

7/22/76  
W 9984

## PRESENTATION ON MATHEWS READYMIX ISSUE

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Patrick Porgans, representing Safeguard Environmental Protection Agency (a private organization), appeared to discuss the Mathews Readymix issue on the Feather River, near Oroville. At this time Chairman Kenneth Cory explained to Mr. Porgans that the Commission could not legally act on the issue now since the public was not given adequate notice of this item. It is therefore an informational item. Mr. Porgans stated he understood, but wanted to present the issue now in order for the Commission to consider the matter.

Mr. Porgans explained that his organization has been doing research in the Feather River area and is concerned about a proposed land exchange between the State and Mathews Readymix. He further explained his organization is proposing to hire an engineer, as the State Lands Division is low on staff, and pay for signs to post in the area advising of the public access.

Chairman Cory asked the staff if the Commission has in the past approved something relating to this land transfer. Mr. Robert C. Hight, Staff Counsel, advised that it has not.

James F. Trout, Manager Land Operations, explained that Assemblyman Ray Johnson introduced a bill which allowed the construction of a diversion dam. However, the dam was unpopular. As a result, Assemblyman Eugene Chappie proposed legislation which would authorize in exchange construction of a recreation area along the Feather River. The Department of Water Resources is involved in the exchange, and has formally asked the State Lands Division to comment on the ownership. After staff made its investigation, they advised Water Resources that a portion of the property owned by Mathews Readymix appears to be State-owned property. However, there is no access from the highway to the property. Mr. Trout stated he is not certain how Mr. Porgans intends to accomplish his objectives, but the point maybe moot if the land exchange is consummated. He suggested that the staff meet with Mr. Porgans and put the matter on the next Commission Calendar.

For clarification purposes, Chairman Cory asked Mr. Porgans if what he wants is for the Commission to: 1) make sure there is public access to the Feather River from Mathews' property; and 2) to notify the public of the access. Mr. Porgans indicated that Chairman Cory's statement was correct. Chairman Cory thanked Mr. Porgans for bringing this matter to the Commission's attention.

Chairman Cory asked Mr. Trout about the diversion dam put in by Assemblyman Johnson's bill. Mr. Trout explained that no dam was built. The reason for the dam's unpopularity, as stated above, is because there were environmental problems. Since Assemblyman Johnson left the Legislature, Assemblyman Chappie is now carrying legislation which would take the

\$2 1/4 million appropriated in the Johnson bill and use it for a recreation area which occupies the site owned by Mathews. Therefore, if the exchange is approved the State would own the whole property.

At the conclusion, it was agreed that this would be brought before the Commission at the next meeting.