

efforts; progress report on Standards and Guidelines Statewide Plan Amendment; reports by the Recreation and Public Relations Working Groups; and a report on BLM Law Enforcement Program and BLM Field Presence. A public comment period will take place at 11:30 a.m. February 25, 1997 for any interested publics who wish to address the Council.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deborah Stevens or Ken Mahoney, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, 222 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2203, (602) 417-9512.

Michael A. Ferguson,  
*Deputy State Director, Resource Planning, Use and Protection Division.*

[FR Doc. 97-1723 Filed 1-23-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-32-M**

[CA-942-5700-00]

### Filing of Plats of Survey; California

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to inform the public and interested state and local government officials of the latest filing of Plats of Survey in California.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Unless otherwise noted, filing was effective at 10:00 a.m. on the next federal work day following the plat acceptance date.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Clifford A. Robinson, Chief, Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California State Office, 2135 Butano Drive, Sacramento, CA 95825-0451, (916) 979-2890.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The plats of Survey of lands described below have been officially filed at the California State Office of the Bureau of Land Management in Sacramento, CA.

Mount Diablo Meridian, California

*T. 23 N., R. 14 E.*—Dependent resurvey, and subdivision of section 15 (Group 1085), accepted December 9, 1996, to meet certain administrative needs of the BLM, Surprise Resource Area.

*T. 45 N., R. 7 W.*—Supplemental plat of portions of sections 11 and 14, accepted December 9, 1996, to meet certain administrative needs of the BLM, Redding Resource Area.

*T. 17 N., R. 7 W.*—Dependent resurvey and corrective dependent resurvey, subdivision of sections 31, 33, and 34 (Group 1195), accepted December 17, 1996, to meet certain administrative needs of the US Forest Service, Mendocino National Forest.

*T. 16 N., R. 9 W.*—Dependent resurvey and metes-and-bounds survey of Tracts 37 through 42 (Group 935), accepted December

24, 1996, to meet certain administrative needs of the US Forest Service, Mendocino National Forest.

San Bernardino Meridian, California

*T. 17 S., R. 4 W.*—Metes-and-bounds survey of Tract 39 (Group 1249), accepted December 9, 1996, to meet certain administrative needs of the BLM, California Desert District, Palm Springs/South Coast Resource Area.

*T. 8 N., R. 2 W.*—Supplemental plat of section 4, accepted December 16, 1996, to meet certain administrative needs of the BLM, California Desert District, Barstow Resource Area.

All of the above listed survey plats are now the basic record for describing the lands for all authorized purposes. The survey plats have been placed in the open files in the BLM, California State Office, and are available to the public as a matter of information. Copies of the survey plats and related field notes will be furnished to the public upon payment of the appropriate fee.

Dated: January 13, 1997.

Clifford A. Robinson,

*Chief, Branch of Cadastral Survey.*

[FR Doc. 97-1715 Filed 1-23-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-40-M**

### Minerals Management Service

#### Discretionary Authority for Royalty Relief on Nonproducing Leases on the Outer Continental Shelf

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Deep Water Royalty Relief Act of 1995 (Act) granted the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) the authority to reduce or eliminate royalties in order to promote development, increase production, or encourage the production of marginal resources on producing and nonproducing leases in any water depth in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico. This Notice seeks public input on whether and how MMS should implement this new authority for nonproducing leases.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments we receive by March 25, 1997. We will begin review of comments at that time and may not fully consider comments we receive after March 25, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or hand-carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Mail Stop 4230; 1849 C Street, NW; Washington, D.C. 20240; Attention: Chief, Washington Division, Office of Policy and Management Improvement.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Dr. Walter Cruickshank, Washington Division, at the above address or by telephone: (202) 208-3822.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Legislative Background

The Act (Pub. L. 104-58) authorizes the Secretary to modify the royalty terms of certain existing leases and to offer new leases subject to royalty suspension volumes in water depths of 200 meters or more in parts of the Gulf of Mexico. Most of the Act addresses mandatory royalty relief programs for leases in water depths of 200 meters or more. These provisions have been implemented in interim rules covering new leases (61 FR 12022, March 25, 1996) and existing leases (61 FR 27263, May 31, 1996).

We are now considering whether and how to implement new authority provided by the Act for a discretionary royalty relief program. In part, section 302 of the Act amends section 8(a) of the OCS Lands Act by adding subparagraph (3)(B), which applies to all leases in the Gulf of Mexico west of 87 degrees, 30 minutes West longitude (i.e., the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas and the portion of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area lying offshore Alabama). In this area, the Secretary may reduce or eliminate any royalty or net profit share in order to promote development, increase production, or encourage production of marginal resources on producing or nonproducing leases. With the lessee's consent, the Secretary may make other modifications to the royalty or net profit share terms of leases in order to achieve these purposes. This provision applies to active leases, not to the terms under which new leases are offered.

We already have a royalty relief program in place for producing leases, as well as the mandated program for nonproducing leases in at least 200 meters of water in the specified areas of the Gulf of Mexico. This Notice seeks input on whether and how we should consider royalty relief for nonproducing leases in any water depth.

We welcome comments and recommendations on all issues relevant to this Notice. In particular, please address the issues and questions raised below.

#### Issues

##### *I. Should MMS Consider Royalty Relief on Nonproducing Leases?*

(1) Currently, the Gulf of Mexico OCS program is very healthy, with record setting lease sales in 1996 and vigorous drilling and development activities.