

MINUTE ITEM

26. PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NAVAL RESTRICTED AREA, POINT SAL TO POINT CONCEPTION, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY - W.O. 3252.

After consideration of Calendar Item 27 attached, and upon motion duly made and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER IS AUTHORIZED:

1. TO TRANSMIT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY A REQUEST THAT PROPOSED NAVIGATION REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO OPERATIONS IN THE COASTAL AREA BETWEEN POINT SAL AND POINT CONCEPTION, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, BE WITHHELD UNTIL THE AFFECTED AGENCIES OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA CAN ESTABLISH THE BASES FOR A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY OPERATING PROGRAM WITH THE FEDERAL AGENCIES DESIGNATED BY THE RESPECTIVE SECRETARIES; AND
2. TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND THE SMALL CRAFT HARBOR DIVISION OF THE FOREGOING REQUEST.

The Executive Officer was directed to transmit to the Chairman of the Commission a copy of the letter to the Secretaries of Defense, of the Army, and of the Navy, together with a draft of a letter report for consideration by the Governor as to transmittal to President Eisenhower.

Attachment

Calendar Item 27 (2 pages)

CALENDAR ITEM

27.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NAVAL RESTRICTED AREA, POINT SAL TO POINT CONCEPTION, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY - W.O. 3252.

On March 30, 1959, the U. S. Army Engineer District, Los Angeles, issued a public notice of intention to establish an area closed to all nonmilitary navigation, extending three miles from the coastline between Point Sal and Point Conception, Santa Barbara County. The basis for this restriction was reported as a statement by the Commandant, Eleventh Naval District, that this action is necessary in order to carry out the mission of the Pacific Missile Range, and to preclude delays in missile launching by reducing the opportunities of observation of missile preparation by observers at sea and by interference from curiosity-seekers in motor boats and commercial fishermen.

The Corps of Engineers requested a review of the proposal and statement of objections by 30 April 1959. At the direction of the Chairman of the State Lands Commission, a statement of objections was filed on April 27, 1959, based on the contemplated prohibition of any oil and gas exploration, development, and other operations under the jurisdiction of the Commission. It was suggested that consideration of adoption of restrictive regulations in the subject area should be withheld until the affected State agencies could review the bases for a mutually satisfactory operating program with the Commandant of the Eleventh Naval District.

The Department of Fish and Game and the Small Craft Harbors Division also filed objections to the Navy proposal.

The Corps of Engineers held an informal conference on the matter on May 18, 1959. In attendance were representatives of the Commandant, Eleventh Naval District; the Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District; the Commandant, Coast Guard District; the Department of Fish and Game; the Small Craft Harbors Division; the State Lands Commission; and the oil and gas, fishing, and boat industries. After presentation of an outline of the State Lands Commission problems which would result from the proposed closure, the Navy representative stated that these problems had not been considered. The Corps of Engineers representative emphasized that the meeting was an informal conference and not a hearing on the subject and that any conclusions would be resolved in the future, "by higher authority in Washington."

The following report is from The Los Angeles Times, edition of Friday, June 12, 1959: "Routine closing of a 35-mile corridor of coastal water alongside Vandenberg Air Force Base as a safety precaution during the firing of missiles has brought the wrath of boat owners, commercial fishermen, and oilmen upon the Navy, The Times learned yesterday.... Rear Adm. Jack Monroe, commander of the Pacific Missile Range, said yesterday he did not know any opposition to the closing was still being expressed...."

CALENDAR ITEM 27. (CONTD.)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. TO TRANSMIT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY A REQUEST THAT REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO OPERATIONS IN THE COASTAL AREA BETWEEN POINT SAL AND POINT CONCEPTION, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, BE WITHHELD UNTIL THE AFFECTED AGENCIES OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA CAN ESTABLISH THE BASES FOR A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY OPERATING PROGRAM WITH THE FEDERAL AGENCIES DESIGNATED BY THE RESPECTIVE SECRETARIES; AND
2. TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND THE SMALL CRAFT HARBORS DIVISION OF THE FOREGOING REQUEST.