

~ MINUTES ~  
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION  
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2020

CITY OF LONG BEACH  
411 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD  
CIVIC CHAMBERS  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802

**APPEARANCES**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

- Betty T. Yee, State Controller
- Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor (Matt Dumlao, Environmental Policy Advisor and Alternate, participated for the adjournment of the open meeting)
- Gayle Miller, Chief Deputy Director and Alternate for Director of the Department of Finance Keely Bosler

**STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

- Jennifer Lucchesi, Executive Officer
- Seth Blackmon, Chief Counsel

**REPRESENTING THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

- Andrew Vogel, Deputy Attorney General

**NOTE:** *The final approved Minutes also include the Agenda and corresponding staff reports (incorporated into the draft Minutes by reference) approved as presented unless otherwise indicated in the Record of Action. A list of individuals making statements before the Commission and the entities they represent, along with the Executive Officer's Report, are included in a complete transcript of the proceedings, which is on file in the Sacramento offices of the Commission and posted on the Commission's website at [www.slc.ca.gov](http://www.slc.ca.gov). Also included on the website is the voting record of the meeting with the staff report for each agenda item linked to the respective consent, regular or informational item number. A link to a recorded Cal-span.org webcast of the meeting is also available on the Commission's website. All of these items may be found under Previous Meetings, by date of the meeting.*

**RECORD OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION  
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2020**

Chair Betty Yee called the meeting of the California State Lands Commission to order at 1:02 P.M. at the City of Long Beach, 411 West Ocean Boulevard, Civic Chambers, Long Beach, California 90802; also present were Commissioner Eleni Kounalakis and Commissioner Alternate Gayle Miller.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the December 6, 2019 and February 4, 2020 meetings were approved as presented by a vote of 3-0 (Kounalakis–Yes; Yee–Yes; Miller–Yes).

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT**

Executive Officer Jennifer Lucchesi updated the Commission on the following items:

- **Environmental Justice:** On February 13, 2020, the Commission, together with other agencies, and the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability held a workshop on how to conduct meaningful community engagement. There were over 130 participants in attendance representing eight State agencies.
- **Environmental Justice Position:** Commission staff released a notice for an Environmental Justice Liaison position at the Commission in the Sacramento office. The final closing date is March 5<sup>th</sup>. We have 11 applicants so far, and we will keep the Commission updated on that recruitment effort.
- **Hollister Ranch:** In December 2019, KTUA, the public engagement consultants held stakeholder interviews and surveys to identify the benefits and concerns associated with public access at Hollister Ranch. On Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, the first public meeting was held at the Goleta Valley Community Center. There were approximately 180 attendees, including the Hollister Ranch property owners, stakeholders, and the general public. Assembly Member Limón provided opening remarks.
- **Tijuana River Pollution Crisis:** Commission staff is working closely with other State agencies, led by CalEPA, to share information and coordinate action. We also represent the Commission on the Border Water Infrastructure Working Group, led by the U.S. EPA, which will have its next meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the Commission, the Executive Officer sent a letter to the U.S. EPA Region 9 Administrator in early February to request that they take immediate steps to stop the most recent contaminated flows.
- **State Budget:**
  - On January 10, 2020, Governor Newsom released his fiscal year 2020-2021 Governor’s budget, which includes a total of over \$67 million for the State Lands Commission. This budget is significantly lower than in two previous years, as temporary general fund appropriations for plugging and abandonment activities at Platform Holly drops off after fiscal year 2019. The

## RECORD OF ACTION CONTINUED

plugging and abandonment funding for Rincon Island drops to just \$10.46 million in fiscal year 2020.

- Other major changes to the Commission's budget this year include \$5 million in one-time funding for feasibility studies and EIRs at both Platform Holly and Rincon Island to analyze the ultimate decommissioning options for those offshore facilities.
- A little over \$4.7 million from various funds in fiscal year 2020, and about \$358,000 ongoing to support the Commission's increased office space lease costs were included in the Governor's budget. This includes one-time funding for tenant improvements, restacking, and moving expenses, plus additional monies for increased lease costs.
- The budget also includes \$1.23 million from various funds and nine new permanent positions to augment the Commission's Administrative Services Division and address the severe staffing shortfalls caused by the FISCAL implementation and build a more sustainable management structure.
- CSLC was provided \$2 million from the Environmental License Plate Fund to account for another year of maintenance and operations funding for the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project. These funds will pay for the dredging contract required to keep the inlet open, as well as other maintenance activities.
- **Decommissioning Projects Update:**
  - Platform Holly: Staff began the first phase of the plugging and abandonment of the wells on Platform Holly cementing off the oil producing Monterey Zone on October 31<sup>st</sup> of last year. As of today, we have finished 12 of the 15 wells that are to be done using of the technique of coil tubing, which is a technique used to plug and abandon the production zone of the wells. Safety is the main concern, and no major personnel injuries or platform upsets have occurred to date.
  - Piers 421 Wells: The next phase for these two wells is to conduct the proper environmental analysis and documentation to remove the well bays and well support structures, the caissons and the contaminated soil within the caissons, and to restore the beach to its natural state. An environmental contractor has been secured and the initial reviews and planning are underway.
  - Ellwood Onshore Facility: No new operations planned at this time. The facilities are only in service for the support of Platform Holly, supplying the platform with the required utilities for electric and gas services, and stripping the small amounts of hydrogen sulfide from the gas sent in from the platform.
  - Rincon Island: On the island, 29 of the 50 offshore wells have been cemented back to the mud line. Onshore, 24, of the 25 State wells have been abandoned and the removal of the wellheads and concrete well cellars is underway. The project costs are approximately \$3.7 million under the planned

## RECORD OF ACTION CONTINUED

budget at \$26.9 million. We have completed the causeway repairs, which has allowed the capacity of the causeway to be restored. And we continue to make significant progress on the onshore infrastructure, including removing more than 1,900 tons of concrete from those operations.

- **Marine Invasive Species Program:** At the Commission's December 6, 2019 meeting, the Executive Officer informed the Commission that the Ocean Science Trust was going to conduct an independent peer review of the Commission's report, *the 2018 Assessment of the Efficacy, Availability, and Environmental Impacts of Ballast Water Treatment Technologies For Use in California's Waters*. This was to verify that the Commission's scientific review and decision-making process is grounded in sound science. The Ocean Science Trust recently completed their review process. The OST engaged three other independent reviewers from throughout the United States with expertise in invasive species, technology assessment, environmental engineering, and wastewater treatment, and provided them with a copy of the report and the underlying data and information. In general, the reviewers found the majority of the analysis and conclusions in the report to be pragmatic and appropriate, given the current technology and analytical approaches available. And they were largely satisfied with the scientific rigor in the analysis. The reviewers also concurred that large-scale conclusions and recommendations in the report were warranted. The scope of the work and the final summary memo of the OST peer review is posted on the OST website and will be linked from the Commission's website as well.
- **Philanthropic Work by SLC Staff:** The Executive Officer acknowledged the donations made by staff to the Sacramento Food Bank. Over a period of four months, staff conducted bake sales, a holiday auction, and collected canned foods and turkeys.
- **Sea Grant Fellows:** The Executive Officer introduced the Commission's new 2020 Sea Grant Fellows, Kristina Kunkel and Mark Danielson. The Executive Officer also noted the departure of 2019 Sea Grant Fellow Sam Blakesley.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

- Consent Items 30, 42, and 52 were removed from consideration
- Consent Items 01-29, 31-41, 43-51, 53, and 54 were approved as presented by a vote of 3-0 (Yee-Yes; Kounalakis-Yes; Miller-Yes)

### INFORMATIONAL CALENDAR

**ITEM 55** – was informational, no vote required

## RECORD OF ACTION CONTINUED

### REGULAR CALENDAR

**ITEM 56:** An informational presentation was made to the Commission on efforts to develop the Commission's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and to solicit comments and suggestions from stakeholders.

Item 56 – was informational – no vote required

**ITEM 57:** An informational presentation was made to the Commission by the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles on the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan.

Item 57 – was informational – no vote required

**ITEM 58:** An informational presentation was made to the Commission by the Legislative Analyst's Office on the recent report, *Preparing for Rising Seas: How the State Can Help Support Local Coastal Adaptation Efforts*.

Item 58 – was informational – no vote required

**ITEM 59:** A staff presentation was made to the Commission on the implementation of AB 691 (Muratsuchi), Chapter 592, Statutes of 2013.

Item 59 – was informational – no vote required

**ITEM 60:** A staff presentation was made to the Commission to consider supporting the federal Regional Ocean Partnership Act (H.R. 5390 and S. 2166) that would formally authorize regional ocean partnerships.

Item 60 – was approved as presented by a vote of 2-0 (Yee–Yes; Kounalakis–Yes; Miller–Abstain)

**ITEM 61:** A staff presentation was made to the Commission to consider sponsoring legislation in the 2029-20 legislative session that would repeal obsolete school land statutes and recast or modernize other school land statutes.

Item 61 – was approved as presented by a vote of 2-0 (Yee–Yes; Kounalakis–Yes; Miller–Abstain)

**ITEM 62:** A staff presentation was made to the Commission to consider sponsoring legislation in the 2029-20 legislative session to remove the \$300 million cap in the Oil Trust Fund, resuming monthly deposits of \$2 million from Long Beach oil operation revenues until the Fund reaches a balance that will cover the State's projected abandonment liabilities.

## RECORD OF ACTION CONTINUED

Item 62 – was approved as presented by a vote of 2-0 (Yee–Yes; Kounalakis–Yes; Miller–Abstain)

*(The State Lands Commission adjourned into closed session from 4:06 P.M. to 4:11 P.M., then resumed open session at 4:14 P.M.)*

The Commission meeting public session was adjourned at 4:14 P.M.

**STAFF AND PUBLIC ADDRESSING  
THE FOLLOWING STAFF REPORTS  
FEBRUARY 28, 2020**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mark Gold, Deputy Secretary for the California Natural Resources Agency  
and Executive Director of the Ocean Protection Council

**ITEM 56**

Jennifer Lucchesi, Executive Officer, CSLC

- Tony Budrovich, President and CEO, Catalina Island Conservancy
- Todd Lemmis, Pacific6 Partners, Pacific Ocean Aquafarms
- Joe Lyou, President and CEO, Coalition for Clean Air
- Tyler Studds, Offshore Wind Development Manager, EDP Renewables
- Lucas Zucker, Policy Director, CAUSE

**ITEM 57**

Chris Cannon, Environmental Management Division, Port of Los Angeles  
Heather Tomley, Managing Director of Planning and Environmental Affairs,  
Port of Long Beach

- Joe Lyou, President and CEO, Coalition for Clean Air

**ITEM 58**

Rachel Ehlers, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

- Philip Gibbons, Program Manager, Port of San Diego

**ITEM 59**

Sam Blakesley, Sea Grant Fellow, CSLC  
Justin Luedy, Environmental Specialist Associate, Port of Long Beach

- Philip Gibbons, Program Manager, Port of San Diego
- Adrienne Newbold, Senior Civil Engineer, Port of Los Angeles

**ITEMS 60, 61, & 61**

Sheri Pemberton, Chief, External Affairs Division, CSLC

**PUBLIC COMMENT – NO SPEAKERS**