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PRC 175.1
Meeting

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATURE ON USE OF STATE TIDE AND
SUBMERGED LANDS IN SOUTH SAN DIEGO BAY

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BACKGROUND:

Chapter 1114, Statutes of 1973, does two things in relation to tide and submerged lands in South San Diego Bay:

1. It revokes as of January 31, 1984, the grant to San Diego Unified Port District of lands leased to Western Salt Company and reverts title to the State.
2. It directs the Resources Agency, in cooperation with the State Lands Commission, to undertake a study to determine which State agency should be assigned jurisdiction over these tidelands.

Special consideration was to be given to the practicability of transferring the area to the Department of Parks and Recreation for inclusion in the State Park System. The study report and recommendations were to be submitted to the Legislature by January 1, 1976. Through oversight, no work was begun on the project until February 1977 when the Secretary for Resources appointed an Agency Task Force to make the study. Task Force members were assigned from the Secretary's Office, Parks and Recreation, Fish and Game and Staff of the Commission. Work was begun in March, a draft report circulated to affected agencies, cities, and the public for comment during September, input evaluated and the report revised resulting in the final report now submitted by the Task Force for approval of the Commission and the Secretary for Resources.

REPORT:

The report discusses the background of the original tideland leases to Western Salt Company in 1926 and 1940, as well as the grants to the Port District. Ecological attributes, resource uses and use alternatives

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are presented. Virtually all public comment was that the area should be left in its current state or more actively managed for wildlife habitat purposes. Presently, the leased lands are being used in conjunction with lands owned by Western Salt Company as ponds for the production of salt. Improvements consist generally of dikes, levees, checks and related works.

Task Force members concluded that high recreational use attendant to units of the State Park System was incompatible with the significant wildlife values found in the isolation of the ponds from human activity. Parks and Recreation concurred that administration by Fish and Game for wildlife values and habitat was paramount.

CONCLUSION:

The Task Force and hence, the report, recommend that title to the leased tide and submerged lands be reverted in the State Lands Commission as of January 31, 1984, and be leased to the Department of Fish and Game for wildlife management purposes. Also recommended by the Task Force is preparation of a management plan for the area by Fish and Game and studies of alternate funding sources to the Fish and Game Preservation Fund for operation and management of the lands. Staff of the Commission concurs in the findings. A copy of the proposed report has been furnished to the Commissioners and is available to the public at the Office of the Commission.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Area of Concern.
- B. Report and Recommendation to the California Legislature on Use of State Tide and Submerged Lands in South San Diego Bay.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE ON USE OF STATE TIDE AND SUBMERGED LANDS IN SOUTH SAN DIEGO BAY PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 1114, STATUTES OF 1973.