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# California State Assembly

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## DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATIONAL HEARING

Monday, February 6, 2017  
2:30 p.m. ♦ State Capitol, Room 4202

### Hearing Participants' Biographies

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**Brian Kelly, Secretary**  
**California State Transportation Agency**

Brian P. Kelly was sworn in on July 1, 2013, as the first secretary of the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), a new agency focused solely on transportation which replaced the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BT&H).

Prior to his appointment as CalSTA Secretary by Governor Jerry Brown, Kelly served as Acting Secretary of BT&H, where he oversaw 12 departments and several economic development programs and commissions consisting of more than 45,000 employees and a budget of \$18 billion -- a budget larger than most states in the nation.

The new CalSTA portfolio remains one of the largest in the State of California. Its operations address the myriad transportation issues that directly impact the state's economic vitality and quality of life including public safety, construction and maintenance, and intercity and high-speed rail.

Kelly has been at the center of most of the major transportation policy decisions in the state of California for the past decade and a half, having served as chief transportation policy consultant for four successive Senate President pro Tempores.

Kelly was executive staff director for Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg from 2008 to 2012. He was executive principal consultant for Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata from 2004 to 2008, principal consultant for Senate President pro Tempore John Burton from 1998 to 2004, and assistant consultant for Senate President pro Tempore Bill Lockyer from 1995 to 1998.

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**Joseph A. Farrow, Commissioner**  
**California Highway Patrol**

As the leader of the largest state law enforcement agency in the nation, Commissioner Joseph A. Farrow is responsible for maintaining the safety and security of millions of residents and visitors across the Golden State. On March 1, 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Joseph A. Farrow as the 14th Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol (CHP). In 2011, he was reappointed to his current position by Governor Jerry Brown to continue leading the over 11,000 men and women of the Department.

Prior to joining the CHP, Commissioner Farrow served as an officer with the Pacific Grove Police Department. In 1979, he entered the CHP Academy and throughout his career he has excelled in every rank within the Department, from officer through Commissioner.

Commissioner Farrow holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from California State University, Sacramento, and a Master of Science in Executive Leadership from California State University, San Diego. He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation executive level command courses, including the National Academy and the National Executive Institute.

Commissioner Farrow's ongoing efforts to improve the law enforcement profession have resulted in recognition of the CHP by organizations such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police, California Peace Officers Association, National Highway Transportation Administration, the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, the Child Safety Network, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Commissioner Farrow serves as the 3rd Vice President of the CPOA Board of Directors and is the current Chairperson of the IACP's Highway Safety Committee.

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**Captain Richard Desmond, Special Representative to the Legislature  
California Highway Patrol**

Captain Desmond has been a member of the California Highway Patrol for over 21 years. He worked as a patrol officer and supervisor in field commands in Los Angeles and Sacramento before rising in rank and serving as an investigator and program manager in the Department's Office of Internal Affairs and Office of Legal Affairs. Captain Desmond was a field commander in the East Sacramento Area before being assigned by Commissioner Farrow as the CHP's legislative liaison in 2014.

Captain Desmond holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Santa Clara University and a Juris Doctor from McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific.

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**Susan Bransen, Executive Director  
California Transportation Commission**

Ms. Bransen serves as the California Transportation Commission's (Commission) Executive Director, reporting to the thirteen-member Commission. She has a major role in affecting the outcome of all policies and actions adopted by the Commission including the programming and allocation of several billion dollars annually for the construction of highway, passenger rail, transit and active transportation improvements throughout California.

Ms. Bransen's career spans more than 25 years in transportation. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Bransen served as the Commission's Chief Deputy Director responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Commission, serving as the chief of staff and policy advisor to the Commission's Executive Director. In addition to positions held with the Commission, she previously served as the California Department of Transportation's Director of Audits and Investigations. In this position she was responsible for managing a complex and comprehensive audit and investigative program with responsibility for advising on the integrity of activities performed by a workforce of more than 20,000 and annual expenditures in excess of \$12 billion.

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**Jean Shiomoto, Director  
Department of Motor Vehicles**

Jean Shiomoto was appointed the Director of the California Department of Motor Vehicles by Governor Brown on November 5, 2013. Prior to that Jean was the Acting Director since January 2013 and the

Chief Deputy Director from April 2012. Jean directs the statewide operations of the department with a budget of \$1 billion and over 9,000 employees. Statewide operations include driver licensing, vehicle registration, motor carrier licensing, driver safety, occupational licensing, and investigations. Jean also serves on the Board of Directors for the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators and was appointed Chair in August 2016.

Jean has been with the Department for over 28 years and has over 36 years of experience in administrative and fiscal management in State Government. In 2015, the department successfully implemented AB 60; the Safe and Responsible Driver Act to issue driver licenses to undocumented immigrants. During the program's first year, the department issued over 600,000 driver licenses and administered over two million knowledge and drive test examinations.

Jean earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the California State University, Sacramento in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting.

In addition, Jean is active in the Sacramento community with ACC Senior Services and served on the Board of Directors from 2007 to 2014 and the last two years as President. ACC is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization open to people of all ages that can benefit from the programs and services that help older residents. ACC's core programs are the Care Center, Senior Services, Independent Senior Living, Assisted Living, and Meals on Wheels by ACC for seniors.

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**Patrick Barrett, Legislative Director  
Department of Motor Vehicles**

Patrick Barrett has been employed with the Department of Motor Vehicles for 32 years as a field operations manager, policy analyst, and program manager. He was appointed Deputy Director of Legislation at DMV in May of 2016.

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**Mary Nichols, Chair  
California Air Resources Board**

Mary D. Nichols is Chair of the California Air Resources Board, a post she has held since 2007. She also served as Chair of the Air Resources Board from 1979-1983.

Nichols has devoted her entire career in public and nonprofit service to advocating for the environment and public health. In addition to her work at the Air Board, she has served as Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Air and Radiation program under President Clinton, Secretary for California's Resources Agency from 1999 to 2003 and Director of the Institute of the Environment at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Her priorities as Chair include moving ahead on the state's landmark climate change program (AB 32), steering the Board through numerous efforts to curb diesel pollution at ports and continuing to pass regulations aimed at providing cleaner air for Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley. She values innovation, partnerships and common-sense approaches to addressing the state's air issues.

The Board is supported by a professional staff of scientists, engineers, economists, lawyers and policy experts, with an annual operating budget of more than \$860 million.

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**Sydney Vergis, Interim Legislative Director  
California Air Resources Board**

Dr. Sydney Vergis is the interim Legislative Director at the California Air Resources Board. She previously worked in the ARB Legislative Office from 2012-2014 and her portfolio consisted of analyzing bills related to the California Environmental Quality Act, sustainable communities strategies, electric vehicles, and statewide light-duty incentive programs. Her subsequent work as a supervisor in the Transportation and Toxics Division includes managing Goods Movement Program section on issues related to reducing criteria and greenhouse gas emissions from the freight transport system. Sydney recently earned her Ph.D. in Transportation Technology and Policy from UC Davis.

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**Malcom Daugherty, Director  
Department of Transportation**

Malcolm Dougherty was appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. to Director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in May 2012. He leads the \$11 billion organization and Caltrans 20,000 employees who build, maintain, and operate the 50,000 lane miles of California's world-class transportation system.

Director Dougherty has over 21 years experience with Caltrans, and before becoming Director, served as the Chief Deputy, Chief Engineer, and District Director in the Fresno Area. He has held management positions in Design, Project Management, Maintenance and Traffic Operations during his career at Caltrans. His focus throughout his career has been on safety, efficient project delivery, partnerships with all stakeholders, and leading a professional and ethical workforce to provide mobility for the people of California. He also serves on the:

- Intelligent Transportation Society (ITS) of America Board of Directors
- Chair, Western Road Usage Charge (WRUCC) Board of Directors
- Transportation Research Board (TRB) Executive Committee
- Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP II) Oversight Committee
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Board of Directors
- Chair, AASHTO Sub-Committee on Construction
- Past President of the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- California Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee
- California Public Works Board
- American Heart Association and Stroke Association Sacramento Region Board of Directors

Before he came to Caltrans, Director Dougherty worked for a consultant with a focus on land development and municipal engineering. He is a graduate of Rutgers University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He and his wife Linda have three children.

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**Melanie Perron, Assistant Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs  
Department of Transportation**

Melanie Perron is the Assistant Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, in the External Affairs office. She is the contact for navigating the department's interactions with the California State Legislature.

With the department since 2013, Ms. Perron brings a wealth of legislative experience including as the legislative manager at the California Department of Conservation from 2010 to 2013 where she worked on issues pertaining to oil and gas extraction, mining, and farmland protection; the legislative coordinator at the California Department of General Services from 2008 to 2010 where she worked on real estate issues including alternative public works delivery methods and selling high-valued State properties; and a legislative assistant at the Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger from 2007 to 2008. She also worked in the Office of Assemblymember Rick Keene from 2004 to 2006.

Ms. Perron is a graduate of the University of Nevada-Reno with a Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, and minor in Information Systems.

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**Jennifer Ferrera Schmid, President  
Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun**

Jennifer Schmid has been a member of the Oakland Fire Department since 1999, promoting to the rank of Engineer in 2005. She graduated from the California Maritime Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Intermodal Transportation and is an officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine. Over the past 15 years, she has served as an instructor for the Academy on several training cruises, teaching leadership and officer development to cadets. She has completed coursework at Long Beach State University for her Master of Science in Criminal Justice.

Jennifer worked to develop a police and fire marine tactical group in Oakland to facilitate a more cohesive relationship between the two agencies. She has written grants and proposals for the fire department in which the union of police and fire agencies was instrumental. Jennifer has been working with The Fallen Heroes organization since 2009 in logistics and finance and is looking forward to serving in the capacity of Secretary on the Board of Directors.

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**Allen Garfinkle, Executive Director  
Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun**

Allen Garfinkle has been the Executive Director of the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun since 2010. He brings a significant amount of maritime expertise to the position having spent a thirty year career at sea, with the last 22 years of it at Matson Navigation Company, Inc. He holds a B.S. degree from California Maritime Academy and a J.D. degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law. Mr. Garfinkle has been a member of the State Bar since 1989, holds a USCG Unlimited Masters License, and is a retired member of the International Organization of Masters, Mates, and Pilots.

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**Rhonda L. Craft, Director  
Office of Traffic Safety**

Rhonda Craft is the Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). Appointed by Governor Jerry Brown, Ms. Craft is California's Highway Safety Representative. She has more than 30 years of state service dedicated to addressing traffic safety issues throughout California. As Director of California Office of Traffic Safety, Ms. Craft is currently responsible for administering the State's Highway Safety Plan and California's compliance with federal regulations. Ms. Craft funds

approximately 300 state and local agencies each year who demonstrate the ability to implement data driven traffic safety initiatives that are designed to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on California's roadways based on an approximate annual federal budget of \$80 million.

Since joining the Office of Traffic Safety, Ms. Craft has expanded the number of traffic safety initiatives designed to increase safety for the state's most vulnerable roadway users, including pedestrian's and bicyclist by 66 percent. She has increased partnerships throughout the state and engaged traffic safety practitioners to work collectively to develop programs that enable the industry to work more effectively. She has also increased employee opportunities within the organization and implemented a number of cost saving operational efficiencies that significantly reduce grant processing time.

Prior to her current appointment with OTS, she was the Chief of the Driver Safety Branch at the California Department of Motor Vehicles. She was responsible for administering the State of California Driver Safety Program. Additionally, Ms. Craft oversaw the provision of fair and impartial hearings to high risk drivers; such as driving under the influence, habitual traffic offenders, as well as those drivers whose skills have declined due to medical conditions or age. Furthermore, she was responsible for the implementation of numerous legislative mandates related to licensing and the safe operation of motor vehicles, driver fitness and commercial vehicle safety.

Ms. Craft is a member of the Board of Directors for the Sacramento Safety Center; driving the mission to reduce injuries and save lives by empowering the community to make positive life-changing decisions. She is also on the Board of Directors for the Governor's Highway Safety Association, headquartered in Washington, D.C.; this organization represents the states and territorial highway safety offices that implement programs to address behavioral highway safety issues. Both organizations bring awareness to traffic safety issues and influence national policy through leadership and advocacy. Ms. Craft serves as the chair of the Workforce Development Committee; which seeks to develop an educational curriculum for highway safety professionals at both the under graduate and graduate levels. Ms. Craft serves as a member of the Civil Engineering Industry Advisory Council for California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

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**Jeff Morales, Chief Executive Officer  
California High Speed Rail Authority**

Jeff Morales is the Chief Executive Officer of the California High-Speed Rail Authority and has a distinguished record of experience managing large and complex transportation issues and projects. As the former Director of the California Department of Transportation, Morales managed a \$10 billion program and more than 23,000 employees working to build, maintain and operate the largest state transportation system in the U.S.

Morales most recently was Senior Vice President of Parsons Brinckerhoff , where he worked with transportation agencies across the United States and internationally to develop and implement major capital programs and is the past executive vice president of the Chicago Transit Authority where he spearheaded major reforms at the nation's second-largest transit agency.

His experience at the federal level includes serving as a member of President-Elect Obama's transition team focusing on transportation, Vice President Al Gore's National Performance Review, the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security, the United States Department of Transportation and as U.S. Senate staff.