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GALIFORNIA OFFSHORE GAS,
OIL AND TAR SEEPS REPORT

The staff has prepared and forwarded to the Legislature and Governor a report entitled "California Offshore Gas, Oil, and Tar Seeps". The report was submitted before January 1, 1978, as required under the provisions of Chapters 749 and 1210 of the Statutes of 1975.

The research resulting in this report was carried out by the staff and 11 outside consultants during the past 3 years. Partial funding was provided for the project by the Federal Energy Administration pursuant to Section 6226(b) of the Public Resources Code. Detailed reports from the consultants were prepared between 1974 and 1976. All reports were received by December 1976. During 1977 an executive summary was prepared which entailed review of all reports and other background material.

Significant accomplishments of the research for the report include:

- Location and mapping more than 2,000 seeps.
- Determination of geological, seismic, chemical, and oceanographic aspects of seepage.
- Investigation of analytical chemical methods to characterize gas, oil and tar.
- Studies of the chemical weathering and toxicity of oil.
- Review of new methods of detecting and monitoring oil on the water by remote sensing methods from helicopters, airplanes, and satellites.
- Numerous beaches were repeatedly inspected, sampled, and the samples characterized.
- A bibliography of almost 1,000 significant references was compiled.

Much of the scope of the report was the result of the support and advice from an advisory group consisting of representatives from State and local agencies and private citizens. Represented

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in the group were the California Department of Fish and Game, Division of Oil and Gas, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, southern California regional members of the Coastal Commission and Water Quality Control Board, Santa Barbara County, and Get Oil Out, Inc. Three formal meetings were held in Santa Barbara and informal meetings were held in Long Beach, Newport Beach, and Santa Barbara. Representatives from the U. S. Coast Guard and several private citizens attended the formal meetings.

The Commission is required to make the results of this research available to the public. Presently, arrangements are being made to print copies of the report to supply anticipated demand.