

Open Session Minutes

California State Lands Commission
Virtual Meeting of August 25, 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 June 29, 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**

Phase 1 work, plugging and abandoning the wells and oil facilities at the former state oil and gas leases at Rincon Point in Ventura, is complete. Rincon Island and the onshore site were placed into caretaker status officially in July. The facilities will remain in caretaker status while the Phase 2 feasibility study and CEQA analysis are completed, and until the Phase 3 work, the final Island and onshore decommissioning, commences.

Padre Associates, who is our environmental consultant, is currently conducting surveys and assessments to inform the feasibility study and subsequent CEQA document, which will evaluate decommissioning alternatives for the final disposition of the Island and onshore facilities. A bathymetric study of the Island and surrounding area and a coastal engineering study have been completed. Ongoing work includes site assessments for hydrocarbon contamination, site characterization, a marine biological study, an engineering assessment, and an environmental baseline assessment.

Staff is continuing robust public outreach to the community and stakeholders. Staff hosted a community townhall in April and a feasibility study workshop in June. This was followed by a questionnaire staff sent to Mussel Shoals residents requesting their input on Phase 2. Staff will convene another townhall after we release the Draft Feasibility Study, which is expected to occur in late September or early October.

Staff has also begun informal consultation with the California Coastal Commission, the State Coastal Conservancy, the California Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and Ventura County. Commission

staff anticipates presenting the Final Feasibility Study to the Commission in December.

- **Platform Holly/Piers 421 Decommissioning Project**

Staff continues to maintain and monitor the platform and onshore facilities to ensure public health and safety. Staff and ExxonMobil are planning to reactivate the mothballed Platform Holly rig in preparation for resuming well plug and abandonment work. Subcontractor maintenance personnel returned to the platform on August 16 to begin a five-week reactivation program. The full complement of personnel are expected to return mid-September to begin the well plug and abandonment work. Personnel transport and cargo operations to and from Platform Holly will continue from alternate piers in the area for the foreseeable future, while negotiations to regain access to the Ellwood Pier continue.

Last month, staff issued a Notice of Preparation for the Haskell 's Beach oil piers. These are the Piers 421 Removal Project. Staff held two virtual public scoping meetings earlier this month. Staff anticipates releasing the Draft Environmental Impact Report later this year.

- **SB 44 Legacy Well Remediation Program**

The SB 44 Legacy Wells and Coastal Hazards program provides \$2 million per year to address legacy wells and coastal hazards. In July, we successfully plugged and abandoned the Olsson #805 well at Summerland Beach. This is the third well we have re-abandoned in Santa Barbara County using the SB 44 funds. The abandonment was completed on time, within budget, and without incident. In April, staff authorized dive work to investigate seeps to determine if any of the leaks observed during previous drone surveys were associated with another legacy well. Throughout three days of diving, eight new well casings were discovered, two of which were leaking hydrocarbons into the ocean. During diving operations, old timber piles were also discovered and appear to be remnants of the Treadwell pier. Staff intends to address these wells and remnants in the future as part of the SB 44 program. Staff is developing a plan to prepare engineering programs, cost estimates, and establish priorities for additional well abandonments in fiscal year 2021-22. Staff is excited to continue its successful work and its continued collaboration with partner agencies and the community.

- **Hollister Ranch Public Access Program**

The Hollister Ranch state agency team and its consultants have been leading a robust public engagement process for more than a year and a half. The public

engagement process began with interviews of 18 stakeholder groups, followed by three public surveys and other interactive platforms for public engagement, two public meetings, and six listening sessions with stakeholders, environmental justice communities and tribal representatives. Formal tribal consultations were initiated after the release of the conceptual public access plan draft in June and are currently in progress. The Coastal Commission expects to hold its first public hearing on the draft public access program in October of this year.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- Consent Items 03, 08, 14, and 21 were removed from consideration
- Consent Items 01, 02, 04-07, 09-13, 15-20, and 22-37 were approved as presented by a vote of 3-0 (Kounalakis–Yes; Yee–Yes; Miller–Yes)

INFORMATIONAL CALENDAR

Item 38 – was informational – no vote required

REGULAR CALENDAR

Item 39: A staff presentation was made to discuss and possible action on state legislation relevant to the California State Lands Commission.

Item 39 – item was informational – no vote required

Item 40: A staff presentation was made to the Commission to authorize staff to enter into contracts for removal activities along the Crockett Waterfront near the Carquinez Bridge, Contra Costa County.

Item 40 – was approved as presented by a vote of 3-0 (Kounalakis–Yes; Yee–Yes; Miller–Yes)

(The State Lands Commission adjourned into closed session from 2:37 P.M. to 2:55 P.M., then resumed open session at 2:57 P.M.)

CLOSED SESSION

Nothing to report from Closed Session.

The Commission meeting public session was adjourned at 2:57 P.M.

STAFF AND PUBLIC ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING STAFF REPORTS:

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Del De Fabry
- Anne Eubanks, President, Dana Point Boaters Association
- Bob Kurz
- Andrea León-Grossman, Climate Action Director, Azul
- Frankie Orona, Society of Native Nations and the American Indian Movement
- Lydia Ponce
- Alejandro Sobrera, Hub Coordinator, Orange County Sunrise Movement

ITEM 39

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

- no speakers for this item

ITEM 40

Brian Bugsch, Chief of the Land Management Division, CSLC

- Dominic Aliano, District Representative for Contra Costa County Supervisor, Federal Glover
- Larry Haydon, Crockett Chamber of Commerce
- Mark Manzione
- Heidi Petty, Watershed Program Manager, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
- Marla Prada, Chairperson, Crockett Community Foundation
- Nancy Rieser
- Merv Silverman
- D'Arcy Trask