

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 34
was approved as Minute Item
No. 34 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 3-5-81
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

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AMENDMENT OF STATE OIL AND GAS LEASE PRC 2879.1
TO ALLOW OFFSHORE DISPOSAL OF DRILLING MUDS AND CUTTINGS

LESSEE: Union Oil Company of California
P. O. Box 7600
Los Angeles, California 90051
Attn.: Mr. K. J. Robertson

AREA, LAND TYPE AND LOCATION:
State Oil and Gas Lease PRC 2879.1 covers
5,653 acres of offshore tide and submerged
lands in the Pt. Conception Area of the
Santa Barbara Channel, Santa Barbara County.

BACKGROUND: On May 29, 1980, the State Lands Commission
approved Union Oil Company's application
to resume drilling on State Oil and Gas
Lease PRC 2879.1, Pt. Conception Area,
Santa Barbara County. The Commission at
that time also certified the Final Environ-
mental Impact Report (EIR No. 225) as having
been prepared in compliance with the require-
ments of CEQA and implementing guidelines,
and determined that the project would not
have a significant effect on the environment.
Included in the project, as proposed by
Union Oil and as discussed in the EIR,
was the offshore disposal of clean oil-free
drilling muds and cuttings from 1 to 4
exploratory wells. This project is situated
on land identified as possessing significant
environmental values pursuant to PRC 6370.1,
and is classified in a use category, Class B,
which authorizes Limited Use. Through the
circulation of EIR No. 225, staff has coor-
dinated this project with the agencies
which nominated the site as containing
significant environmental values. They
have found this project to be compatible
with their nomination.

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. 34 (CONTD)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This amendment to Lease PRC 2879.1 would allow the discharge to the ocean of drill cuttings and drilling muds which are free of oil and materials that are deleterious to marine life. The amendment would be limited to a maximum of four exploratory wells. Such discharge is currently prohibited by the lease, but Section 6873(b) of the Public Resources Code allows for such discharge if the activity is under the authorization of a Regional Water Quality Control Board. Union obtained such a permit from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on November 14, 1980. The waste discharge permit provides specific discharge prohibitions, limitations and requires compliance with a monitoring and reporting program established by the Regional Board after consultation with the Department of Fish and Game.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

PRC Section 6873(b)

EXHIBIT:

A. Location Map

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT A FINAL EIR THAT INCLUDED THIS PROJECT WAS PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION'S STAFF PURSUANT TO THE PROVISION OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND SUCH DOCUMENT WAS CERTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION ON MAY 29, 1980. AT THAT TIME, A FINDING WAS MADE THAT THIS PROJECT WOULD NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
2. FIND THAT GRANTING OF THIS AMENDMENT WILL HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT UPON ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS IDENTIFIED PURSUANT TO SECTION 6370.1 OF THE P.R.C.
3. AUTHORIZE AMENDMENT OF STATE OIL AND GAS LEASE PRC 2879.1 TO ALLOW DISCHARGE TO THE OCEAN OF DRILL CUTTINGS AND DRILLING MUDS WHICH ARE FREE OF OIL AND MATERIALS THAT ARE DELETERIOUS TO MARINE LIFE, PROVIDED THAT THE LESSEE OBTAINS AND COMPLIES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF A REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD PERMIT FOR SUCH DISCHARGE. SUCH AMENDMENT SHALL APPLY TO THOSE AND ONLY TO THOSE DRILLING OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS MEETING ON MAY 24, 1980 (CALENDAR AND MINUTE ITEMS NO. 36).

EXHIBIT "A"

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

W 4018

**AMENDMENT OF LEASE PRC 2879.1 IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE RESUMPTION OF
DRILLING OPERATIONS**

**UNION OIL COMPANY of CALIFORNIA
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

FEBRUARY 1981

RAK

T. 5 N., R. 34 W.

T. 5 N., R. 33 W.

35 MILES TO
SANTA BARBARA

POINT
CONCEPTION

P.R.C.
2879

P.R.C.
2725

P.R.C.
2726

P.R.C.
2206

TEXACO

ATLANTIC
et al

TEXACO

14-6

H-1

3499

4001

PROPOSED
WELLS

SANTA BARBARA
CHANNEL

