

## **BOEMRE Awards \$700,000 to California State Lands Commission for Coastal Hazard Removal Project**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) announced today that it has awarded a \$700,000 grant to the California State Lands Commission for removing hazards in coastal areas of the Santa Barbara Channel. The grant is funded by the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP).

Created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, CIAP provides funding to the six Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas producing states to conserve and protect the coastal environment. CIAP is an ongoing program with grant funding allocated based on the offshore energy revenues collected by the United States.

“This partnership with the State of California will address hazards in the coastal regions along Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties,” said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. “This project will help to increase public safety and provide for the cleaning and restoration of these coastal areas.”

The CIAP grant will fund a hazards removal program to eliminate old and unusable structures located within or adjacent to state lands at 22 sites along the coastline of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. These hazards are obsolete, deteriorating structures that include corroded sheet piling, railroad irons, and electric cables to old pipes. They impede coastal uses and/or pose a potential threat to public health and safety. Many of these hazards are located on lands that are used for commerce, navigation, fishing, recreation, or reserved for open space. The goal of the removal program is to eliminate these potential risks to public health and safety.

“This tremendous support will help California continue its commitment to protecting our coastline and ocean resources for the people who enjoy them,” said Secretary for Natural Resources Lester Snow. “The projects funded by this grant are examples of the great work under way to provide safe public access to coastal habitat in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties for current and future generations.”

Since January 2010, the State of California and coastal counties have received \$6,794,100 from BOEMRE in CIAP grants to support a broad range of projects that will protect and restore the California coastline through coordination, education and restoration. With CIAP funding, the state is better able to support planning for and regulation of activities associated with health of the coastal environment. In addition, CIAP grants help the state increase its capacity to facilitate coastal policy discussions and partnerships among scientists, managers and policy makers, with the objective of bridging the gap between science and policy. California state agencies and coastal counties are applying CIAP funds to coastal restoration, development of mitigation strategies in coastal watersheds and education campaigns aimed at improving coastal water quality. A complete list of CIAP grants to California and coastal counties can be found on the BOEMRE website at: <http://www.boemre.gov/omm/pacific/enviro/CIAP.htm>.

CIAP will receive \$250 million in appropriated funds for each of the Fiscal Years 2007-2010 to be disbursed to six eligible OCS oil and gas producing states – Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

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