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Action

Executive Committee

Proposal For Off-Site Commission Meeting

Executive Summary: Commission staff is proposing that the Commission hold its June 27-28, 2007 meeting in the Los Angeles area.

Recommended Action: That the Commission approves holding its June 27-28, 2007 meeting in the Los Angeles area.

Presenter: Dale Janssen, Interim Executive Director

Strategic Plan Goal: 5

Enhance effective, two-way communication with the Commission's stakeholders

- ◆ Pursue strategies to refine the Commission's public affairs activities

November-December 2006

Proposal For Off-Site Commission Meeting

Introduction

Staff is proposing that the Commission holds its June 27-28, 2007 meeting in the Los Angeles area. The purpose of the off-site meeting is to allow the public from southern California to have an opportunity to observe and participate in a Commission meeting. A public study session is scheduled to be held at the June meeting to discuss the implications of modifying all California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) single subject examinations to incorporate an assessment of basic skills (in English) as required by SB 1209. If the meeting were to be held in Los Angeles, there would be the potential of having additional public input during the study session. A Los Angeles meeting would also help to provide greater public exposure to the Commission and its responsibilities.

Background

Prior to 1996, Commission meetings were held in various locations throughout California. This practice afforded interested parties the opportunity to attend Commission meetings without having to travel to Sacramento. Starting in 1996, the Commission began to experience tight budgets and it was determined that the Commission could no longer afford non-Sacramento meetings. For the past ten years the Commission has been meeting in Sacramento, the last seven years of those at the 1900 Capitol Avenue location.

Staff estimates that holding one of the Commission's currently scheduled two-day meetings in Southern California would increase the Commission's budget for this purpose by approximately \$8,700. There is sufficient funding in the 2006-07 budget to accommodate this expenditure.

Fortunately, the home locations of the current Commissioners now make it feasible to hold a meeting in southern California. Of the sitting Commissioners, all but six are from southern California. As a result, fewer resources would be needed to transport members of the Commission to a meeting in Southern California than to a regular meeting in Northern California. The additional expense to hold a meeting in southern California primarily includes transportation of staff to the meeting. Approximately fourteen staff would need to attend the meeting. The anticipated savings from Commissioner travel to a Southern California meeting would help offset the cost of staff travel. In addition, Commission staff would seek to work with the Commission's partners in education to obtain a meeting room location in Southern California that would have minimal cost to the Commission.

Staff Recommendation

The Commission staff recommends that the Commission approve holding the June 27-28, 2007 Commission meeting in the Los Angeles area.