

Sept. 1986

Liz:
all of this is serious
re: impact on a Nipomo
Dunes National Seashore...
impact on PRISTINE coast
land
- Kathy J.

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SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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MAJOR ENERGY PROJECTS NEWSLETTER

MAY 27, 1986

This newsletter details the following topics:

- Environmental review of San Miguel Project
- Cities Services' new "South Nipomo Mesa Site" application
- APCD's role in San Miguel Project review
- Five-Year OCS lease sale program

San Luis Obispo County and the San Miguel Project Joint Review Panel expect to release the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report for the Cities Service/Celeron project in September, 1986. The date is tentative, and it does represent a substantial schedule change.

The county had expected to release the FEIS/R in April, and to proceed with May and June hearings before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Work required by the unanticipated volume of comments received on the December 27 1985, Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report added approximately five weeks to the schedule. Comments submitted by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District on the possibility of supplying electricity by cable to the proposed offshore platform caused much of that work.

While responses to comments were being prepared, a problem arose regarding analysis of potential impacts on the Southern Sea Otter. It has been agreed that the Environmental Impact Report should contain an Endangered Species Act opinion on the sea otter prepared by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on potential impacts from the project, from subsequent oil development, and from cumulative effects. To accomplish this purpose will add approximately ninety (90) days to the schedule.

A September FEIS/R release date would permit hearings before the county Planning Commission to begin in October, and for hearings before the Board of Supervisors of San Luis Obispo County to begin in November. A subsequent newsletter will update scheduling information.

Cities Service's new "South Nipomo Mesa Site" Application - On April 1, 1986, San Luis Obispo County received a second Development Plan application for onshore facilities from the Cities Service Oil & Gas Corporation for authority to construct and operate onshore processing facilities. On April 22, 1986, the county received a companion application from the Celeron Pipeline Company of California for authority to construct and operate a pipeline to transport crude oil from the newly proposed Cities Service facility some 22 miles to the main Celeron pipeline to Texas now under construction in Santa Barbara County. Each of these applications is now being refined for processing.

The two new applications if approved would allow construction of an onshore processing facility at the "South Nipomo Mesa site" on the eastern portion of the UNOCAL Santa Maria Refinery Tract in San Luis Obispo County, a pipeline bringing unprocessed crude from Cities Services Platform Julius (proposed for all offshore location nine miles west of Point Sal) and second pipeline taking processed crude from the South Nipomo Mesa facility to the Celeron All American Pipeline.

The new applications are an alternative to the original "Callender" site; they represent a response to concerns about Callender raised in completing the EIS/R. Cities Service and Celeron are also continuing applications for the Callender site.

The new site generally conforms to the Union alternative studied in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report. It will be fully analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report when that document is published. For more information, contact John von Reis or Andy Back at 549-5600.

APCD's Role in the San Miguel Project Review - Cities Service submitted an application to the Air Pollution Control District for Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate on April 23, 1986. The application has been reviewed and additional information requested and supplied by Cities by letter dated April 28. The application was deemed complete on May 19, 1986.

The application review process will include review of all basic equipment, air pollution control equipment, determinations of best available control technology, air quality impact analysis and construction emissions and their impacts. The District's proposed action on the application will be legally noticed; the application, District's analysis and proposed action will then be available for a 30-day public review and comment period. District regulations also require notification of the Environmental Protection Agency, the State Air Resources Board and adjoining Districts of the preliminary decision. All comments received must be considered when the final decision is made (APCD Rule 204). The District is seeking the services of a private consulting firm to assist with this application review.

→ The District has been involved in ongoing negotiations with Cities Service regarding the siting of air monitoring equipment to obtain baseline air quality data and monitor the project after completion. Two likely locations for new stations are the point of maximum predicted concentrations on the Nipomo Mesa and at the Santa Maria River mouth to monitor air quality associated with the platform construction and operations. If the Callender site is selected for the onshore facility additional monitoring near there will be necessary. More information may be obtained by contacting the APCD at 549-5912. TNC

→ Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sale Program - The county Board of Supervisors recently submitted comments on the Secretary of Interior's 5-Year OCS Leasing Program. The program would be used for scheduling the timing, size, and number of lease sales in the Federal OCS (beyond the three-mile limit) in a manner that "will meet national energy needs for the 5-Year period following its approval..." The program schedules two lease sales offshore San Luis Obispo County, for May, 1988, and December, 1991. The Board continued the county's long-standing policy to oppose leasing north of Morro Bay as well as within 20 miles of Morro Bay and within 12 miles of the sea otter preserve. The county also submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed program. The major criticism is that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement lacks sufficient detail to be in any way meaningful. In addition, the county commented that the conclusions presented in the report are by-and-large arbitrary and unsubstantiated while significantly understating the potential impacts of the leasing program. The next step in the process will be for the Secretary of Interior to consider comments by state and local governments, and to develop a "Proposed Final Program". Questions regarding the 5-Year Leasing Program and Draft Environmental Impact Statement may be directed to Pat Beck or Morty Prisament at (805) 549-5600. TNC

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San Luis Obispo Co. Planning Dept.