

The Resources Agency

Gray Davis
Governor



Mary D. Nichols
Secretary

of California

California Conservation Corps • Department of Boating & Waterways • Department of Conservation
Department of Fish & Game • Department of Forestry & Fire Protection • Department of Parks & Recreation • Department of Water Resources

April 20, 1999

Minerals Management Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
ATTN: Rules Processing Team
Mail Stop 4024
381 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 20170-4817

Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (64 FR 7837) for 30 CFR §§ 250.203 (f) and (g) and 250.204(i) and (j)

Dear Sirs/Madams:

The California Resources Agency strongly endorses the attached California Coastal Commission comments concerning the Minerals Management Service's proposed amendments to 30 CFR §§ 250.203 (f) and (g) and 250.204(i) and (j) concerning the submission and review of Outer Continental Shelf Exploration Plans (EP) and Development and Production Plans (DPP). (See attached letter.)

The proposed revisions will improve the existing MMS regulations by: 1) correcting any discrepancies that exist between the MMS and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regulations; 2) clarifying that a State's federal consistency review process will start when the State receives the OCS plan, the lessee's consistency certification, and all the required necessary data and information (15 CFR 930.77); and 3) provide that a draft Environmental Information Statement will be forwarded to the State coastal zone management agency for use in the federal consistency review. These proposed revisions will benefit the oil and gas industry by minimizing the need and costs for additional environmental information by coordinating the federal consistency review process with the release of the DEIS.

The Resources Agency 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 653-5656 FAX (916) 653-8102
<http://ceres.ca.gov/cra/>

California Coastal Commission • California Tahoe Conservancy • Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy • San Joaquin River Conservancy
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy • Colorado River Board of California • Energy Resources, Conservation & Development Commission
State Coastal Conservancy • State Lands Commission • State Reclamation Board • Native American Heritage Commission
San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission



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In closing, the California Resources Agency applauds and strongly supports MMS's proposed revisions to 30 CFR §§ 250.203(f) and (g) and 250.204(i) and (j).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary D. Nichols". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "N".

Mary D. Nichols
Secretary for Resources

Cc: Peter Douglas, California Coastal Commission