

17. APPROVAL OF PROCEDURES FOR EXCHANGES UNDER CHAPTER 973, STATUTES OF 1973 - AB 1319-1973.

During the consideration of Calendar Item 15 attached, the Executive Officer summarized the details of the exchange of land under Assembly Bill 1319 and indicated that the Division will be moving ahead in the next few months working to exchange over 600,000 acres of State-owned school lands to acquire a better ownership pattern throughout the State. The Division will be considering the environmental characteristics of these lands; the needs for expansion of the State Park System; the need for power plants; the need for off-road vehicle sites; and the need for fish and wildlife habitat.

Acting Chairman Reinecke indicated he was aware of the thousands of acres of State lands to which we no longer had access, and felt it is very definitely time that the Commission and the Division take action to consolidate as much of that land as possible and to move it into usable units instead of continuing on a wasteland basis. Relative to the original concept of the school lands, the need is not there today as it was at that time, and since there is other government support for educational purposes, it seems there is a better use for that land than to leave it sit out there totally idle as an in-holding that is without access by anyone.

After motion duly made and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

THE COMMISSION INSTRUCTS THE DIVISION TO COME FORTH WITH A PLAN FOR THE RESOLUTION, CONSOLIDATION, AND BETTER UTILIZATION OF STATE-OWNED SCHOOL LANDS, WHETHER THEY BE IN THE FORESTRY AREA OR THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AREA, SO THAT THESE LANDS CAN BE USED MORE EFFECTIVELY BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND THAT SUCH A PLAN BE BROUGHT BACK AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME, BUT NO LATER THAN JULY, 1974.

THE COMMISSION ENDORSES THE EXCHANGE CONCEPT FOR THOSE PROJECTS AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 973, STATUTES OF 1973, SUBJECT TO ITS PRIOR COMMITMENTS ON MOUNTAIN HOME STATE FOREST, AND DIRECTS THE DIVISION TO PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY TO COMPLETE THOSE EXCHANGES WHICH ARE POSSIBLE UNDER THE PRIORITY LIST ESTABLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THAT LEGISLATION.

Attachment:

Calendar Item 15 (2 pages)

15.

APPROVAL OF PROCEDURES FOR EXCHANGES
UNDER CHAPTER 973, STATUTES OF 1973

Approximately 611,000 acres of vacant State school land remain in place under the management of the Commission. Some 112,000 acres of this land, however, are within the exterior boundaries of national forests, national parks, military bases, while additional acreage is otherwise unsuitable for meaningful State management. Often, private parties, as well as other governmental agencies, have expressed an interest in acquiring some of these parcels in exchange for lands owned by them. Such exchanges may have significant advantages when the land to be received has high value for revenue production, forest management, or recreation potential, for example. Such an exchange with the U.S. Forest Service has been under negotiation over a number of years to block up present holdings of the State in Mt. Home State Forest.

Prior to the 1973 legislative session, exchanges of school lands could be made only with agencies of the Federal government. In order to broaden the exchange authority, the Commission authorized the Division to sponsor legislation. Assemblyman Seeley agreed to carry the legislation since a significant exchange was possible within his district. Assembly Bill 1319 was amended several times during the legislative process resulting in a measure which authorized only seven specifically scheduled exchanges. These exchanges could be made with private parties and other agencies of local and State government.

AB 1319, containing an urgency clause, was approved by the Governor on September 30, 1973, and went into immediate effect. The State Director of Parks and Recreation has placed the authorized projects in priority as required by the statute. These projects are as follows:

- a. Big Horn Sheep habitat in Riverside County.
- b. Expansion of Millerton Lake State Recreation Area in Madera County.
- c. Acquisition of coastal beach and uplands in Santa Cruz County for the State Park System.
- d. Acquisition of coastal beach and related Navarro River frontage and uplands in Mendocino County for the State Park System.
- e. Acquisition of Westport Beach lands, Mendocino County, of approximately 1,100 acres, three miles of ocean frontage.
- f. Acquisition of Bear Harbor lands, Mendocino County, of approximately 3,800 acres, eight miles of ocean frontage.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 15. (CONTD)

- g. Acquisition of lands as an addition to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, of approximately 12,000 acres.

Private parties having land within the authorized exchange areas are most anxious for work to begin on the top priority projects. The Big Horn Sheep habitat to be acquired under project (a) would be operated by the Department of Fish and Game under management agreement. Projects (b) through (g) are of interest to the Department of Parks and Recreation for park and recreation uses.

The lands to serve as a base for exchanges (b) through (g) are to a major extent the same ones involved in any exchange negotiations with the U.S. Forest Service on the Mt. Home State Forest. Therefore, work will proceed on the priorities listed in AB 1319 subject to the earlier commitments made on the U.S. Forest Service exchange. Offered lands will be reviewed for environmental features and all acquired lands will have equal or greater environmental significance than those given up.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION ENDORSE THE EXCHANGE CONCEPT FOR THOSE PROJECTS AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 973, STATUTES OF 1973, SUBJECT TO ITS PRIOR COMMITMENTS ON MT. HOME STATE FOREST, AND DIRECT THE DIVISION TO PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY TO COMPLETE THOSE EXCHANGES WHICH ARE POSSIBLE UNDER THE PRIORITY LIST ESTABLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THAT LEGISLATION.