TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING of STATE LANDS COMMISSION · 14 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 90 June 22, 1967

MEETING OF 1 STATE LANDS COMMISSION Sacramento, California 3 June 22, 1967 5 PARTICIPANTS: THE COMMISSION 7 Hon. Houston I. Flournoy, Controller, Chairman Hon. Gordon P. Smith, Director of Finance o **9**, (Absent: Hon. Robert H. Finch 10 Lieutenant Governor) 11 F. J. Hortig, Executive Officer 13 °15 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL 14 Warren J. Abbott, Deputy Attorney General 15 10 17 ľ 19 21 22 23 24

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JUNE 22, 1967 - 10:08 A.M.

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MR. FLOURNOY: The Lands Commission will come to order. Now that we have a quoxum, let's proceed.

It is the understanding of the Chair that there are no applications from anyone in the audience to speak to any particular item on the agenda today and, therefore, we will go through it with a certain amount of dispatch.

Number 2 is confirmation of minutes of meeting of May 25, 1967. Unless there is objection, the minutes will be confirmed.

Item Number 3 -- Permits, easements, and rights-of-way to be granted to public and other agencies at no fee, pursuant to the statutes -- some eight items. If there is no discussion and no objection, those items will be approved as indicated.

Number 4 -- Permits, easements, leases and rightsof-way issued pursuant to statutes and the established rental
policies of the Commission -- some eight items. Unless there
is discussion on any of the items or objection, they will be
approved as indicated.

Item Number 5 -- Oil-and-gas and mineral leases and permits issued pursuant to statutes and established policies of the Commission -- some fifteen -- a lot of items on the last count there. Unless there is discussion or objection they will be approved as indicated under the proposed

authorization[®].

Item Number 6 -- the City of Long Beach -- two items of approval of subproject expenditures for subsidence studies and maintenance. If there is no discussion or objection, those items will be approved.

Item Number 7 -- Land sales, which have been cleared with all the State agencies, one item there. Is there any discussion or objection on that? (No response) Without objection, that is approved.

applications, three items there. Is there any discussion or objection? (No response) Without objection, that item is approved.

Item Number 9. Mr. Hortig, would you explain item (a) there and some modification in the calendar?

MR. HORTIG: Mr. Chairman, you and Director Smith will recall that you and the Commission authorized at the last meeting, as summarized here, that the Executive Officer obtain from interested certified public accountants with oil industry experience proposals to conduct an extensive audit of the field contractor and its operating company, Long Beach Unit; and to report the estimated costs and benefits, together with proposed financing and recommendations.

Today, on your agenda on pages 89 and 90, is the report of the proposals received from three of the preeminent accounting firms. You also have, as an exhibit, copies of the

proposals and the staff recommendation is that the contract for conduct of the study and reports to the State Lands Commission on this matter be awarded to Price Waterhouse & Company at a total cost not to exceed \$22,000.

MR. FLOURNOY: Without objection, that item will be approved.

We have a number of other items -- nine -- in the administration section of the calendar. Is there any discussion on any of those items, or objections to them? (No response) Without objection, they will be approved.

Item Number 10 --

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MR. HORTIG: If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would like to amplify on item 10(a) in that this will resolve what could have been potentially a very laborious, very costly piece of litigation, in that a portion of the bed of the Feather Riverwas moved by artificial means, namely by dredging a new location for it over privately owned lands; and the question before the house is as to the mineral values and land values in the former bed of the Feather River, which is still under the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission, and the entire matter is up for resolution by approval of the stipulation with the owners of the present bed of the Feather River -- who are in agreement with the State Lands Commission to transfer the bed of the new stream, which is approximately of the same area and same value, to the State Lands Commission in exchange for the abandoned channel.

We think this is an eminently equitable and speedy and efficient solution and, therefore, recommend that the Commission approve the stipulation on behalf of the State of California.

MR. FLOURNCY: It also saves a continuing law suit.

MR. HORTIG: Yes, sir.

MR. FLOURNOY: Very good. Without objection, then, we will approve item 10(a).

Is there any discussion on the informative report with regard to the status of other major litigation?

MR. HORTIG: Informative only for the records of the Commission. There is no action required at this time.

MR. FLOURNOY: I just wanted to inquire if there was any question Mr. Smith might have on any of those items. If not, I think you indicated there were rouple of supplementary items to the agenda that have to e acted upon.

MR. HORTIG: Yes, sir. As a matter of completing the record for the Commission, the first item is entitled: "Proposed annexation No. 67-1 to the City of Seal Beach, Orange County; and the City is proceeding in accordance with established statutory procedures to annex an area in which the State Lands Commission probably does not have any jurisdiction or interest.

However, to be certain that the Commission was informed that an application was submitted, and since the time is running under the statute, and so that there can be a

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record for the local agency formation commission, it is recommended that the Commission acknowledge receipt of the proposed annexation, Number 67-1 to the City of Seal Beach, and that the offshore boundaries included therein be deemed approved on July 3, 1967 by operation of law -- not under authorization of the State Lands Commission.

MR. FLOURNOY: We shall so act and recognize we have received this, et cetera.

MR. HORTIG: The final item

MR. SMITH: Just a minute, Mr. Hortig, on the final item, before we get into the specifics on it having to do with the disciplinary action on a specific individual named.

Mr. Chairman, although I understand we have a ruling from the Attorney General that this should be conducted in an open meeting, this concerns me.

MR. FLOURNOY: Is this a requirement of the law?

MR. ABBOTT: Mr. Chairman, the problem is this:

The State Lands Commission by statute is given all the author

MR. FLOURNOY: And the State Lands Commission can only act in a public meeting.

MR. ABBOTT: And they can call act on and adopt a resolution in an open public meeting. In such circumstances as this, it is probably difficult and perhaps the legislature will call for a change; but until there is such a change, we

recommend that the decision be made in a public meeting.

MR. SMITH: Is that decision made under the Brown

ACE?

has open meetings. That has no exceptions at all.

Lands Commission and nondelegable to anybody else?

MR. ABBOTT: There is no authority to delegate.

I think a statute could authorize a delegation.

MR. FLOURNOY: What about the delegation of the Commission? Could the State Lands Commission authorize the Executive Officer to act?

MR. ABBOTT: Perhaps that would be too broad. That would be delegating all your authority.

MR. FLOURNOY: Just as a matter, I think, of information for the members of the Commission, I share Mr. Smith's feeling in this matter. Would the Executive Officer and the Attorney General's Office see if there is some way consistent with the present statute that the State Lands Commission could act in a manner which would delegate this authority or hand it over in some way so we wouldn't have this embarrasing proposition. If we need a statute, let's consider moving in that direction, Mr. Hortig. I think it would be a desirable thing to see if we couldn't in some way avoid this kind of a situation, either by action of the Commission -- or by legislation if that is unavoidable.

MR. SMITH: Not that we disagree with the action,

only the process. It is a very personal thing. I think the

spirit of public meetings in California, in all of our

governmental agencies, permits this type of action to be

decided in an executive session or to be delegated to the

Executive Officer, rather than be discussed in a public

meeting.

MR. ABBOTT: I agree with you, Mr. Smith, but the statute for this Commission is only for open meetings.

MR. SMITH: Pending that, Mr. Chairman, I suggest that we delay this action. There should be a simple piece of legislation that could be passed.

MR. FLOURHOY: We are a little late for introduction of anything at this time.

MR. HORTIG: This is inextricably intertwined with a large amount of problems the Commission has. I would recommend, as a proposal, that the staff bring a complete legislative program for the next session to the Commission; but I believe this should be a subject of delegation in this specific instance.

MR. FLOURNOY: Do you think we could do that and not unduly delay the action you have recommended? What is your feeling with regard to this case and the necessity for action?

MR. HORTIG: I would feel a decision can be arrived at expeditiously as to the ability to delegate for a particular

instance. I am not selzing upon the Attorney General's objection that a broad delegation might be a problem. I would hope that a narrow specific delegation would not be a problem. MR. FLOURNOY: Would this be a possibility? MR. ABBOTT: Mr. Chairman, may I recome we call a brief recess? MR. FLOURNOY: We will recess for a few minutes. (Showt recess) 10 MR. FLOURNOY: The Commission will reconvene. 11 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I propose that Calendar, 18 Item 55 be approved. MR. FLOURNOY: Without objection, it is so approved 15 14 That concludes, I believe, the calendar and the supplemental items with only one exception -- the time, date 15 16 and place of the next Commission meeting. It is indicated that the next meeting will be in 17 18 Los Angeles. I think that with regard to the fact that the Legislature will be in the final throes of concluding its 19 20 work, I hope, at that time in Sacramento, perhaps we should 21 reschedule that in Sacramento for July. 22 Does that meet with your approval?

MR. SMITH: Yes.

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Place of the next meeting to Sacramento in the month of July and confirm that date and time.

There being no further business, the meeting is (Adjourned 10:24 A.M.) " ID

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Louise M. Lillico, reporter for the Office of Administrative Procedure, hereby certify that the foregoing pages, one through nine, contain a full, true and accurate transcript of the shorthand notes taken by me in the meeting of the STATE LANDS COMMISSION held in Sacramento, California, on June 22, 1967.

Dated: Los Angeles, California, June 26, 1967.

/s/ Louise H. Lillico

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