



**For Immediate Release**  
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**STATEMENT OF SUSAN JORDAN,  
CALIFORNIA COASTAL PROTECTION NETWORK,  
ON THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT  
ON THE BHP BILLITON LNG TERMINAL**

The State Lands Commission (SLC) staff report released late Friday afternoon is a deeply flawed and incomplete report that distorts the true impacts of the proposed BHP Billiton LNG terminal complex. We are confident that the State Lands Commissioners will look at the entire record and vote in the public interest and will reject this project at the April 9 hearing in Oxnard.

The SLC staff report ignores many of the serious health and safety concerns about this massive terminal and storage facility that would be constructed just off the Southern California coast. It is shocking that the SLC staff would omit the critical findings of the SLC's own Final Environmental Impact Report, released less than a month ago, on March 9, 2007.

The SLC's FEIR found that the proposed project would result in over 20 significant impacts on the environment that cannot be mitigated, including the project's contribution to smog violations in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

The SLC staff report also ignores the increasing concerns about the risks of the project, including the highly critical study of LNG tanker security and safety issued by the federal Government Accountability Office last month. The GAO report declared that the Sandia model used by the SLC staff to assess risk is inadequate.

In addition to these significant omissions, the SLC staff report does not mention the growing investigation by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee into possible political interference with the EPA's decisionmaking on this project. Committee Chairman Congressman Henry Waxman last week expanded his probe to include communications between BHP Billiton and EPA officials and officials at the White House.

The SLC staff contention that this project is essential to meet our energy needs is not supported by the facts. State mandates for energy conservation and renewable energy are not considered in the SLC's estimates of natural gas demand. Even assuming that demand stays constant, the California Energy Commission projects that natural gas supply available to be shipped to California will increase through 2016. California can't afford this risky, dirty and dangerous project.

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