

# Bills to Strengthen Open Meeting Laws

Two state legislators today announced a double-barreled approach to solve problems in California's open meeting laws.

One of the companion measures introduced today by Senator Tom Carrell (D., San Fernando) and Assemblyman William T. Bagley (R., San Rafael) will strengthen the State's open meeting law for local agencies — the Ralph M. Brown Act — and the other will provide a single, comprehensive open meeting statute applicable to state agencies.

BOTH MEN were members of the Assembly Interim Committee on Government Organization. The committee has been engaged in a continuing study of the adequacy of state laws guaranteeing this aspect of the public's right to know.

Carrell and Bagley acted at the request of former committee chairman, Judge Milton Marks, who resigned his Assembly seat last Oct. to accept an appointment to the San Francisco Municipal Court. Marks' long standing interest in legislation ensuring public access to meetings of government agencies was climaxed by the near enactment of similar measures during the 1965 session.

At that time the state agency bill passed both houses of the Legislature and was pocket-vetted by Gov. Brown. The bill strengthening the Ralph M. Brown Act was opposed by the League of California Cities and was killed on a tie vote in a Senate Committee following passage in the Assembly by a substantial margin.

BOTH AUTHORS expressed their hopes that these measures would receive widespread support. Bagley commented: "These bills have been studied at length and in detail. They should ensure the public's access to meetings of their government officials while not inhibiting the orderly process of government." Carrell stated: "I hope the League of California Cities can now join us in supporting these measures."

California Newspaper Publishers Association President Archie J. Hicks Jr., publisher of the Encinitas Coast Dispatch, announced immediate support of . . . "this legislative attack on secrecy in government. The public's right to know is a vital ingredient of the democratic process."

## Study of Landfill Area Set

A study to determine feasibility of developing the Palos Verdes Landfill Operation as a regional park site has been authorized, Supervisor Burton W. Chace said today.

The study was authorized by the Board of Supervisors yesterday.

The board order, in effect, authorizes the county engineer and the county sanitation district to cooperate with the parks and recreation department in the study, Chace said.

"The parks and recreation department has made preliminary studies of this proposal and needs the assistance of other departments to complete it," said Chace.

The site is on the west side of Crenshaw Boulevard, near Rolling Hills Road and the South Coast Botanical Gardens.

"A decision on the land's use for park purposes must be made soon," Chace said. "It is hoped the report will be concluded next month."

## Troop 154 Scout Gets Eagle Rank

Graig Fisher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean L. Fisher of 5006 Bindewald Road, has been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout during a Court of Honor conducted by Boy Scout Troop 154 of Torrance. Troop 154 is sponsored by the Torrance Kiwanis Club. The Court of Honor was held earlier this month.

Tenderfoot awards were presented to Tim Burke, Jack Christensen, David McGee, Scott Page, Russell Rizzardi, and Steven Stuckey. Second class awards were given to Lloyd Brown, John Chaisis, Jack Christensen, John Hooks, and Neil Ruggers. Service awards were presented to Mark Adams, Steven Blankenship, John Chaisis, John Jones, John Wilmer, Craig Fisher, Roger Walker, Randy Lenton, and Bill Seckinger. Merit badges were awarded

to Frank Adams, John Adams, Steven Blankenship, Craig Fisher, John Jones, Randy Lenton, Bill Seckinger, and John Wilmer. Presentations were made by Dean Fisher, scoutmaster; Allan Streeter and Alvin Smithart, assistant scoutmasters; Harry Rinder, councilor; Michael Ruggera and Richard Smith, committeemen, and John Wilmer, scout instructor.

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