

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 17  
was approved as Minute Item  
No. 17 of the State Lands  
Committee by vote of 3  
to 0 at its 2/23/78  
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

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AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A  
CONTRACT FOR EMERGENCY REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS  
AT ELLWOOD BEACH, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

COUNTY: Santa Barbara.

AREA: Ellwood Beach.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The coastal beaches of Santa Barbara County near Ellwood were the scene of extensive crude oil production from 1890 to the 1940's. When the reservoirs became depleted and production was halted, many of the platforms and piers were abandoned in place or removed to the then existing ocean floor. Natural action of the sea through the years has removed most of the visible parts of these structures but many elements remain hidden in the water or are semi-buried in the transient sands of the tidal and surf area. These hazardous objects vary in size and shape; they may be piles barely submerged below the ocean surface or exist as knife-sharp spears capable of projecting up through the sand.

The existence of these potentially dangerous remnants which have brought personal injury claims against the State has been a matter of great concern to staff. Efforts have been made in the last 2 decades by State Lands to locate and remove such objects as summarized below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount Expended or Appropriated</u>	<u>Accomplishment</u>
1956-57	\$25,000	Cleaned 1/2 mile of Summerland Beach.
1960	1,900	Marine survey made of underwater objects located off Summerland Beach.

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1968	53,400	Removed 62 objects off Summerland Beach.
1975	52,000	Removed 4 wellheads and 50 steel braces from Summerland Beach.
1976	34,000	Removed miscellaneous steel pipes, piles and debris from Ellwood Beach.

Pursuant to the Commission's authorization at its meeting of December 9, 1977, staff is currently negotiating a contract to have a survey made of the area and to locate as many obstructions as possible. When this is completed, the Commission will be asked for authorization to receive bids on a project to have all of the obstructions removed.

**EMERGENCY CONDITIONS:**

The recent heavy storms in the southern coastal areas of the State have caused extensive erosion of the beaches in Santa Barbara County. Consequently, many of the hazardous objects which are normally buried beneath the sand are now exposed. The unique condition of the beaches is expected to be only temporary. Already, sand is beginning to be redeposited, and soon the now uncovered obstructions will again be buried beneath the sand.

A considerable amount of expense and effort can be saved if some of the hazardous obstructions can be removed while they are exposed above the surface of the beaches, rather than having to dig through several feet of sand in order to locate them.

The Commission's Staff has received bids from 3 contractors in the Santa Barbara area to provide men and equipment to perform emergency removal work while the eroded beach conditions last. The lowest responsible bid was submitted by Granite Construction Company of Santa Barbara. The amount to be expended under the contract shall not

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exceed \$40,000, and the contract shall be for a term not to exceed 60 days.

The bids for labor, equipment and transportation are as follows:

1. Granite Construction Company: \$2,138 per day.
2. Melcher Construction Company: \$2,300 per day.
3. South Coast Construction Company: \$2,339 per day.

The pieces of equipment to be used are a 977 caterpillar, a dump truck, a dewatering pump, and cutting torches.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000 WITH GRANITE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OF SANTA BARBARA TO PERFORM EMERGENCY WORK TO REMOVE OBSTRUCTIONS FROM ELLWOOD BEACH, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY.