

## **Summary of 9-25-12 interview of Milford Wayne Donaldson**

Interview and summary by Thomas M. Patton, Deputy Attorney General

Donaldson served as State Historic Preservation Officer for eight years, from 2004 until retiring on September 28, 2012. (Milford Wayne Donaldson transcript (MWDtr), pp. 2, 17.) The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) is under the administrative umbrella of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, but only some three percent of its work involves state parks. (MWDtr, pp. 2-3) Donaldson headed the OHP as a gubernatorial appointee. The OHP's role is to coordinate with federal programs and administer historic preservation fund grants coming through the National Park Service. (MWDtr, pp. 4-5.)

As the head of the OHP, Donaldson attended the large executive committee meetings held every other week at the Parks Department. (MWDtr, p. 13.) Donaldson did not recall the issue of fund balance discrepancies in reports to the Controller's Office and Finance Department ever being discussed at a large executive committee meeting. Donaldson also stated there was never any discussion of any undisclosed monies or reserve funds at any executive committee meeting he attended. (MWDtr, pp. 14-15.)

Donaldson did recall a meeting where a private foundation representative argued that the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) division should donate some of their funds to help bail out the Parks Department. Donaldson recalled OHV division chief Daphne Greene responding that such assistance was not permissible as OHV funds were trust funds available only for OHV use. Donaldson indicated this was the only time he ever heard of anything that might be referred to as a surplus fund. (MWDtr, p. 15.)

Donaldson indicated the large executive committee would discuss budgets in general and who would present them at legislative hearings, but that committee members were not given any real insights into the budgets. (MWDtr, pp. 18-19.) Donaldson specifically indicated he had never heard any discussion about any reserve dollars in the State Parks and Recreation Fund. (MWDtr, p. 16.)