



AB 2179 (MONNING): STATE LANDS COMMISSION

BILL: LAND EXCHANGE

MARCH 2010

Overview

AB 2179 will grant title to local government agencies for two land exchanges: the Long Beach 1991 Pike land exchange and a land exchange in the City of Santa Cruz.

Current Situation

Section 6307 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) allows the State Lands Commission to enter into a land exchange under limited circumstances. In many cases, the land being exchanged was part of a legislative grant that transferred administrative control of sovereign land deemed to be “relatively useless for public trust purposes” to a local government. The local government then transfers control of that land to the State Lands Commission in return of land that “will provide a significant benefit to the public trust.”

The original legislative grant that gave the local government control over the sovereign lands does not grant the local government final control of the land. Therefore, in the interim of the land exchange, the Commission is required to lease the exchanged land to the trading local government, while the local government pursues grant legislation to receive final administrative control of the land. The local government must legally have final control of the land before the exchange can be finalized. This process can take several years and requires significant staff time and resources.

Long Beach Issue

The 1991 Pike land exchange is the only land transaction in Long Beach that will be affected by this bill. In 1981, a relocation of Seaside Way cut off continuous access of certain trust lands and isolated other parcels of land. The City and the State entered into a land exchange to exchange certain parcels. On the following page is a map of the 1991 land exchange parcels. Through AB 2179, the State Lands Commission would like the Legislature to grant Long Beach the lands the City has acquired through the 1991 Pike exchange. Specific language that refers to the 1991 Pike exchange is found in Section 2 of AB 2179. Long Beach staff is supportive of effectuating the final transfer of title for this piece of property.

2002 Queensway Bay Development Plan Area (DDR) Land Exchange

Long Beach and the State Lands Commission were involved in a separate land exchange in 2002 that included land in the Pike and land adjacent to the Los Angeles River. The California Court of Appeals overturned this exchange in April 2005. AB 2179 only addresses the 1991 Pike land exchange and does not affect the final decision of the 2002 DDR land exchange.

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Map of the 1991 Land Exchange

