

MINUTE ITEM

39. PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASES, SECTION 6871.3, PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY - W.O. 4770.

After consideration of Calendar Item 26 attached, and upon motion duly made and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER IS AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH THE PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE, AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 6873.2 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, THAT THE COMMISSION INTENDS TO CONSIDER OFFERING LEASES FOR THE EXTRACTION OF OIL AND GAS FROM ALL THAT AREA OF TIDE AND SUBMERGED LANDS NOT INCLUDED IN EXISTING STATE OIL AND GAS LEASES OR EXCLUDED UNDER SECTION 6871.2(b) OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE LYING BETWEEN THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF STATE OIL AND GAS LEASE P.R.C. 208.1 IN THE ELWOOD FIELD AND THE WEST BOUNDARY OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, AND EXTENDING SEAWARD THREE NAUTICAL MILES.

Attachment

Calendar Item 26 (2 pages)

CALENDAR ITEM

26.

PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASES, SECTION 6871.3, PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY - W.O. 4770.

Section 6871.3, Public Resources Code, provides that "Whenever it appears to the commission that it is for the best interests of the State to lease lands subject to the provisions of Section 6871.1 of this code for the production of oil or gas therefrom, or whenever a person who possesses the qualifications provided in this chapter makes written request therefor, the commission may, subject to the provisions of Section 6871.4, offer the same for bidding at such times and in such parcels as the commission shall determine to be in the best interests of the State."

It has been determined by the staff to be in the best interests of the State that the Commission consider offering for oil and gas lease, pursuant to competitive public bidding under the Public Resources Code, approximately 16,503 acres of tide and submerged lands offshore Santa Barbara County.

The area proposed for consideration, exclusive of existing State oil and gas leases and the area excluded in Section 6871.2(b) of the Public Resources Code (Santa Barbara Sanctuary), extends from the easterly boundary of State Oil and Gas Lease P.R.C. 208.1 in the Elwood Field to the easterly boundary of Santa Barbara County and seaward three nautical miles.

Under the Statutes of 1931, Chapter 846, certain tidelands and submerged lands of the State were granted to the County of Santa Barbara. The grant includes "...All that portion of the tidelands and submerged lands extending from Sandy Land Point to Rincon Creek in the County of Santa Barbara.... Said lands shall be used by said county and by its successors solely for the establishment, improvement and conduct of a harbor and for the establishment and construction of bulkheads or breakwaters for the protection of the lands within its boundaries...". The statute further provides: "That there is excepted and reserved to the State of California all deposits of minerals, including oil and gas, in said lands, and to the State of California, or persons authorized by the State of California, the right to prospect for, mine, and remove such deposits from said State lands".

Section 6873.2, Public Resources Code, provides in part: "Before offering any tide or submerged land area for an oil and gas lease, the commission shall publish notice thereof, and any affected city or county may, within thirty (30) days after the publication of such notice, request in writing to the commission that a hearing be held with respect thereto.... The commission in its discretion and irrespective of any such requests may hold such hearings as it shall determine...."

CALENDAR ITEM 26. (CONTD.)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO PROCEED WITH THE PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE, AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 6873.2 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, THAT THE COMMISSION INTENDS TO CONSIDER OFFERING LEASES FOR THE EXTRACTION OF OIL AND GAS FROM ALL THAT AREA OF TIDE AND SUBMERGED LANDS NOT INCLUDED IN EXISTING STATE OIL AND GAS LEASES OR EXCLUDED UNDER SECTION 6871.2(b) OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE LYING BETWEEN THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF STATE OIL AND GAS LEASE P.R.C. 208.1 IN THE ELWOOD FIELD AND THE EAST BOUNDARY OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, AND EXTENDING SEAWARD THREE NAUTICAL MILES.