

## 37. UNDERGROUNDING OF TRANSMISSION LINES - W.C. 5668.

After consideration of Calendar Item 27 attached, and upon motion duly made and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

1. THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER IS AUTHORIZED TO COOPERATE WITH THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION IN THE LATTER'S BROAD INVESTIGATION INTO THE UNDERGROUNDING OF ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LINES;
2. NO BROAD POLICY DETERMINATION CONCERNING APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSMISSION LINE EASEMENTS ACROSS STATE LANDS WILL BE MADE AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, FOR ANY SPECIFIC APPLICATION, AND UPON THE REQUEST OF THE DIVISION, THE APPLICANT WILL BE REQUIRED TO SHOW WHY IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO GO UNDERGROUND AT A PARTICULAR LOCATION, WITH ADVICE FROM THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO BE SOUGHT BY THE DIVISION IN SUCH INSTANCES;
3. UPON CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATIONS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AND THE FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER IS AUTHORIZED TO REPORT THE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS, TOGETHER WITH A RECOMMENDED POLICY, TO THE COMMISSION;
4. THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER IS AUTHORIZED TO COOPERATE WITH INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES THAT ALSO WILL BE STUDYING THIS GENERAL SUBJECT AREA. (SEE EXHIBITS 4 AND 5 OF EXHIBIT "A".)

Attachment

Calendar Item 27 (2 pages)

27.

## UNDERGROUNDING OF TRANSMISSION LINES - W.O. 5668.

At its meeting of January 28, 1965, the Commission directed staff to undertake a study of the feasibility of having utility companies place future transmission lines underground where such lines crossed State lands under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Pursuant to this directive, contact was established by staff with several public and private utility companies whose fields of operations include both northern and southern California. Additionally, State and Federal agencies having a direct or indirect interest in the subject area were queried for their views and information.

Early in the study it became apparent that the objective of placing transmission lines underground was inextricably tied into the total national effort to beautify the physical environment of the United States. That effort, it was seen, represented the dynamics of national goals in transition, and it was in this context that the staff report was prepared. (Cf. Exhibit "A".) The relatively new goals, however, are well in advance of the technology which will make placement of high-voltage transmission lines underground practical. The problem, as it came into perspective, was how to reconcile a burgeoning national esthetic demand with the requirement that the regulated utility industries provide electrical energy at the most economical rates.

Reconciliation of the problem, contributions to which can be made on partial bases by such agencies at the State Lands Commission, in reality belongs to those agencies that can directly influence research and development, utility-rate structures, and, if necessary, express the will of the majority by such methods as tax subsidization of undergrounding. The last method is, of course, the purview of legislative bodies, either local or national. The other two can be influenced to a great degree by utility commissions on both the State and Federal levels.

Investigations are currently under way by both the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Power Commission to determine current conditions, and to determine what can be done and what must be done within the utility industry to put it on an advancing parallel path with the State and national desires for esthetic improvement.

It is the opinion of staff that policy determinations of the State Lands Commission regarding undergrounding of transmission lines should be held in abeyance pending completion of the studies indicated in the preceding paragraph.

THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER BE AUTHORIZED TO COOPERATE WITH THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION IN THE LATTER'S BROAD INVESTIGATION INTO THE UNDERGROUNDING OF ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LINES;

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2. NO BROAD POLICY DETERMINATION CONCERNING APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSMISSION LINE EASEMENTS ACROSS STATE LANDS BE MADE AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, THAT FOR ANY SPECIFIC APPLICATION, AND UPON THE REQUEST OF THE DIVISION, THE APPLICANT BE REQUIRED TO SHOW WHY IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO GO UNDERGROUND AT A PARTICULAR LOCATION, WITH ADVICE FROM THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO BE SOUGHT BY THE DIVISION IN SUCH INSTANCES;
3. UPON CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATIONS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AND THE FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT THE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS, TOGETHER WITH A RECOMMENDED POLICY, TO THE COMMISSION;
4. THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER BE AUTHORIZED TO COOPERATE WITH INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES THAT ALSO WILL BE STUDYING THIS GENERAL SUBJECT AREA. (SEE EXHIBITS 4 AND 5 OF EXHIBIT "A".)