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Minority Hiring Program Adopted By Port District

The San Diego Unified Port District has become the first governmental agency in the county to adopt an affirmative action program to improve minority employment opportunity.

Port commissioners adopted a program Tuesday calling for the hiring of 22 minority employes during the next five years to bring the district up to the community minority ratio of 20 to 24 per cent.

The commission took the action following a report by a consultant company which stated that the current employment ratio was now below 14 per cent in the district.

The port currently is seeking to employ two minority employes, one of which would be in line for an executive position.

The port currently has a total employment of 229 employes.

Affirmative action representatives have been seeking affirmative action commitments from both the city of San Diego and the county of San Diego. But, neither agency has yet approved such action.

In earlier action, the port adopted a measure calling for all firms bidding on public works projects for the district to have an affirmative action progam. The county of San Diego has a similar program, but the city of San Diego declined to adopt the measure.

Port Commissioners on Tuesday discussed a recommended measure which would require all tideland tenants to adopt affirmative action programs. Tenants have objected to a proposed amendment to tideland leases which would specify such a program.

At the meeting Tuesday, Commissioner Milton Fredman of San Diego recommended an alternative to the lease amendment. This would call for tenants to sign a statement of policy calling for increasing minority employment, but would be on a voluntary basis.

No action has been taken on this measure.