

6. BUDGET FOR 1967-68 FISCAL YEAR - GEN. DATA-W.O. 5667D.

Commissioner Finch requested that the Executive Officer give an oral report concerning the Commission's obligations with regard to survey work; the fact of a substantial backlog in such work that is delaying considerable real estate development; and the effect of the 10% budget cut and employment "freeze" on efforts to organize the second survey crew which has already received authorization.

The Executive Officer reviewed the over-all problem, pointing out that upgrading the boundary determination unit work cannot be accomplished under the conditions of a budget cut and employment freeze. Additionally, because of employment competition from other State agencies and because of the small size of the State Lands Division, recruitment to fill survey crew positions previously authorized has been very difficult. Without a second survey crew, many pending applications cannot be processed timely, although the resulting leases would represent revenue for the State. In addition, a large backlog of pending litigation exists on which it has been necessary to request postponements. Such litigation involves adjoining upland owners who desire to know the limits of their boundary line so that they may develop their land.

It is conceivable that the State could lose title to some lands simply through default and the inability to present the proper technical data to the Office of the Attorney General.

The Executive Officer noted that if all current staff vacancies remain unfilled in the 1967-68 Fiscal Year as a result of a continuing freeze on hiring, this would mean a 15% budget reduction for the State Lands Division over and above the 10% ordered by the administration, thereby resulting in an effective budget cut for the 1967-68 Fiscal Year of 25%.

The Chairman requested the Executive Officer to prepare a summary of vacant positions, giving the following information,

- 1) the possibility of actually recruiting someone to fill them, and
- 2) the necessity of filling them,

so that the Commission can determine what efforts, if any, should be made to avert their elimination from the 1967-68 Fiscal Year budget.

The Executive Officer reported that he had been in continual conference with the Budget Division of the Department of Finance, and had drafted a memorandum that was to be discussed with them that afternoon.

Commissioner Smith suggested that, because of the importance of the survey work in carrying out the responsibilities of the Commission, the staff should first review the subject in some detail with the Department of Finance, and then report back to the Commission for final determination and recommendation.

A meeting of the Commission could be scheduled within about two weeks at the call of the Chairman to review budget problems further.