

MMS AWARDS CALIFORNIA FUNDS FOR STATE'S ASSISTANCE WITH AUDITS(#30009)

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MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE AWARDS CALIFORNIA FUNDS FOR STATE'S ASSISTANCE WITH AUDITS(#30009)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today announced that it is awarding the State of California an added \$487,500 to continue funding state audits of Federal mineral leases on Federal lands within its boundaries. The funding brings the total earmarked for the program in California this year to \$750,000.

The award provides funds for a work plan agreed to under Section 205 of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (FOGRMA) of 1982. Under the agreement, state officials perform audits and related reviews on Federal onshore oil, gas, coal and other solid mineral or geothermal steam leases located in California.

The Cooperative and Delegated Audit program enables participating states to audit revenues from leases within the state. MMS reimburses states for the costs of audits, such as salaries and travel expenses. Other participating states include Colorado, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

Four Indian tribes--the Navajo Nation, the Ute, the Southern Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute--are similarly reimbursed for audit work on their respective tribal lands under Section 202 of FOGRMA.

"Last year, more than \$3 million was awarded to states for their help in auditing leases," Acting MMS Director Carolita Kallaur said. "Working together in this cooperative audit program, we can ensure that states continue to receive money to which they're entitled."

MMS is responsible for collecting, accounting for, auditing and disbursing revenues associated with mineral leases on federal and Indian lands. The agency handles nearly \$4 billion in revenues each year.

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