MINUTE ITEM

Was approved as Minute Item No. 35 by the State Lands Comanission by a vote of the State Lands at its 9/25/8/4/4

CALENDAR ITEM

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REQUEST FOR AN EXEMPTION
OF AN OIL AND GAS LEASE FROM
COMPETITIVE PUBLIC BIDDING REQUIREMENTS

APPLICANT:

Contra Costa County
Public Works Department
Attention: Roger H. Frost,
Associate Real Property Agent
255 Glacier Drive
Martinez, California 94553-4897

AREA, TYPE OF LAND AND LOCATION:

Portions of Stone Road, Dutch Road and Sandmound Road consisting of 0.2870 acres of land owned by the County of Contra Costa. These roads are adjacent to Taylor Slough in Contra Costa County.

SUMMARY:

Contra Costa County intends to enter into a subsurface oil and gas lease with McFarland Energy. The County has requested that the Commission exempt the lease from the procedural requirements of competitive public bidding as provided under Sections 7052 and 7053 of the California P. R. C.

PERTINENT INFORMATION:

The parcels are owned in fee by Contra Costa County and are located adjacent to Taylor Slough. Under a joint venture agreement with Nahama and Weagant, Inc., McFarland Energy has parcels adjacent to those owned by the County under lease. McFarland Energy has offered to pay the County a one-sixth royalty on all crude oil and natural gas produced. McFarland Energy has also agreed to pay the County a sum of \$250

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 35 (CONT'D)

to cover the County's cost of processing this lease application. Staff feels that the royalty offered Contra Costa County is adequate.

The Staff believes that the parcels can be economically developed by the proposed lessee and that it would be impractical for the County to follow the competitive bidding procedures as outlined in Sections 7052 and 7053 of the P.R.C. resources Code. The parcels are small and the potential for drainage from adjacent lands under the control of McFarland Energy appears imminent.

In accordance with Section 7052 of the P.R.C the State Lands Commission may, in its discretion, exempt particular leases from the procedures of public bidding if it deems that such procedures are impractical by reason of the small size of the property or drainage from surrounding land.

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N/A.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15061), the staff has determined that this activity is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a "project" as defined by CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

Authority: P.R.G. 21065 and 14 Cal. Adm. Code 15378.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Legal Description.
- B. Lease Map.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. ADM. CODE 15061 BECAUSE IT IS NOT A PROJECT AS DEFINED BY P.R.C. 21065 AND 14 CAL. ADM. CODE 15378.

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CALENDAR ATEM NO. 35 (CONT D)

EXEMPT CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FROM THE PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS OF P.R.C. SECTIONS 7052 AND 7053 IN THE PROPOSED LEASING OF THE PARCELS ADJACENT TO STONE ROAD, DUTCH ROAD AND SANDMOUND ROAD.

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EXHIBIT "A"

Real property located in the unincorporated County of Contra Costa, State of California described as follows:

- A. All that portion of STONE ROAD lying between the Northeasterly extension of the northwest line of Lot 1 and the Northerly extension of the east line of Lot 70, Block 3 as shown on the map of BETHEL SUBDIVISION filed in Book 27 of Maps, Page 60.
- B. DUTCH ROAD as said road is shown on the maps of BETHEL SUBDIVISION filed in Book 27 of Maps, Page 60 and SANDMOUND PARK filed in Book 27 of Maps, Page 19.
- C. SANDMOUND ROAD as said road is shown on the maps of BETHEL SUBDIVISION filled in Book 27 of Maps, Page 60 and SANDMOUND PARK filed in Book 27 of Maps, Page 19.

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