

3. ESTHETICS OF OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES - W.O. 5668.

The Chairman requested that the record show he was pleased that the placing of transmission lines underground by utility companies was being approached on a national scale, and asked for a progress report on the staff study being made on this matter.

The Executive Officer referred to the brief report given at the preceding Commission meeting. He stated that it is intended to include in the staff study data resulting from the investigation being made by the Federal Power Commission under an order issued May 10, 1965, entitled "Order Establishing National Power Survey Industry Advisory Committee on Underground Transmission." Meanwhile, however, the staff has contacted other State and federal governmental agencies, as well as northern and southern California public utility companies, in order to obtain information and viewpoints.

Mr. Jieroty, Executive Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, pointed out that perhaps the Commission itself could encourage the use of underground rather than overhead transmission lines by changing its basic pricing policies on right-of-way easements.

The Executive Officer stated that the use of rental rates as incentives for undergrounding of power lines would have to be a new subject of inquiry.