

MINUTE ITEM

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m This Calendar Item No. 60 was approved as
Minute Item No. 60 by the California State Lands
Commission by a vote of 2 to 0 at its 06/07/04
meeting.

Minute Item
60

06/07/04
P. Thayer

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OIL AND GAS
LEASES MORATORIUM

Regular Item 60: Executive Officer made presentation to the Commission regarding a resolution pertaining to the Commission's continued opposition to drilling in federal oil and gas leases along the California coast.

The item was approved as presented by a 2-0 vote.

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**RESOLUTION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
URGING CONTINUATION OF THE FEDERAL MORATORIUM FOR
NEW CALIFORNIA OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING**

WHEREAS, The National Petroleum Council (NPC), a petroleum industry group, issued a September, 2003 report entitled *Balancing Natural Gas Policy – Fueling the Demands of a Growing Economy* that advocates lifting the federal Pacific Coast moratorium to enable new offshore oil and natural gas leasing beginning in July 2005; and

WHEREAS, The NPC report also calls for the preparation of a comprehensive inventory of oil and gas resources in the federal waters off of California in the context of lifting the OCS moratorium; and

WHEREAS, A federal moratorium on leasing-related activities off California, which recognizes that California's coast should be protected from new oil and gas development, has been in place since 1990, and

WHEREAS, The Bush Administration's 5-year leasing plan for mid-2002 through mid-2007 does not include oil and gas leasing in waters off California, based on the related Final Environmental Impact Statement, which cites numerous reasons for not to allow such leases, including marine sanctuaries, national parks, national wildlife refuges, national estuarine research reserves, marine protected areas, commercial and recreational areas, tourism and recreation and the economic health of the communities that depend on these assets; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Energy (DOE) nonetheless announced on May 5, 2004 that it had formed a federal Interagency Working Group to review and formulate implementation of the NPC study, and

WHEREAS, DOE's action indicates that the Administration is willing to lift the moratorium that protects California's coast from new oil and gas leases, and

WHEREAS, California has long taken steps to restrict oil and gas development in its own waters leading to enactment by the Legislature of the state California Coastal Sanctuary Act in 1994, which incorporated the administrative sanctuary previously established by the California State Lands Commission and created a statutory statewide coastal sanctuary that prohibits future oil and gas leasing in all state coastal waters, from Mexico to Oregon, in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, The California State Lands Commission adopted on August 19, 2003 a resolution "Opposing a Federal Inventory of Offshore Oil and Gas Resources" as proposed in the federal Energy Policy Act of 2003, S. 14, because such an inventory could lead to a lifting of the oil and gas moratorium, and

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WHEREAS, There are many worthy options before the Congress that would increase energy independence and reduce reliance on foreign oil, such as reauthorization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, incentives to improve energy efficiency, requirements to improve automobile fuel efficiency, research into renewable energy and alternative fuels, fully funding energy conservation and efficiency programs, including solar, geothermal, and renewables, weatherization, and other initiatives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the California State Lands Commission that it urges the President, the Department of Energy, and the Congress of the United States to focus on renewable energy development and continue the moratorium on oil and gas leasing off of California, on the basis that the environmental impacts of developing those leases, far outweigh the contribution limited quantities of additional oil and gas would make to fulfilling America's energy needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commission's Executive Officer transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Governor of California, to the United States Secretaries of Energy and the Interior, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and their Subcommittees on Interior, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.