

PEACE OFFICERS

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Peace Officers move to leave CAUSE / CSLEA, call election

3,000 State Peace Officers may vote to form a new union pending a decision from the Schwarzenegger appointed Public Employment Relations Board (PERB).

PERB will hold Administrative Law Judge hearings over the next four months between Peace Officers of California (P.O.C.), the proponents of the new state employee bargaining unit, and their current representatives the California Union of Safety Employees / California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CAUSE / CSLEA), which opposes the move.

Peace Officers of California represents a voluntary association formed by state Peace Officers including Department of Justice Special Agents, Fish and Game Wardens, State Park Rangers, ABC Investigators, Hospital Police and various other detectives, investigators, and state peace officers. P.O.C. secured the signatures of more than half of the Peace Officers in the union to initiate the process.

The Peace Officers' current union, CAUSE / CSLEA, comprised of more than 60% Non-Peace Officer interests, including milk inspectors, DMV drive test employees, lab technicians, smog-check employees and dispatchers vowed to fight the separation.

"We call for CAUSE / CSLEA to agree to hold a *global election* vote. If cops don't want out of CSLEA then a PERB conducted *global election* will prove that," said Bob Orange, President of P.O.C., "however, we are confident that Peace Officers want their own union."

Like a recall election, a *global election* poses two questions on a ballot for members to vote on.

1. Do the bargaining unit 7 peace officers want to sever their relationship with the non-peace officers, creating a new

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bargaining unit?

2. If the answer to question one is "yes", who do the peace officers wish to represent them in the new unit, CAUSE / CSLEA or P.O.C. ?

President of CAUSE / CSLEA, Alan Barcelona, said, "It is fortunate that our Constitution permits us to bill [**Park Rangers & Game Wardens**] attempting to sever the bargaining unit for the substantial litigation costs before PERB, so that those costs will not have to be paid by our members." CAUSE / CSLEA went even further claiming "fraud" was involved, though they gave no evidence and PERB dismissed their charges out-of-hand.

"We invite the media to come and examine our petition cards and talk to PERB to acknowledge that there was no fraud involved in the process. We simply want the State to create a purely Peace Officer union, like the Highway Patrol or many other local Police and Sheriff's departments in California. We are the only law enforcement union in the state where the peace officers are the minority – we make up less than 40% of CAUSE / CSLEA. Our concerns cannot be adequately represented in that situation," said Jerry Karnow, P.O.C. spokesperson.

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