



and departments.

Finally, the report found that DFG fails to exercise adequate oversight and authority over regional fish and game administrators. This lack of a consistent, structured system for monitoring the actions and decisions of regional administrators results in unnecessary difficulties for those attempting to work with the DFG statewide. The Commission suggests that DFG provide for an independent, external assessment of:

- the extent to which the present latitude given to its regional managers in interpreting and implementing policy and regulation is consistent with current and likely future Departmental and public needs;

- the degree to which the present system of issuance of Departmental guidelines sufficiently regulates all levels of field staff; and

- the adequacy of current specifications for regional manager positions, with a view toward augmenting management/administrative and public relations capabilities at the regional and local levels.

Also, FGC, DFG, and the Resources Agency should develop coordinated plans for augmenting its current public information capacities and performance.

The Little Hoover Commission's report states that during the course of its study, and presumably as a result of the Commission's scrutiny, the FGC claims to have reestablished its "direction." Specifically, FGC has (1) asserted its recommitment to functioning as an active and enthusiastic guarantor of the welfare of California's natural resources; and (2) reasserted, in vigorous terms, its authority in judging the adequacy of implementation of its policy decisions by DFG. Following the Little Hoover Commission's June 27 public hearing on the FGC and DFG, FGC explicitly stated its intention to more closely hold DFG accountable for practices, especially where the public perceives that there is a reluctance by DFG to carry out such policies.

The release of this report by the Little Hoover Commission added fuel to an already-intense debate between environmentalists and the existing DFG and FGC. While FGC Commissioner Benjamin F. Biaggini contends that "the Commission has done a very professional and workmanlike job in administering its responsibilities," the critics strongly disagree. Richard Spotts, a Sacramento-based lobbyist for the 80,000-member

Defenders of Wildlife, states that "[t]he Fish and Game Commission is increasingly seen as an impediment to wildlife conservation. They have become part of the problem rather than the solution."

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Director: Michael Kelley  
(916) 445-4465

In addition to its functions relating to its forty boards, bureaus and commissions, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is charged with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of the Consumer Affairs Act of 1970. In this regard, the Department educates consumers, assists them in complaint mediation, advocates their interests in the legislature, and represents them before the state's administrative agencies and courts.

### MAJOR PROJECTS:

*Small Claims Publication.* DCA recently issued a new publication entitled *Collecting Your Small Claims Judgment*. The 75-page booklet is designed to assist small claims creditors in locating judgment debtors and collecting from them. It also includes sample letters and court forms. The publication is available by mail from the Department for a nominal charge.

*Conflict of Interest Code.* In October, DCA published a notice of proposed changes to its Conflict of Interest Code. The code was compiled pursuant to the Political Reform Act of 1974 (Proposition 9), which requires each state agency to list designated employees whose decisions may affect their own financial interest. Those employees are required to file annual statements disclosing their income and investments.

The proposed regulatory changes would update the existing code adopted in 1977 by increasing the list of designated employees subject to disclosure requirements. Additionally, a few of the currently designated positions would be deleted.

A regulatory hearing on December 6 yielded only a few written comments. DCA is considering these comments, and planned to submit a final statement of reasons to the Fair Political Practices Commission by the end of January. After approval by the Commission, DCA will submit the proposal to the

Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

### LEGISLATION:

The following is a status update of bills discussed in CRLR Vol. 9, No. 4 (Fall 1989) at page 36:

*AB 718 (Frazee)*, which would expand disclosure rights of consumers who lease motor vehicles, is pending in the Senate inactive file.

*SB 1078 (Dills)*, which would prevent the imposition of fines for violations of unfair business practices statutes where the violator has paid other penalties for the same conduct, is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

*SB 787 (Rosenthal)*, which pertains to disclosure requirements in the sale of a used car, is pending in the Senate Committee on Insurance, Claims and Corporations.

*AB 552 (Moore)* would provide the buyer of a motor vehicle with the right to cancel a motor vehicle contract until midnight of the first business day after the day on which the buyer signed the contract. This bill is pending in the Assembly Committee on Governmental Efficiency and Consumer Protection.

*AB 1272 (Eastin)*, which would provide for contact between DCA and the consumer programs of each state agency, is pending in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

*AB 1578 (Murray)*, which would broaden the rights of landlords who wish to evict tenants engaged in unlawful activities, is pending in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

*AB 459 (Frizzelle)* would have provided that any business license issued by DCA could be renewed at any time after expiration without reexamination, if continuing education requirements are met and applicable dues are paid. This bill was dropped by its author.

### LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Legislative Analyst: Elizabeth G. Hill  
(916) 445-4656

Created in 1941, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) is responsible for providing analysis and nonpartisan advice on fiscal and policy issues to the California legislature. LAO meets this duty through four primary functions. First, the office prepares a detailed, written analysis of the Governor's budget