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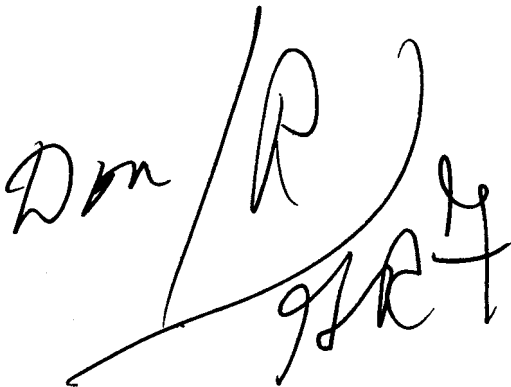
September 24, 1975

Don:

I thought you would be  
interested in seeing a copy  
of the enclosed press release.



Kent Frizzell



Don R. Galt

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ed Essertier (202) 343-3171

For Release September 24, 1975

## PROPOSED SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE RESCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER

A proposed Southern California oil and gas lease sale is being tentatively rescheduled for early in December, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The proposed sale had been scheduled for October, but is being delayed because the Department needs more time to consider the public comments which were received through September 14 on the two final environmental impact statements covering the acceleration of off-shore leasing, the Department explained.

The proposed Southern California sale (OCS Sale #35) would involve 297 offshore tracts in selected areas from Point Mugu to Dana Point and extending seaward beyond the Santa Barbara Channel Islands, Santa Barbara Island and San Clemente Island. The tracts extend from three to 150 miles off the coastline.

One of the impact statements considers a proposal to step up oil and gas leasing in frontier areas nationwide to increase domestic energy supplies. This programmatic final EIS was issued July 11, 1975 by the Bureau of Land Management, the Interior agency which conducts offshore lease sales. The statement followed nine days of public hearings in Alaska, California and New Jersey and totals 3,019 pages. In issuing it, the Department solicited additional public comment and allowed 60 days instead of the normal 30 days, or until September 9, for receipt.

The second final EIS reviews possible effects of the proposed Southern California sale, which could be part of the national frontier offshore program. That statement, which was made public on August 15, followed three days of public hearings in California in May. In issuing it, the Department said it would accept additional comments until September 14, for review.

Because of the unavoidable delay, Federal officials also intend to use this additional time to consult further with California state and local officials, and to weigh their views before a final decision is made on whether or not to hold the sale, Interior added.

The Department emphasized that final decisions on accelerating the OCS program and conducting the proposed sale in California will not be made before public responses to the EIS's have been fully reviewed and analyzed.

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