

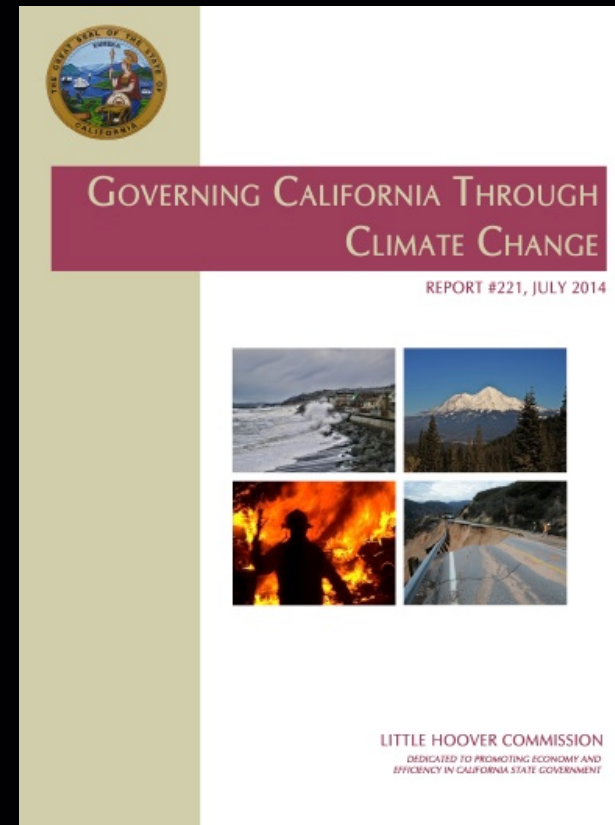
Governing California Through Climate Change

**Carole D'Elia
Jim Wasserman
Little Hoover Commission**

July 24 – 10:30 am

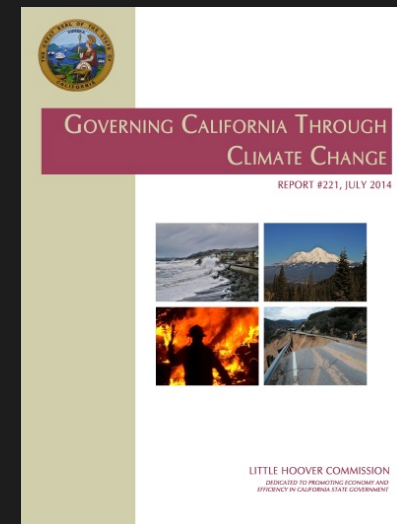
**Presented by:
Bay Area
Climate & Energy
Resilience Project**

Joint Policy Committee - Kresge Foundation
San Francisco Foundation



Purpose & Process

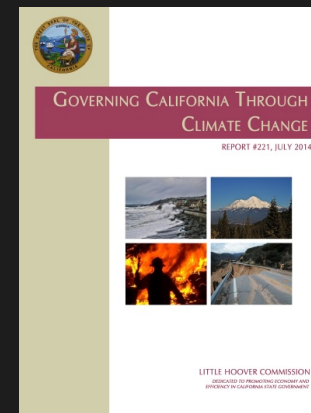
- Little Hoover Commission (in brief)
- Why this study?
- Process
 - Hearings
 - Research
 - Interviews



Key Conclusions

- *California state government has no single-stop administrative structure in place to create statewide climate adaptation policy, overcome institutional barriers and govern the state's response to climate change impacts.*

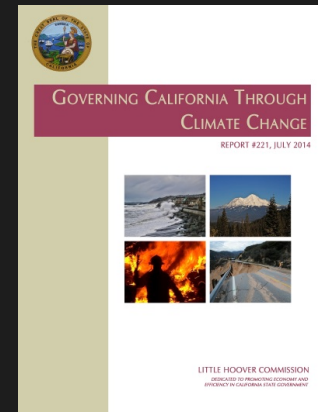
Many state adaptation initiatives continue to be scattered among individual departments, agencies, commissions and councils.



Key Conclusions

- *The state's adaptation strategies are still unfolding and relatively new, remain advisory in nature and require continuing evolution to assure comprehensive statewide responses to climate impacts.*

State government adaptation processes have been conducted without widespread consultation of local governments and the private sector. The status quo is slow, understaffed and inwardly focused on state agencies.

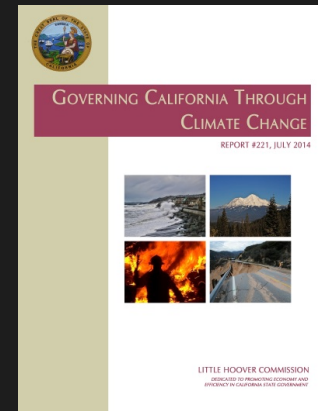


Key Conclusions

- *No single authoritative source of standardized information about climate risks in California currently exists within state government.*

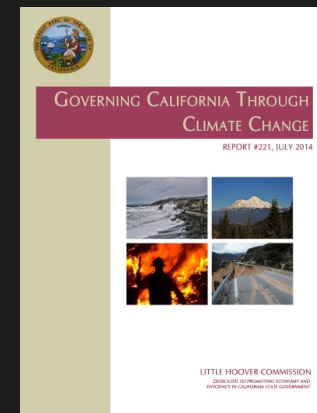
Cities, counties, regional governing agencies and even the state lack reliable, consistent information to guide decision-making, particularly regarding long-range infrastructure investments and land-use choices.

Local government leaders understand they are vulnerable to climate impacts, but lack more specific risk assessment capacity that would help guide planning and decision-making.



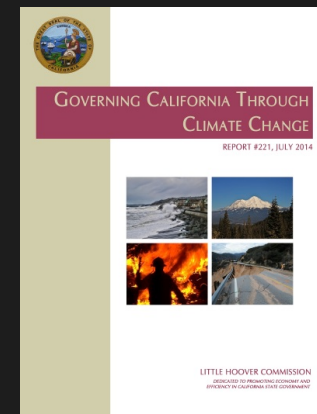
Recommendations

- 1. The Governor should direct his administration – either through creation of a new state organization (via legislation) or delegation to an existing state entity that has capabilities to perform the mission – to establish the best state science on anticipated climate change impacts and help decision-makers accurately assess their climate risks based on that science.*



Recommendations

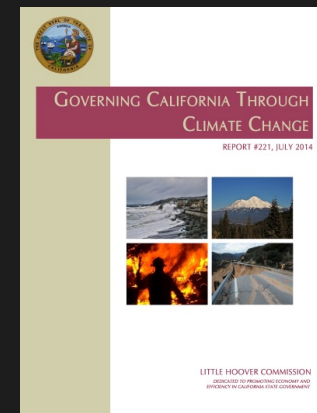
- 2. State government at all levels should further incorporate climate risk assessment into everyday public planning and governing processes throughout California.*



Recommendations

- 3. The Legislature should expand the primary mission of the Strategic Growth Council beyond mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions through the SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy to include an equal focus on climate change adaptation in California.*

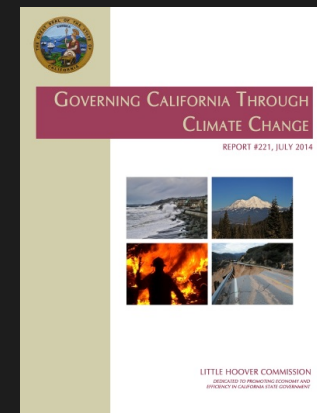
The Council's operating guidelines and charge to support planning and development of "sustainable communities" should stretch to include the ability to identify and address climate impacts appropriate to the community or region.



Recommendations

4. *State government should work with counties, private insurers, wildland stakeholders and the building industry to minimize wildfires and property damage by more aggressively enforcing defensible space requirements existing in state law.*

The state and stakeholders should promote Ventura County's success in enforcing compliance and reducing wildfire costs and damage as a climate change model for wildland urban interface areas.



Recommendations

- 5. The Governor should work with key state agencies such as the Attorney General's Office, State Lands Commission, Coastal Commission and other public and private coastal interests to clarify the impact of sea level rise on California's Common Law Public Trust Doctrine.*

A collective dialogue should seek ways to create a legal framework in advance of crisis and prevent litigation and instability as a rising ocean begins to condemn private property on the Pacific coastline.

