

MINUTE ITEM

7/24/75
TB

36. SCHOOL LAND MANAGEMENT STUDY - W 8375.

The attached Informative Calendar Item 34 was submitted to the Commission for information only, no action thereon being necessary.

Attachment:

Informative Calendar Item 34 (2 pages)

SCHOOL LAND MANAGEMENT STUDY

Pursuant to Minute Item 5 of the April 23, 1970, meeting of the State Lands Commission, a study was authorized to determine "present land needs that can be satisfied by lands under the Commission's jurisdiction." Because of budget limitations and the commitment of available staff at that time to undertake an inventory of environmentally significant lands in compliance with Chapter 1555, Statutes of 1970, the School Land Management Study did not begin until November 1974. Work in progress has focused on school lands in San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Counties, which account for approximately two-thirds (about 400,000 acres) of the remaining 600,000 acres of school lands of the entire State.

Tentative recommendations concerning the possibility of consolidating these lands, through exchanges with the Bureau of Land Management, will be forthcoming by August 1975. Potential selection areas are presently being investigated by the land planning unit, the Mineral and Resources Development Section, and the Land Transactions Unit. The selection areas presented will be definitive enough to include in proposed Federal legislation, which it is felt will be necessary to enable the consolidation program.

The recommendations will be presented in the form of alternative programs, each corresponding to different primary land use objectives. Exhibit "A", which is attached and by reference made a part hereof, indicates the ideas currently being developed into these program recommendations.

Attachment: Exhibit "A"

EXHIBIT "A"

| LAND USE OBJECTIVE | PROGRAM | ACQUISITION PLAN | MAJOR BENEFITS AND ADVANTAGES | MAJOR ANTICIPATED DIFFICULTIES |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Environmental, protection, education and research.</p> | <p>Joint State Lands Division - University of California program for protection and management of research natural areas.</p> | <p>Consolidate as per UC proposed Natural Land and Water Reserves System areas identified in desert, ranging in size from 10,000 acres to over 100,000 acres.</p> | <p>Would afford permanent protection of highly significant environmental values. Would facilitate scientific study of dry lands habitat and resources.</p> | <p>Must be closed to mining, recreational use, grazing.</p> |
| | <p>Outdoor schools for environmental education programs of Southern county school systems.</p> | <p>Citizens Advisory groups in each county would prepare site recommendations, land use plans. Might be coordinated with NLWRS areas above.</p> | <p>Would provide controlled use, protection of significant environmental values. Would relieve some financial pressure on school districts otherwise contemplating purchase or lease of lands for this purpose. Would conform to spirit of 1853 School Land Grant.</p> | <p>Non-revenue producing.</p> |
| <p>Resource development and management</p> | <p>Development and implementation of mineral and energy resources management plan.</p> | <p>SLD would conduct or participate in geological studies and surveys of desert, recommend consolidation sites of limited size, wide variety, based on potential economic benefit and environmental compatibility.</p> | <p>Would provide opportunity for State to take initiative in geothermal and solar development planning. Great potential economic benefit to State. Would provide an example of coordinated planning on regional basis of economic resources. Would provide opportunity for significantly minimizing conflict between economic development and environmental protection.</p> | <p>Federal government currently retaining geothermal rights in land exchanges. Federal land obtained may have patented mining claims. Opposition by private mining interests.</p> |
| <p>Real Estate management</p> | <p>Acquisition, sale and lease of property with high real estate value or potential in conjunction with State, regional and local land use plans.</p> | <p>Acquire lands owned by BLM within or close to areas identified in county plans as "urban" or "urbanizing", i.e. Blythe, Barstow, Lucerne Valley, Coachilla Valley, Victorville, Needles, Parker Dam, etc.</p> | <p>Traditional functions of SLD would be maintained. Could provide unique means of assisting implementation of State, regional and local land use planning by opening land for residential development at most opportune times, most suitable locations. Revenue would be generated.</p> | |
| <p>Specialized ORV Recreation</p> | <p>SLD would acquire and lease, as concessions, lands suitable for fairly intensive use by off-road vehicles.</p> | <p>Citizens Advisory Groups composed of ORV association members, environmentalists, and resource specialists, would recommend site locations.</p> | <p>Would provide ORV users with area especially designated for that purpose. Lease would generate revenue. Might relieve ORV pressure on other less suitable areas.</p> | <p>Could contribute to problems of ORV use of desert by providing additional attraction.</p> |