

LEGISLATION

Mr. W. R. Atlee, Legislative Coordinator, State Lands Division, reported on the status of the legislative program of the State Lands Commission. He indicated that each Commissioner had been provided with a package of 12 proposed bills which could be introduced on behalf of the State Lands Commission. He explained that the proposed bills would resolve specific problems or add new provisions which would materially aid the Commission in its administration of energy and land management programs.

In addition, Mr. Atlee's presentation dealt with the organizational placement of the Commission in State government. He stated that under present law, the State Lands Commission and State Lands Division are located within the Department of Conservation. This is a paper placement only, making it appear that the Commission is subordinated to the Department of Conservation. This improper placement has led to many problems with the Resources Agency.

Alternatives suggested by Mr. Atlee to resolve this problem would make the Commission either (1) "float free" within the Executive Branch of government without being subordinated to any department or agency, or (2) "float free" within the Resources Agency. Commissioner Dymally at this time stated for the record that in his opinion the Commission should be an independent agency, and expressed his favor for Alternative No. 1.

The remainder of the discussion involved various aspects of the relationship of the Commission and its staff within the Resources Agency. During this discussion, Commissioner Dymally requested the Attorney General's office to issue a written formal opinion on the question of the legal status of the Commission from an organizational standpoint.