

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dianne Meester, Assistant Director

DATE: June 1, 2005

RE: Continuation of Item D-1, California Coastal Commission's Review of Consistency Determinations for Extension of Undeveloped Lease in Federal Waters Offshore Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties

REQUEST Staff requests a continuance of this item to August 2, 2005.

EXPLANATION The California Coastal Commission was scheduled consider this item on June 9, 2005, in order to meet both court and regulatory mandated deadlines. However, Commission staff and several other entities, including the County of Santa Barbara, requested more information from the Minerals Management Service (MMS) to complete their respective reviews, and more time to process that information.

The requested extension in time has been approved to August 12, 2005. The Commission will now consider this matter on August 11, 2005. Staff requests the Board continue this item to August 2 so it may consider the additional information that the MMS submits.

BACKGROUND The U.S. Department of the Interior, MMS, has determined its action to grant suspensions operations or production requested by lessees for 41 undeveloped oil and gas leases offshore the tri-county region is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the *California Coastal Management Program* (hereinafter referred to as *Consistency Determinations*). The MMS submitted its consistency determinations to the California Coastal Commission on April 7, 2005, for a 75-day review, in which the Commission may either concur with or object to each of the *Consistency Determinations*. Should the Coastal Commission object to any of the *Consistency Determinations*, the MMS may disagree with the objections, retract its initial *Consistency Determinations*, or attempt to address the specific concerns and re-submit the *Consistency Determinations* to the Coastal Commission for consideration. Any lease that is not renewed would automatically expire.