

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 42 was approved as Minute Item No. 42 by the State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 1-24-80 meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

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REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED ON PROPOSED SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL SUBMERSIBLE SURVEY OF OIL AND GAS SEEPS

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

At its November 1978 meeting, the Commission approved the formation of a Santa Barbara Channel Ad Hoc Group on Oil and Gas Seeps to update existing oil and tar seepage data in the Santa Barbara Channel because of the great importance seepages play in the environmental and economic well-being of Santa Barbara and the State, and due to the concern industry has for viability of its continued operations in the channel. Furthermore, this group was charged with the responsibility of developing specific recommendations for the Commission by which it may initiate remedial actions that are technically and economically feasible.

As a consequence of the Ad Hoc Group recommendations that sufficient detailed studies of the seeps near Platform Holly be performed prior to any design stage for the collection and containment of the escaping oil and gas, the Commission staff prepared a study plan and budget. It was further recommended by the Ad Hoc Group that funds be sought to implement this plan from various sources.

Staff applied for and was subsequently awarded a Coastal Energy Impact Program (CEIP) Grant amounting to \$69,964 in December 1979 for the assessment and delineation of oil and gas seeps in the Santa Barbara Channel. The contract runs from February 1 to April 30, 1980.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The staff, utilizing a manned-submersible survey system, proposes to: 1) identify the nature of designated seeps as to whether they are single or multiple source points; 2) determine the extent of these seeps by accurately locating and mapping their sizes and shapes on the seafloor, and 3) ascertain, if possible, their output and quality of hydrocarbon emitted. The major objective is to provide sufficient verified, physical data upon which engineering considerations and designs may be based to confine each seep at its source and facilitate the transportation and processing of gathered seep oil and gas through existing or new offshore and onshore facilities.

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The study will be conducted by senior personnel of the Commission who have experience and expertise in addressing this facet of the phenomenon of natural oil and gas seeps. Areas to be investigated, if funds permit, include the substantial oil and gas Holly Seep located approximately ten miles west of the Santa Barbara Harbor and one mile south of Coal Oil Point in 225 feet of water and other seeps of similar magnitude located between Coal Oil Point and Hope Ranch Beach.

BENEFITS

Significant benefits resulting from this study will be used to develop mechanisms to produce oil and gas seep deposits and as a result of such utilization, eliminate a substantial amount of water-borne pollutants and air emissions in the Santa Barbara Channel. Ultimately, this project would provide additional energy, air emission tradeoffs for further much needed development and a tangible net air quality benefit to both the onshore and offshore areas and populations impacted by environmental effects of such oil and gas seepage.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION OF A COASTAL ENERGY IMPACT PROGRAM GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION.
2. AUTHORIZE THE SOLICITATION OF PROPOSALS COVERING A DETAILED MANNED SUBMERSIBLE SURVEY FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND DELINEATION OF SPECIFIC OIL AND GAS SEEPS IN THE SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL NEAR PLATFORM HOLLY.
3. AUTHORIZE THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR THIS SURVEY TO THE LOWEST QUALIFIED BIDDER FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$70,000.
4. AUTHORIZE THE DESIGNATION OF D. J. EVERITTS AS PROJECT MANAGER AND TO ACTIVATE THE PROJECT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CEIP GRANT AWARD.