

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 05
was approved as Minute item
No. 5 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 09/11/89
meeting.

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09/11/89
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AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR CONSULTANT
OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The staff, at the Commission's request, conducted a review and evaluation of the adequacy of the State Lessee's oil spill containment plans. The conclusion of the staff evaluation determined that, "In the event of a spill from offshore vessels, including tankers, existing plans are clearly inadequate. Much of the California coast could not be reached by sea-going response vessels in less than eight hours. Eureka and the north coast could not be reached for 24 hours or more. Given the limitations of the existing equipment, it is unrealistic to believe a major spill of tens of thousands of gallons discharged over a very few hours could be contained and recovered."

The Commission has expressed a need to have an expert(s) suggest and/or prepare recommended changes to such plans to correct the deficiencies identified. This item would authorize the Executive Officer to contract for such services with a qualified individual or firm.

AB 884: N/A.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION.

- 1. The Contractor will be required to perform the following tasks:

A review and analysis of the Commission's current oil facility inspection program with recommendations for improvement; a review of the State's response capabilities

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contained in SIOSC report prepared for the Department of Fish and Game with recommendations for additional improvements; a review of the socio-economic impacts likely to be caused by a spill based on an examination of existing knowledge about the industrial uses of the California coast, including such things as fishing and tourism; a report on the oil spill surveillance tracking, simulation of oil spill drift and fate and fingerprinting capabilities in California with respect to risk management; a review of the SIOAC report pertaining to an analysis of environmental data relevant to the California coast with respect to spill prevention and emergency recovery activities with recommendations for additional information and data necessary to complete the report.

This contract will be negotiated, as a sole source agreement, with the Oceanographic Company of Norway A/S (OCEANOR). OCEANOR is a professional company offering consultancy services in the fields of applied oceanography, marine meteorology, and pollution. They are of world-wide renown and expertise in efforts such as the one proposed to be undertaken. Estimated cost of the services enumerated above will be \$100,000 dollars. Progress reports will be submitted at each phase of the project and staff will monitor the contractors activities.

Funding will be from redirected budgeted resources and/or reimbursements collected from applicants for permits under pending environmental impact reports.

Negotiation of specific contract provisions will commence upon approval of the item and approval from the necessary State agencies will be sought on an expeditious basis.

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

Authority: P.R.C. 21065 and 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15378.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15061 BECAUSE THE ACTIVITY IS NOT A PROJECT AS DEFINED BY P.R.C. 21065 AND 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15378.
2. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO ENTER A CONTRACT FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE STATE'S CURRENT CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO A MAJOR OIL SPILL.
3. TAKE SUCH OTHER AND MINISTERIAL STEPS AS ARE NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE ABOVE PURPOSE.