

A special meeting of the State Lands Commission was held in Room 5100 State Capitol, Sacramento 14, California, at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 1953.

Present: Honorable James S. Dean, Chairman  
Honorable Goodwin J. Knight, Member  
Honorable Robert C. Kirkwood, Member

Staff Members in Attendance:  
J. Stuart Watson, Assistant Executive Officer  
Elsie Latta, Acting Secretary

1. (SUBMARINE GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY - W.O. 1327, P.R.C. 783.1.)

WHEREAS, the Humble Oil and Refining Company has made application for authorization of the conduct of submarine geophysical exploration work on those tide and submerged lands under the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission lying westerly of the easterly limits of the City of Santa Barbara, as extended, easterly of the westerly limits of the City of Santa Barbara, as extended, and southerly of an east-west line drawn two miles offshore from the old Santa Barbara Lighthouse, during the period December 1, 1952, to March 1, 1953, inclusive; seismic shots would be limited to the submerged land areas more than six miles from shore and to three lines of shots two, four and six miles from shore, and to two north-south lines extending two to six miles from shore, respectively; and the seismograph work would be completed in not more than twenty working days at some time during the permit period; and,

WHEREAS, the State Lands Commission deferred action on this application at its meetings on December 5, 1952, and January 8, 1953; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Fish and Game has granted a concurrent permit for the use of explosives in connection with the proposed operations; and,

WHEREAS, the District Attorney of Santa Barbara County has reported that while the County is withdrawing opposition to the granting of the subject permit, such withdrawal is based on the assumption that either the Legislature or the State Lands Commission will impose restrictions on any future offshore drilling that would be satisfactory to the County; and,

WHEREAS, numerous letters of objection have been submitted by individuals in connection with the subject application, the majority of which object to offshore drilling only, and do not object to geophysical exploration operations; and,

WHEREAS, Mayor Norris Montgomery, on behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, has registered objection to the issuance by the State Lands Commission of a permit to the Humble Oil and Refining Company for conducting submarine geophysical explorations in the applied for area because of the fear that oil and gas development will result; and,

WHEREAS, the City limits of the City of Santa Barbara do not extend to the area for which the permit is requested; and,

WHEREAS, any permit issued for submarine geophysical exploration operations is limited to such operations; and