

OCSA-0324
JAC

August 20, 1980

Memorandum

To: Chief, Conservation Division

Through: Deputy Division Chief, Offshore Minerals Regulation MS 640
Conservation Manager, Pacific OCS Region *Reid Stone*

From: Deputy Conservation Manager, Pacific OCS Region, Field Operations

Subject: Briefing on California Coastal Commission Meeting of August 19, 1980

On Wednesday morning August 20, 1980, a meeting was convened in the Regional Conservation Manager's Office to brief Mr. Peter Tweedt, OCS Coordinator (Secretary's Office), Los Angeles, on the California Coastal Commission (CCC) consistency hearings on several OCS Plans of Exploration. Also in attendance were: Reid T. Stone, Acting Conservation Manager; Fred Schambeck, DCM-Field Operations; Tom Dunaway, Field Operations; William Grant, Manager, BLM's Pacific OCS Office; and John Sun, Directors Office. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

Chevron's Plan of Exploration - Lease OCS-P 0205, Well No. 3

- The CCC voted 10 to 0 to deny consistency to Chevron's proposal. This marked the first time such action has been taken.
- The CCC staff recommended such action based on the key point that the proposed drill site is located in the south buffer zone of the north bound shipping lane in the Santa Barbara Channel; therefore, being a hazard to navigation. This was refuted by U.S. Coast Guard testimony and in a CG letter to CCC. Also, the CCC did not want to prejudice its position of opposing oil and gas activity in Vessel Traffic Separation Schemes (lanes, buffers, separation zones) and opposing leasing in areas having VTSS.
- Other issues against the proposal were: 1) it was within the proposed Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary, 2) Chevron has enough geologic information and therefore does not need the well, 3) an alternate location for drilling the well could be from a platform, and 4) the threat to brown pelicans from an oil spill.
- Chevron had 9 minutes for testimony; but, it appeared CCC had already made a decision based in part from testimony at a previous hearing.
- Michael Fisher, Executive Director, stated that Heather Ross had assured him that DOI would issue no permit if consistency was not given.

Other Plans of Exploration

- The CCC voted to put off consistency determination on Chevron's OCS-P 0215 Wells 5 and 6 and OCS-P 0324 Wells 1 and 2; Texaco's OCS-P 0315 Wells 1, 2, 3, and 4; Challenger's OCS-P 0248 Well 1; and Conoco's OCS-P 0325 Well 1. This was against staff recommendation and took them by surprise. Similar Plans had previously been easily approved.
- CCC's actions were apparently caused by their (new) realization that onsite oil spill booms would not work in seas over 6 feet. Mike Fisher pointed out to the CCC that they could not deny consistency because the cleanup technology couldn't match sea conditions. The companies have state-of-the-art equipment.
- The CCC requested that each proposal be looked at individually and put on a later agenda.

(Orig. Sgd.) F. J. SCHARBECK

F. J. Scharbeck

cc: District Engineer, Santa Barbara
 Files: Santa Clara Unit, PGE
 OCS-P 0248, PGE
 OCS-P 0315, PGE
 OCS-P 0324, PGE ← This copy for
 OCS-P 0324, PGE
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THURSDAY: jam