

18. PROSPECTING PERMITS FOR GEOTHERMAL ENERGY AND RELATED PRODUCTS - W.O. 4493D.

During consideration of the three preceding minute items (Nos. 15, 16, and 17), covering rescissions of authorizations for issuance of 2-year prospecting permits for geothermal energy and related products, the Executive Officer explained that the principal reason for the rescissions was that recent exploration developments and further geologic analyses have led the applicants to focus their interest on the possibility of geothermal energy elsewhere than in Lake County, particularly in Sonoma County, for which area they have applications pending before the State Lands Commission. It was noted that even under the cumbersome procedures required by existing statutes, the State Lands Division is attempting to facilitate and encourage prospecting for geothermal energy on lands under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Mr. Ford B. Ford, Executive Secretary of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, appeared and reported on two days of field trips and a public hearing which that Committee had held the previous week on the subject of geothermal products. He stated that during the public hearing, it became evident with regard to State lands that the prospectors have problems under the provisions of the State prospecting permit, provisions of which seem unrealistic to them, and it is hoped that something can be developed generally paralleling the Federal legislation pending on the subject. Mr. Ford indicated that the Senate Fact Finding Committee on Natural Resources would work with the staff of the State Lands Commission for the purpose of developing necessary legislation.