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Controller Chiang Statement on LNG Vote

OXNARD – State Controller and State Lands Commissioner John Chiang today released the following statement on the State Lands Commission vote to deny the proposed BHP Billiton Cabrillo Port liquefied natural gas facility lease and not certify the Environmental Impact Report:

“While BHP has certainly made great efforts to reduce the impact of the project’s emissions, I have strong environmental and environmental justice concerns.

“Specifically, I am worried about air quality, and emissions from LNG tankers and the terminal itself. We know that the terminal is exempt from Ventura County’s clean-air rules under the EPA’s recent policy reversal.

“I remain concerned about the people this pollution will affect, especially children and seniors. As I understand it, the prevailing wind currents will blow the majority of the project emissions directly on communities in and south of Ventura County.

“I also have major concerns about approving an LNG terminal off of our beautiful California coast, upon which our \$50 billion statewide coastal economy depends.

“The Governor and the Legislature have enacted statutes to reduce California’s carbon footprint and move us from fossils fuels toward cleaner, renewable alternatives. I do not think this project is something that carries out the spirit of our new, groundbreaking laws.

“No less compelling is the testimony from residents who have turned out for public testimony, spending precious off-work hours patiently waiting to voice their concerns.

“For these reasons, I moved to deny issuing a general lease right-of-way to BHP, and not certify the final EIR.”

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