

Open Session Minutes

California State Lands Commission
Virtual Meeting of April 27, 2021

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF PRESENT:

COMMISSIONERS:

Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor

Betty T. Yee, State Controller

Gayle Miller, Chief Deputy Director and Alternate for Director of the Department of Finance
Keely Bosler

STAFF MEMBERS:

Jennifer Lucchesi, Executive Officer

Seth Blackmon, Chief Counsel

REPRESENTING THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Andrew Vogel, Supervising 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. 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:

Chair Eleni Kounalakis called the meeting of the California State Lands Commission to order at 1:01 P.M. via Zoom webcast; also present were Commissioner Betty Yee and Commissioner Alternate Gayle Miller.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting was 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:

- **Rincon Well Abandonment and Decommissioning Project:** We continue to make great progress on this Project. As I reported at our last meeting, 74 of the 75 wells associated with this operation have been abandoned. The last well, an onshore injection well, is scheduled to be abandoned by the end of this month. Removal and disposal of other production-related equipment and structures are in progress.

The Commission's contractor, DrillTek, is preparing the onshore and offshore areas for caretaker status. This work will prepare the site for the hiatus between the end of well and surface abandonment and the final island and onshore decommissioning phase.

Project expenses remain ten percent below estimates and the well and surface abandonment and caretaker status preparation work is on course to be completed before June 30th of this year.

The feasibility study, the first part of phase two of the Project is next. The study will include a geophysical survey, biological assessment, environmental analysis, coastal engineering study, socio-economic analysis, soil and water assessments, and engineering assessment. The feasibility study is anticipated to be completed within six months, after which the CEQA analysis will begin. The feasibility study and CEQA analysis will include extensive public and stakeholder outreach. Commission staff started that outreach on April 7th, when we hosted a town hall event to update the community and stakeholders about the Project status and next steps. The event was well received and attended by members of the Mussel Shoals community in Ventura, government agencies, local non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

- **Platform Holly Abandonment Project:** Platform Holly and the plugging and abandonment work remains suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and space limitations on the platform that make physical distancing impractical. Staff continues to maintain and monitor the platform and onshore facilities to ensure public health and safety. Staff and ExxonMobil are monitoring the COVID-19 situation and are preparing for plug and abandonment work of the 30 wells on the platform to hopefully resume in late summer depending on the State's mandates.

In March, the Commission hosted a virtual town hall to update the community about the project status and the upcoming CEQA process to remove the Last remaining oil piers in the shore at Haskell's Beach. The event was well received and attended by numerous stakeholder groups, government agencies, local non-governmental organizations, and members of the public. Staff expects to issue a Notice of Preparation for the oil pier removal project soon. The Commission will be the CEQA Lead Agency and applicant for the project. We are working very closely with the City of Goleta and the Coastal Commission on this work. Public outreach and input will be a foundational part of the CEQA process.

- **Personnel**
 - Executive Officer Lucchesi announced the promotion of Warren Crunk to Assistant Chief Counsel.
 - Executive Officer Lucchesi announced the retirement of Pam Griggs. Ms. Grigg's will retire at the end of December.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- Consent Items 01-43 were approved as presented by a vote of 3-0 (Kounalakis–Yes; Yee–Yes; Miller–Yes)

INFORMATIONAL CALENDAR

No Items for this section.

REGULAR CALENDAR

Item 44: A presentation was made to the Commission to consider adopting a resolution in support of directing funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to California ports to mitigate negative economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and allow them to sustain the essential services and maintain the critical infrastructure California relies on to protect jobs and recover economically.

Item 44 – was approved as presented by a vote of 2-0 (Kounalakis–Yes; Yee–Yes; Miller–Abstained)

Item 45: A staff presentation was made to discuss and possible action on state legislation relevant to the California State Lands Commission.

Item 45 – the Commission did not act on any proposed legislation; therefore, the item was informational – no vote required

Item 46: A staff presentation was made to the Commission to consider supporting S. 572, the Border Water Quality Restoration and Protection Act, a bill introduced by Senators Feinstein and Padilla to reduce pollution along the U.S.-Mexico border and improve the water quality of the Tijuana River and New River, and consider supporting H.R. 1663 by Representative Juan Vargas that is intended to restore water quality at the Tijuana River and New River.

Item 46 – was approved as presented by a vote of 3-0 (Kounalakis–Yes; Yee–Yes; Miller–Yes)

Item 47: A staff presentation was made to the Commission to consider extending the sunset date of the limited delegation of authority to the Executive Officer for the COVID-19 Rent and Application Expense Deferral Program previously authorized by the Commission.

Item 47 – was approved as presented by a vote of 3-0 (Kounalakis–Yes; Yee–Yes; Miller–Yes)

CLOSED SESSION

No closed session held for this meeting.

The Commission meeting public session was adjourned at 2:08 P.M.

STAFF AND PUBLIC ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING STAFF REPORTS:

(Items appear in order heard)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Brett Balint, Founder, OnwardandUpward.io
- Alison Madden
- Tom Rudolph, The Pew Charitable Trusts

ITEM 44

Reid Boggiano, Public Land Management Specialist, External Affairs Division, CSLC

- Cassandra Costello, Senior Vice President of Public Policy, San Francisco Travel Association
- Elaine Forbes, Executive Director, Port of San Francisco
- Alison Madden
- Joe Stuyvesant, President, Port of San Diego
- Danny Wan, Executive Director, Port of Oakland

ITEM 45

Sheri Pemberton, Chief of External Affairs and Legislative Liaison, CSLC

ITEM 46

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