIR SHEEHAN: Any other issues?

8 *(No audible response)*

9 CHAIR SHEEHAN: If not, we stand adjourned.

10 *(Proceedings concluded at 11:10 a.m.)*

11 --oOo--

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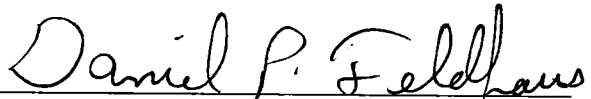
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I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were duly reported by me at the time and place herein specified;

That the testimony of said witnesses was reported by me, a duly certified shorthand reporter and a disinterested person, and was thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said deposition, nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand on February 13, 2006.



Daniel P. Feldhaus
Daniel P. Feldhaus
California CSR #6949
Registered Diplomate Reporter
Certified Realtime Reporter