

# Open Session Minutes

California State Lands Commission  
Hybrid Meeting of February 26, 2024  
Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown–Arena  
300 J Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

## **COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF PRESENT:**

---

### **COMMISSIONERS:**

Malia M. Cohen, State Controller

Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor

Michele Perrault, Legislative Director and Alternate for Director of the Department of Finance  
Joe Stephenshaw

### **STAFF MEMBERS:**

Jennifer Lucchesi, Executive Officer

Seth Blackmon, Chief Counsel

### **REPRESENTING THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

Jessica Tucker-Mohl, 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:**

---

Chair Malia Cohen called the meeting of the California State Lands Commission to order at 12:06 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Downtown Sacramento-Arena, 300 J Street, Sacramento, California 95814, via in person and Zoom webcast; also present were Commissioner Eleni Kounalakis and Commissioner Alternate Michele Perrault.

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:**

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

- The Executive Officer welcomed Controller Cohen as the new Chair of the Commission, and new Commissioner Alternate Michele Perrault, who will be representing the Department of Finance.
- The Executive Officer said farewell to former Commissioner Alternate Gayle Miller, and former Attorney General Representative Andrew Vogel. Replacing Mr. Vogel will be Sahar Durali.
- In January and February of this year, we hosted a number of all-staff meetings for Commission staff in Hercules, Long Beach, and Sacramento. The meetings highlighted our many successes and accomplishments in 2023 and we also shared priorities for 2024, provided key budget and legislative information and updates, and had meaningful question-and-answer sessions with all Commission staff.
- On January 10<sup>th</sup>, the Governor released his proposed '24-'25 budget and announced an approximate \$37.9 billion shortfall. The Commission's total budget this year is a little over \$51 million. We don't expect impacts based on the Governor's proposed budget to our baseline budget. We are working with the Administration to implement a 50 percent vacant position budget funding sweep.
- Commission staff is continuing to finalize and complete the plugging and abandonment of the 30 wells at Platform Holly in the Santa Barbara Channel.
- Commission staff is excited to announce the release of the Draft EIR within the next month for the decommissioning project at Rincon Island.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Confirmation of the Minutes of the December 5, 2023 meeting were approved as presented by a vote of 3-0 (Cohen-Yes; Kounalakis-Yes; Perrault-Yes).

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- Consent Items 17, 49, 66, and 78 were removed from the agenda.

- Consent Items 01-16, 18-48, 50-65, 67-77, and 79-83 were approved as presented by a vote of 3-0 (Cohen–Yes; Kounalakis–Yes; Perrault–Yes).

## **INFORMATIONAL CALENDAR**

No items for this section.

## **REGULAR CALENDAR**

*(Items appear in order heard)*

**Item 84:** A presentation was made by the California Energy Commission on the Assembly Bill 525 Draft Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind Development.

Item 84 – was informational – no vote required.

**Item 86:** A presentation was made by the Port of San Francisco on the Port of San Francisco and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the San Francisco Waterfront Flood Study.

Item 86 – was informational – no vote required.

**Item 85:** A presentation was made by the California Ocean Protection Council on the Draft State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance: 2024 Science and Policy Update.

Item 85 – was informational – no vote required.

**Item 87:** A staff presentation was made for discussion and possible action on state legislation relevant to the California State Lands Commission.

Item 87 – was approved as presented by a vote of 2-0 (Cohen–Yes; Kounalakis–Yes; Perrault–Abstained).

**Item 88:** A staff presentation was made to consider supporting a Senate Joint Resolution (SJR 12, Min) that would urge the President of the United States and United States Congress to modify bankruptcy rules, in the event that an oil and gas lease is liquidated and terminated under the United States Bankruptcy Code, to prioritize plug and abandonment and restoration obligations that would protect the environment over secured creditor claims and to treat the plug and abandonment and lease restoration obligations for debtor held oil and gas leases as nondischargeable obligations.

Item 88 – was approved as presented by a vote of 2-0 (Cohen–Yes; Kounalakis–Yes; Perrault–Abstained).

## **CLOSED SESSION**

State Lands Commission v. Casa Blanca Beach Estates Owners' Association, et al.

The Commission authorized, during closed session, the acceptance and recording of a Quitclaim Deed from the Sandyland Protective Association in connection with a Quiet Title Action in Santa Barbara County involving the Casa Blanca property and approved dismissing the Sandyland Protective Association from that litigation.

California State Lands Commission v. Signal Hill Service, Inc., et al.

The Commission considered and agreed, in closed session, to enter into a stipulation in the matter of California State Lands Commission v. Signal Hill Service, Inc. et al, to resolve outstanding damages issues and move the case forward.

Eugene Davis, in his capacity as Liquidating Trustee of the Venoco Liquidating Trust v. State of California and California State Lands Commission

The Commission considered, in closed session, an offer to settle litigation brought by the Liquidating Trust of the Venoco LLC Estate, in the matter of Eugene Davis v. SLC. The Commission voted to reject the offer and propose a counteroffer and will transmit that decision to the Liquidating Trust.

The Commission meeting public session was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

## **STAFF AND PUBLIC ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING STAFF REPORTS:**

---

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Chris Benzen
- Eileen Boken
- Wade Womack

### **ITEM 84**

David Hochschild, Chair, California Energy Commission

Elizabeth Huber, Director, Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division, California Energy Commission

- Ann Cantrell, Sierra Club Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force
- Anna Christensen, Sierra Club Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force
- Jacqueline Moore, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

### **ITEM 86**

Elaine Forbes, Director, Port of San Francisco

Brad Benson, Waterfront Resilience Program Director, Port of San Francisco

- No speakers for this item.

### **ITEM 85**

Dr. Ben Hamlington, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Dr. Justine Kimball, Ocean Protection Council

- Christopher Mauawad, Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

### **ITEM 87**

Sheri Pemberton, Chief, External Affairs Division, CSLC

- No speakers for this item.

### **ITEM 88**

Sheri Pemberton, Chief, External Affairs Division, CSLC

- No speakers for this item.