

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 35  
was approved as Minute Item  
No. 35 by the State Lands  
Commission by a vote of 2  
to 0 at its 5-28-81  
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

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C 8076  
Fernino  
W 9016.2

ASSESSMENT AND DELINEATION  
OF OIL AND GAS SEEPS  
IN THE SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL

In October of 1979, the State Lands Commission applied to the California Coastal Commission and received a Coastal Energy Impact Program (CEIP) Grant 79-21 to study the major oil and gas seeps in the Santa Barbara Channel. The total amount of the grant was \$69,964.00.

Three sites were planned to be studied, namely the seeps located near Arco's Platform Holly and other in the vicinity of Campus Point, More Mesa and Hope Ranch. These seeps are believed to make significant contributions to the pollution of the beaches, the onshore air and the marine environment.

The major objective of the study is to provide sufficient verified, physical data upon which engineering consideration and designs may be based to confine each and facilitate the transportation and processing of gathered material.

A manned submersible survey was planned to determine the exact location of the seeps and obtain the necessary data. To conduct this type of survey, adequate sea floor mapping showing the relative bottom locations of seeps was required. This information is essential if a manned submersible survey is to be time and cost effective.

A detailed high resolution geophysical survey of the three seep sites and report have been completed at a cost of \$25,818. This survey provides the data necessary to conduct the manned submersible survey itself.

Prior to the geophysical survey, a Request for Proposal was solicited and Nexton, Inc. was evaluated by staff as the most qualified contractor to perform the submersible survey. The total cost of their proposal was \$81,000.

With the unexpected additional work and increased costs, there is not enough funds remaining in the grant to complete the study as initially planned. Also the time delays associated with this additional work will not permit the study to be completed within the original time frame.

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As a result of these circumstances, the staff considered several alternatives and decided on the following course of action.

A formal request for a CEIP grant augmentation of \$36,000 along with a time extension from May 31, 1981 to November 30, 1981 has been made to the California Coastal Commission. With the approval of both requests the survey will be able to follow its' original study plans for obtaining the pertinent data from the three sites and establish the required data base for other follow-on studies. In the event of refusal of the funding augmentation, the remaining funds on the existing grant will be used to evaluate two of the three seeps.

The seeps in the area of Platform Holly will be deferred until alternative funding sources can be identified. Augmentation applications have been initiated for clearinghouse reviews.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO:

1. ACCEPT THE AUGMENTATION OF \$36,000 TO CEIP GRANT 79-21 TO COMPLETE THE SEEP STUDY.
2. EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH NEXTON, INC. FOR \$81,000 TO CONDUCT THE MANNED SUBMERSIBLE SURVEY PORTION OF THE SEEP STUDY.