

RECREATION COMMISSION

ITEM 254 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 808
Budget line No. 8

For Support of the Recreation Commission From the General Fund

Amount requested	\$95,950
Estimated to be expended in 1950-51 Fiscal Year.....	93,362
Increase (2.8 percent)	\$2,588

Summary of Increase

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Salaries and wages	\$3,490	—\$3,134	\$6,624	808	47
Operating expense	—905	—1,821	916	808	64
Equipment	3	—367	870	808	70
Total increase	\$2,588	—\$5,822	\$8,410		

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted	\$95,950
Legislative Auditor's recommendation	64,493
Reduction	\$31,457

The specific items comprising the recommended reduction of \$31,457 are as follows:

	Reduction	Budget page	Line No.
Salaries and wages			
Assistant to the director	\$7,008	808	34
Recreation specialist, 3 instead of 4	6,068	808	37
Recreation specialist (extend to permanent)	5,232	808	35
Intermediate stenographer-clerk, 1 instead of 2	2,691	808	39
Intermediate stenographer-clerk (in lieu of temporary help)	2,590	808	40
Reduction in salaries and wages	\$23,589		
Operating Expenses			
Long distance toll charges	\$955	808	54
Travel—staff	4,757	808	53
Automobile operation	1,286	808	59
Reduction in operating expenses	\$6,998		
Equipment			
Automobile—replacement	\$870	808	68
Total recommended reduction	\$31,457		

ANALYSIS

We recommend the elimination of the amount budgeted for the Recreation Commission as it is not an essential state service and is one that should be fully self-supporting. The commission has been an increasing cost to the State each year of its existence, as shown below:

Fiscal year	Number of positions	Total expenditures
1947-48 actual	4	\$62,780
1948-49 actual	9	77,038
1949-50 actual	10	84,442
1950-51 estimated	11	93,362
1951-52 proposed	12	95,950

Although the providing of recreational facilities is traditionally a local government responsibility, there are also state agencies which

provide recreational facilities. The larger of these are the Division of Beaches and Parks and the Division of Fish and Game.

The primary service rendered by the Recreation Commission is in the supplying of specialist staff to make surveys of recreation facilities in local areas. The direct beneficiaries of this service are the cities of the State and, in a few instances, county governments. Admittedly the service is desirable as it is not feasible for all cities to maintain specialist recreation staffs for occasional surveys. Inasmuch as the service of providing staff for surveys and maintaining a clearinghouse of information is requested by the cities and of direct benefit to them, it would be more appropriate for the Recreation Commission to be supported by the cities through fees, in the same way that certain other central services are provided by the State on a self-supporting basis. Examples are the personnel services supplied at cost by the Personnel Board, and retirement system aid by the State Employees' Retirement System. There is no reason why the State should pay for consultants assistance to cities and counties.

Alternate Recommendation If Continued at State Expense

If it is determined by the Legislature that this commission is to be continued at state expense for the 1951-52 Fiscal Year, attention is directed to the expanded level of service at which this agency proposes to function for the ensuing year.

Since the start of this commission, the services of its staff have been available to local governmental units upon request. This has resulted in indiscriminate requests for consultive services and surveys of recreational facilities. Only during the past few months has the Recreation Commission suggested to governmental units requesting surveys, etc., that the agency requesting the service supply local staff to assist in the field work. If this policy were adopted on a uniform basis, requiring the best qualified and informed of local staff to devote an equal number of hours in assisting the state consultant, it is evident that the level of service now proposed for a field staff of five could be provided by a field staff of three technicians.

If state support is continued we recommend that the appropriation be reduced so that it will be necessary for any governmental agency requesting the assistance of the commission to designate specific personnel in the employ of the agency to assist the commission for a specified number of days in each instance at least equivalent to the time required by the state staff to complete the assignment, or pay the equivalent of this time in reimbursement to the State.

We recommend the elimination of the position of assistant to the director. The nature of the work and the responsibilities of the director of this staff consisting of four or five technicians does not warrant an assistant. As outlined in the preceding paragraphs, we recommend the reduction of recreation specialists to three instead of the proposed number of five and the reduction in clerical staff to three instead of five. This will reduce salaries and wages from \$60,127 to \$36,538, a savings of \$23,589.

We recommend a corresponding reduction of operating expenses from \$34,821 to \$27,823, a savings of \$6,998 and reduction in equipment from \$1,002 to \$132, a savings of \$870.

GENERAL SUMMARY

The Recreation Commission was created by Chapter 1239, Statutes of 1947, to study the problems of recreation in California, to formulate a state recreation policy and to aid and encourage public recreation activities. The commission is comprised of seven nonsalaried members appointed by the Governor. The Director of Recreation is appointed by the Governor and is responsible for the execution of the duties authorized by the act under policies established by the commission.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ITEM 255 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 809
Budget line No. 40

For Support of Department of Veterans Affairs From the General Fund

Amount requested	\$239,512
Estimated to be expended in 1950-51 Fiscal Year	249,178
Decrease (3.9 percent)	\$9,666

Summary of Increase

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Salaries and wages	\$1,513	\$5,589	\$4,076	812	67
Operating expense	785	215	1,000	812	68
Equipment	438	438	---	812	69
Increased reimbursements ..	8,500	8,500	---	812	74
Total increase	\$9,666	\$14,742	\$5,076		

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount Budgeted	\$239,512
Legislative Auditor's recommendation	234,436
Reduction	\$5,076

ANALYSIS

The decrease in support from the General Fund of \$9,666 is largely the result of an increase of \$8,500 in reimbursements from the Veterans' Dependents' Education Fund. Total expenditures will decrease \$1,166 below the estimate for 1950-51 but are \$20,600 over the actual expenditures of 1949-50. Two new positions were added during 1950-51 by executive order. One of these is continued as an authorized position, the other is planned to be dropped.

Division of Administration

The Budget of this division represents an increase of \$659. New furniture for the director accounts for this increase. We recommend approval.

Division of Educational Assistance

The budget of this division shows a decrease of \$2,364. One new position was added by executive order to handle greater veteran enrollment than anticipated. This position is not included for 1951-52 on the assumption that enrollment will decline. We recommend approval of the request.