

Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

5/11/67

Contact: Ron Schmidt

RECOMMENDATION BY GOVERNOR McCALL FOR PRESERVATION OF OREGON'S BEACHES

Governor Tom McCall announced today that he would personally visit the Oregon beaches Saturday with experts from the Department of Oceanography, Oregon State University.

Purpose of the trip, to start at 10 a.m. at Salishan, will be to visit five beach areas, representative of the entire Oregon coast, to see the effect of a scientific formula for beach definition described by the Oceanographer. The formula was developed at Governor McCall's request by nine experts at OSU, including engineers, oceanographers, biologists, and geologists. Dr. H. F. Frolander, and Dr. June Pattullo both from the Oceanography department at OSU met with the Governor this morning to finalize the formula.

The five areas, besides Salishan, include Manhattan, Seaside, Cannon Beach, and Garibaldi. At these five points, stakes will be set in the sands applying the formula to point up the extent of dry sands which the state is discussing in House Bill 1601.

The formula defines the beach area, and offers a definition that is scientifically determined, and which will solve the beach definition for all time. At the Governor's request, Dr. Fred Burgess, head of the department of Civil Engineering at OSU, with teams of experts, will mark all five beach areas.

Decision to make the trip, and to offer the formula to the Legislature, came following the meeting with the Oceanographers in the Governor's office this morning.

(Attached is a summary of Governor McCall's Position on HB 1601)

GOVERNOR McCALL'S POSITION AS TO THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS
OF HOUSE BILL 1601

1. Recognition by the legislature of the existence of easements acquired by dedication, prescription, grant or otherwise on some of the beach lands.

2. Declaration that the public rights are included within state recreation areas, so that the highway commission can legally spend money for policing and improvements.

3. Authorization to the highway commission to administer, protect and preserve the rights of the public.

4. Definition of that portion of the beach to which prescriptive rights of the public shall be defended by the state:

(a) All lands that lie between the sea and the sea cliffs;

(b) In the absence of sea cliffs, all lands between the sea and the elevation of _____ feet above the high tide level. High tide level is defined as the average of the annual highest tides, predicted by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, averaged over the years 1955 through 1964. In determining the recreation area, natural contour lines, excluding bays and estuaries, shall be followed. The position of the landward boundary line shall be interpolated to follow natural contour lines whenever interrupted by manmade structures.

Provision should be made for retaining in private ownership those permanent private structures existing on January 1, 1967.

5. Opposition to any amendment or language that would in any way adversely affect the public's legal and traditional rights to use of the beach areas.