

MINUTE ITEM

4/24/74  
DJE

34. CONTRACT FOR THE STUDY OF OIL AND TAR SEEPS ON STATE-OWNED OFFSHORE LANDS - W 9016

After consideration of Supplemental Calendar Item 34 attached, and upon motion duly made and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT TO BE COMPLETED IN 14 MONTHS ALLOWING AN EXPENDITURE OF \$19,960 TO FUND AN INVESTIGATION OF OIL AND TAR SEEPS FROM AREAS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

Attachment:

Supplemental Calendar Item 34 (1 page)

PROPOSED CONTRACT FOR THE STUDY OF OIL AND TAR SEEPS ON  
STATE-OWNED OFFSHORE LANDS

At the request of the State Lands Division, the Department of Geological Sciences of the University of Southern California has submitted a proposal to investigate oil and tar seeps from areas under jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission. The University has requested \$19,960 from the Commission as partial support of this technical investigation to be carried out during a 14-month period. Matching sea grant funds will be provided.

The objectives of this investigation are to (1) locate existing oil and tar seeps, (2) determine the geologic framework and other conditions controlling the seeps, (3) define chemical characterization of oil and tar, (4) determine fate of oil and tar subsequent to seepage and (5) develop alternatives to minimize the effect on the public.

Numerous oil and tar seeps occur naturally in the California offshore area. Others can occur during subsurface operations in areas of anomalous geologic conditions. Oil and tar from any given site may have unique chemical characteristics that enable an investigator to correlate chemistry and site. Subsequent to seepage or spill, the oil or tar is transported according to the oceanographic conditions and during transport it undergoes physical and chemical modification. All aspects of the nature of seeps will be considered under this proposed investigation including defining local geologic structures, faults and fracturing, and seismicity; determining the surface and subsurface currents and wave motion that are responsible for transport of oil; determining the chemical characteristics of beach tars, tar and oil from seeps and oil from producing wells and their weathering characteristics.

When the geological, physical, chemical and oceanographic conditions have been defined, it may be possible to provide systems to seal or control the seepage.

The studies will include a thorough literature search, marine field studies and laboratory studies. Periodic progress reports and a final report would be furnished the State Lands Division. All tabulated data will be supplied to the State.

Benefits to the State will be a better understanding of oil and tar seeps, on the chemistry of oil and how it is modified with time and travel, and methods to determine the source of oil or tar by its chemical composition.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT TO BE COMPLETED IN 14 MONTHS ALLOWING AN EXPENDITURE OF \$19,960 TO FUND AN INVESTIGATION OF OIL AND TAR SEEPS FROM AREAS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.