

MINUTE ITEM

18. OBJECTIONS TO SUBMARINE GEOPHYSICAL OPERATIONS, CERTAIN AREAS OF TIDE AND SUBMERGED LANDS, ORANGE COUNTY, RICHFIELD OIL CORPORATION - W.O. 4036.

In presenting Informative Calendar Item 20 attached, it was pointed out that all known objectors had been notified that no hearing would be conducted on the matter at this meeting of the Commission. The Chairman indicated, however, that the Commission would listen to the comments of anyone present who might want to be heard. There was no response.

Attachment

Calendar Item 20 (1 page)

CALENDAR ITEM

INFORMATIVE

20.

OBJECTIONS TO SUBMARINE GEOPHYSICAL OPERATIONS, CERTAIN AREAS OF TIDE AND SUBMERGED LANDS, ORANGE COUNTY, RICHFIELD OIL CORPORATION - W.O. 4036.

On July 28, 1961, pursuant to an application submitted by the Richfield Oil Corporation, the staff recommended that the standard form of permit be issued to the Richfield Oil Corporation for the conduct of geophysical exploration operations on those tide and submerged lands under the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission lying between a line drawn due West from Point Conception, Santa Barbara County, and the southerly boundary of the State of California for a six-month period from August 1, 1961, through January 31, 1962.

The Boards of Supervisors of Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties, and the Mayor and City Council of Santa Barbara had been notified that the application was to be considered at the July 28 meeting.

Communications expressing nonobjection were received from the County of Santa Barbara, from the City of Santa Barbara, and from the Board of Supervisors of San Diego County. Representatives of the Orange County Board of Supervisors and of the Coastal Area Protective League appeared at the meeting and requested that no permit be issued covering the offshore area lying between the northerly limits of the City of Newport Beach and the southern boundary of Orange County. A resolution to that effect by the Board of Supervisors of Orange County was submitted.

The Commission approved the issuance of a standard form of permit for the area applied for except for that area lying between the northerly limits of the City of Newport Beach and the southerly boundary of Orange County, and indicated to the Richfield Oil Corporation that if they still wished to apply for a permit on the excepted area, a hearing would be held at the next Commission meeting. The representative of the applicant indicated that they would prefer to have a hearing and consider it at a later date.

On August 9, 1961, a conference was held between representatives of the Coastal Area Protective League, Orange County, the Manager of the Orange County Harbor District, and the staff. As a result of this conference, it appears that, among other reasons, the objection to exploration operations is based on the possibility of onshore damage resulting from seismic detonations and interference with small-craft operations. However, the protestants stated that they would prefer to present all of their objections to the Commission at the August 28 meeting.

After the above conference had been held, the applicant, Richfield Oil Corporation, submitted a letter to the effect that it is not their intention to conduct seismic operations in the offshore area lying between the northerly limits of the City of Newport Beach and the southern boundary of Orange County.

All known objectors have been notified that no hearing will be conducted on this subject at the Commission meeting to be held on August 28, 1961.