

Area Operations—Continued

fiscal representatives have not been performing what could be construed as constructive accounting.

On this basis, we recommend that the six positions of semisenior accountant costing \$35,485 be abolished, and that three positions of senior accountant be established at a cost of \$18,180. By applying themselves exclusively to constructive accounting suggestions and to the offering of procedural guidance to the counties, these three positions should improve the level of accounting services that was originally contemplated. This recommendation, if accepted, would result in a net saving of \$17,305.

RECREATION COMMISSION

ITEM 264 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 895
Budget page No. 7

For Support of Recreation Commission From the General Fund

Amount requested	\$88,103
Estimated to be expended in 1953-54 Fiscal Year.....	89,209
Decrease (1.2 percent).....	\$1,106

Summary of Increase

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Salaries and wages.....	\$1,267	\$1,267	---	895	46
Operating expense	175	175	---	895	66
Equipment	-2,548	-2,548	---	895	73
Total increase	-\$1,106	-\$1,106	---	895	75

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted	\$88,103
Legislative Auditor's recommendation.....	74,410
Reduction	\$13,693

ANALYSIS

The budget request of \$88,103 is \$1,106 or 1.2 percent less than the estimated expenditures for the current year.

For a number of years this office has pointed out that the Recreation Commission is performing a service which is primarily a responsibility of local government; that numerous state agencies are concerned with other aspects of recreation; and that the support of a separate agency for this purpose is almost unique in the United States. A detailed report on the work of this agency was prepared in 1953. Based on these facts we have previously recommended elimination of the agency. The Legislature has not concurred in this recommendation.

In essence our position concerning the Recreation Commission has been motivated primarily from two main considerations:

1. The establishment of separate boards and commissions can rarely be justified except on a temporary basis to meet a special problem.
2. In this activity the State has been performing a new service to local governments which we have not thought was as essential as other state requirements.

Recreation Commission—Continued

It is our opinion that the degree of recreational consultant service which the State will furnish local governmental services has no relationship to the question as to whether or not a separate commission is the best instrument for accomplishing the desired service.

The commission has been in existence for seven years and it is appropriate to review all of the duties conferred upon the commission and ask whether or not it is reasonable to expect the commission to have accomplished each such specific duty after seven years of existence or whether the commission is required on an indefinite basis. Chapter 1239, Statutes of 1947, outlined the duties of the commission in the following explicit language:

1. The commission shall cause to be studied and shall consider the whole problem of recreation of the people of the State of California as it affects and may affect the welfare of the people and especially the children and youth.
2. The commission shall formulate, in cooperation with other state agencies, interested organizations and citizens, a comprehensive recreational policy for the State of California.
3. The commission shall, with the written approval of the Governor, establish policies for the guidance of the Director of Recreation in the performance and exercise of his powers and duties as set forth in this act.
4. The commission shall aid and encourage, but not conduct, public recreation activities.

It is our contention that the need for a Recreation Commission no longer exists, as its principal duties have been or should have been accomplished in a seven-year period. We therefore recommend that the Recreation Commission be abolished and that the staff of the commission be transferred to the Division of Beaches and Parks with the following reductions:

	<i>Reductions</i>
1. Eliminate Director and substitute Bureau Chief, Division of Beaches and Parks	\$2,000
2. Eliminate secretary-stenographer	4,683
3. Commission travel	2,620
4. Long-distance toll charges	1,390
5. Other operating expenses	3,000
Total reduction	\$13,693

With the above changes we recommend approval of the budget as submitted.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ITEM 265 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 897
Budget line No. 42**For Support of Department of Veterans Affairs From the General Fund**

Amount requested	\$317,873
Estimated to be expended in 1953-54 Fiscal Year	292,330
Increase (8.7 percent)	\$25,543