

MINUTE ITEM

38. EXPANSION OF OCEANOGRAPHIC STUDY PROGRAMS - W.O. 5600.

After consideration of Calendar Item 6 attached, and upon motion duly made and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER IS AUTHORIZED:

1. TO PROCEED WITH SUCH OCEANOGRAPHIC STUDIES AS ARE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE THE VARIOUS POTENTIALS OF THE STATE'S SOVEREIGN LANDS; SUCH STUDIES TO INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, COMPOSITION AND TOPOGRAPHY OF THE OCEAN FLOOR, WAVE ACTION, OCEAN CURRENTS AND TIDES, MINERAL POTENTIAL OF THE OCEAN FLOOR, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PENINSULAS AND ISLANDS FOR PURPOSES OF ADDITIONAL LIVING AND BEACH RECREATIONAL AREAS.
2. TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF RETAINING PRIVATE CONSULTANTS FOR THE STUDIES INDICATED HEREIN AND ALSO, UNDER AUTHORITY OF PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, DIVISION 6, SECTION 6201, TO SEEK THE COOPERATION AND AID OF SUCH OTHER STATE AGENCIES AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE STUDIES.

Attachment

Calendar Item 6 (2 pages)

CALENDAR ITEM

6.

EXPANSION OF OCEANOGRAPHIC STUDY PROGRAMS - W.O. 5600.

As a result of population and economic growth in California, coupled with increased demands for esthetic satisfaction and recreational opportunities, the offshore tide and submerged lands under the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission have become increasingly important.

The State Lands Commission and its staff are confronted with challenges and opportunities for the advancement of the people of this State in a measure little conceived of just a few years ago. The challenges must now be met, and the opportunities explored and identified. Intensive study and research programs must be initiated in the general field of oceanography in order to lay the foundations for multiple exploitation of the ocean's potential. Such studies would include locating potentially commercial deposits of minerals (primarily other than oil and gas), retrieving data on the composition and topography of the ocean floor, and researching such physical ocean phenomena as wave action, currents, and sand displacement.

Recognizing that an already overwhelming work load already exists, the staff has nonetheless formed a team of special-projects people who are to be made available for studies such as have been indicated above. It is not possible, given the State Lands Division personnel requirements, that these people alone can perform all the research that is encompassed within the proposed study areas. They can, however, set the direction of the studies and, with consultant help, perform the necessary preliminary studies. The best consultants available will have to be retained from the private sector. Additionally, cooperation and aid must be sought from other State agencies. The latter can be effected under the authority of Public Resources Code Section 6201 which states that:

"The commission may from time to time classify any or all State land for its different possible uses, and, when it is deemed advisable, may require the Department of Natural Resources, the Director of Agriculture, or any other officer, organization, agency or institution of the State government to make such classification. It is the duty of any such officer, organization, agency, or institution to make such classification and to submit a report thereon upon the application of the Commission."

Therefore,

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. TO PROCEED WITH SUCH OCEANOGRAPHIC STUDIES AS ARE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE THE VARIOUS POTENTIALS OF THE STATE'S SOVEREIGN LANDS; SUCH STUDIES TO INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, COMPOSITION AND TOPOGRAPHY OF THE OCEAN FLOOR, WAVE ACTION, OCEAN CURRENTS AND TIDES, MINERAL POTENTIAL OF THE OCEAN FLOOR, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PENINSULAS AND ISLANDS FOR PURPOSES OF ADDITIONAL LIVING AND BEACH RECREATIONAL AREAS.

CALENDAR ITEM 6. (CONTD.)

2. TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF RETAINING PRIVATE CONSULTANTS FOR THE STUDIES INDICATED HEREIN AND ALSO, UNDER AUTHORITY OF PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, DIVISION 6, SECTION 6201, TO SEEK THE COOPERATION AND AID OF SUCH OTHER STATE AGENCIES AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE STUDIES.