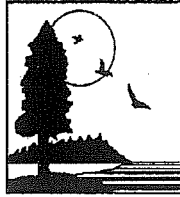


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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

**CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION**

GAVIN NEWSOM, *Lieutenant Governor*
 JOHN CHIANG, *Controller*
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June 10, 2011

File Ref: Summerland
 W9579.1

Honorable Joni Gray
 Chair, Board of Supervisors
 Santa Barbara County
 County Administration Building
 105 East Anapamu Street
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Abandoned Nearshore Oil Wells in Santa Barbara County

Dear Chair Gray:

Thank you for your letter requesting a presentation to the County Board of Supervisors regarding abandoned oil wells in the coastal area, the impacts of these wells on the environment as far as oil release, steps to mitigate their impacts and future plans to further mitigate seepage from these wells. On Wednesday, April 13, and Thursday, April 21, Steve Curran of the CSLC's Mineral Resources Management Division met with Doug Anthony (Deputy Director of Santa Barbara County's Energy Division), staff of elected officials, and community members on Summerland Beach at low tide to check for seeps from old abandoned wells. On Thursday, April 21, Cy Oggins and Eric Gillies, Chief and Assistant Chief respectively of the CSLC's Division of Environmental Planning and Management, attended the monthly meeting of the Environmental Coalition of Santa Barbara, where they discussed the CSLC's field visits at Summerland and provided an update on the pending oil and gas-related projects that may be acted upon by State Lands Commissioners within the next year. Coalition members expressed their appreciation for CSLC staff's field visits and participation in the Coalition meeting.

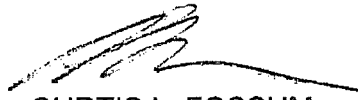
As you are already likely aware these abandoned wells are a result of trespasses on state property in the late 1800s and early 1900s, decades before the state authorized leasing of offshore property for oil development. Nevertheless, the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) has been involved in remediation efforts during the 1960s, 1970s, 1990s, and during the last decade, in an effort to properly abandon wells in coastal waters off Summerland. CSLC staff will be available to provide a presentation at an upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting in July. We understand that representatives from the Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) have also been invited to participate. Please let me know of a convenient date and time for the presentation, so that staff can be made available.

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Honorable Joni Gray
June 10, 2011
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The CSLC, in its commitment to protect the public and environment in the coastal area, has engaged in an ongoing program to remove hazards and other derelict coastal objects on State lands that pose threats to the public and the environment. This year, as a result of funding from the federal Coastal Impact Assistant Program, the CSLC is removing a considerable number of hazards in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. CSLC staff can also provide the Board information on this program, if desired. In response to the recent re-observance of oil seepage in Summerland, stemming from an old improperly abandoned well, we are attempting to secure funds to remediate this problem as well. CSLC staff has developed a Budget Change Proposal that would help address and remediate the oil seepage problem. The CSLC hopes that Santa Barbara County will support the state's efforts to secure adequate funding for this effort.

Sincerely,



CURTIS L. FOSSUM
Executive Officer

cc: Division of Oil and Gas/Ventura