

of this Committee, has submitted to the Commission and other interested departments of the State a proposed program for the development of a report on public lands within the State of California, but at this time to include in it all phases of public lands in four selected counties: namely, San Diego, Fresno, Placer and Humboldt; and the Committee further desires to have an advisory board appointed for the purpose of working with it and asks for a representative from the State Lands Commission for this purpose.

Upon motion duly made and unanimously carried, a resolution was adopted authorizing the Executive Officer to serve on the Advisory Board for the Senate Interim Committee on Public Lands investigation and further that he be authorized to designate certain members of the staff of the Commission to provide whatever information the Commission has with respect to the problems involved in this investigation.

32. (Contracts, Services of Experts - Defense of State's Interest in Its Marginal Sea Area - N-5092) The Commission was informed that in connection with the assistance being rendered by this office to the Attorney General, and the preparation of material to be used in presenting the State's case before the Master in Chancery appointed by the Supreme Court (United States vs. California - Tidelands), and also in the preparation of material to be presented to Congressional Committees, it has been deemed advisable to employ the services of experts in the field of oceanography, Dr. Francis P. Shepard of Scripps Institute of Oceanography and Dr. Ulysses S. Grant of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Upon motion duly made and unanimously carried, a resolution was adopted authorizing the Executive Officer to issue contracts for expert services of Dr. Francis P. Shepard of Scripps Institute of Oceanography, and Dr. Ulysses S. Grant of the University of California at Los Angeles, for the preparation of material relative to the tidelands case. Said contracts are to be for services as necessary during the period September 28, 1949 to June 30, 1950, and to provide for payment to the Contractors at the rates of \$75.00 per day for consulting and research services, and \$100.00 per day as expert witnesses, plus necessary expenses. Total payments under these contracts shall not exceed the sum of \$3,000.00 each.

33. (Proposed Budget, Division of State Lands - 1950-51 Fiscal Year - W.O. 539) The Commission was informed that the appropriation request of the Division of State Lands for the 1950-51 Fiscal Year is based on a forecast of activity during that period compared to that of the current and immediately preceding years. Measures used to gauge estimated activity during 1950-51, including demands for the Division's services and mandatory extraordinary projects, all point to a workload during the future period equal to or exceeding the current workload, a more-than-capacity burden for the present staff. The Division's appropriation request is summarized as follows:

Description	Estimated 1949 - 50	Estimated 1950 - 51	Increase or Decrease from 1949 - 50
Expenditures for Support	\$290,134.	\$319,445.	+ \$29,311.
Other Current Expenses	131,220.	95,000.	- 36,220.
Contributions to Retirement System	19,160.	19,758.	+ 598.
Total Expenditures	<u>\$440,514.</u>	<u>\$434,203.</u>	<u>- \$ 6,311.</u>
Estimated Revenues			
State Lands Act Fund	\$1,146,574.	\$1,126,717.	- \$19,857.

Although this schedule indicates an estimated increase in support expenditures of \$29,311., the amount of increase is considerably minimized when analyzed as to its composition. Of the amount indicated, \$21,380. is actually a decrease in anticipated reimbursements, since during 1950-51 the Division will no longer render engineering services to the Division of Beaches and Parks. Thus, the requested increase is reduced to \$7,931., of which merit salary adjustments account for \$5,541., leaving a net increase requested of only \$2,390. or less than 1% over current estimated expenditures. A consistent endeavor has been made to effect economies wherever possible as suggested by the Director of Finance in his message of July 27, 1949, and it is felt that appropriation requests are reasonable in view of the estimated workload for the period involved.

Upon motion duly made and unanimously carried, a resolution was adopted approving the proposed budget for the 1950-51 Fiscal Year, subject to review and approval by the Department of Finance.

34. (Comprehensive Survey and Report on the Torrens Title Act - W.O. 252) The Commission was informed that in accordance with the authority granted the State Lands Commission by way of a special legislative appropriation and the direction of the Commission, the Executive Officer recommends that the required comprehensive survey and report on the Torrens Title Act of California to the Legislature be accomplished by means of a written report to the Commission by a qualified expert in the field of land registration and recording systems and that the surveys be conducted and the report prepared as follows:

1. Field surveys and compilation of statistical and procedural data be conducted:
 - a. State of California, by Division Staff.
 - b. Cook County, Illinois, by Illinois Attorney.
 - c. State of Massachusetts, by Consultant.
2. Consultation and general supervision over field surveys and compilations, by Consultant.
3. Review of practices, procedures, laws and court decisions for the three areas, by Consultant.
4. Conclusions and recommendations, by Consultant.

To effectuate the foregoing program, it is proposed to contract for the services of Mr. James C. Short of Chicago, Illinois, an attorney of over 20 years' experience in Cook County where the Torrens system has been used extensively, and assign to him the field survey and compilations for that area.

The field surveys and compilations for the State of Massachusetts and the operations called for in Items 2, 3, and 4 above are proposed to be contracted for with Mr. Nathaniel B. Bidwell of Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Bidwell is a former Assistant Attorney General of that State and has had a long experience in land title matters there. The State of Massachusetts is known to be outstanding in its land title laws and their administration.

Discussion was had as to the propriety of employing exclusively out-of-State counsel for this specialized work. A suggestion was made that one of the universities in California might be able to lend assistance through its Research Department by way