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Report Highlights

Inventory of State Lands

Office of State Lands – Division of Administration

Audit Control # 40170019

Performance Audit Services • August 2018

Why We Conducted This Audit

We evaluated whether the Office of State Lands (OSL), within the Division of Administration (DOA), has maintained a current and comprehensive inventory of state lands as required by law. We conducted this audit because prior audits of OSL by our office have identified problems with the accuracy and completeness of the state's land inventory.

What We Found

Overall, we found that OSL has not maintained a current or comprehensive inventory of state lands. Specifically, we identified the following issue:

- **OSL's inventory recorded in LaGov and agency records did not match for 58 (45.3%) of the 128 state agency properties we tested due, in part, to agencies not providing accurate information to OSL. In addition, OSL's inventory does not include all types of properties in which the state has an interest.** As a result, OSL and other entities cannot rely on this inventory to make decisions and properly manage the state's land resources.

In addition, we found the following issues related to the state's properties:

- **OSL does not have an accurate and complete listing of the tax adjudicated properties the state owns, nor is this information easily accessible to stakeholders.** This makes it difficult to determine whether the state is receiving all of the mineral royalties on these properties and whether tax adjudicated properties claimed by the state are also being claimed by private individuals. OSL is attempting to complete an inventory of these properties but is hindered by inaccurate and incomplete information received from local governments in the past.
- **The state does not have clear title to an estimated 286,467 acres of water bottoms, as private parties also claim ownership of these lands.** These "dual-claimed" water bottoms cause several issues, including restricted public access, negative economic impacts, and potentially reduced revenue generating opportunities.

View the full report, including management's response, at www.la.gov.