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STATUS OF TITLE SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AT
SANTA CATALINA ISLAND
RELATIVE TO PROPOSED AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

At its meeting of May 23, 1985, the Commission considered various proposals to settle certain title and boundary issues at Santa Catalina Island. These issues are disputed by the State, the Santa Catalina Island Company, and Southern California Edison Company, and involve four parcels of filled tidelands and submerged lands, at Jewfish Point, an area below the Avalon municipal dump, along Pebbly Beach, and at Empire Landing. At least two of these sites, Jewfish Point and Pebbly Beach, have been under consideration by the City of Avalon and Los Angeles County for potential airport development. The City asked the Commission to delay any title settlement until an airport site had been selected.

It was agreed that the City and County would complete their preliminary studies and determine, within six months of June 1, 1985, whether Jewfish Point is a feasible location for the airport project. It was further agreed that if Jewfish Point were found to be a feasible site, settlement of title questions as to that parcel would be delayed up to twenty-four months, to give the City and County opportunity to obtain financing and permits for the project.

By letter of November 25, 1985, Avalon City Manager John Longley informed staff that the City Council had selected Pebbly Beach for the proposed airport. By letter of December 20, 1985, he confirmed that absent unanticipated circumstances, the City did not plan further consideration of Jewfish Point as an airport site, and therefore will not object to settlement of title issues at Jewfish Point without additional delay. Commission staff is therefore actively pursuing negotiation of a title settlement as to all four of the disputed sites, including Jewfish Point.