

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf Cook Inlet; Notice of Leasing Systems, Sale 149

Section 8(a)(8) (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(8)) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) requires that, at least 30 days before any lease sale, a Notice be submitted to the Congress and published in the **Federal Register**:

This Notice is published pursuant to these requirements.

1. Identifying the bidding systems to be used and the reasons for such use; and
2. Designating the tracts to be offered under each bidding system and the reasons for such designation.

This notice is published pursuant to these requirements.

1. *Bidding systems to be used.* In the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Sale 149, blocks will be offered under the following bidding system as authorized by section 8(a)(1) (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(1)), as amended: bonus bidding with a fixed 12½-percent royalty.

a. *Bonus Bidding with a 12½-Percent Royalty.* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(A) of the OCSLA, as amended. This system has been chosen for all blocks proposed for Sale 149 because these blocks are expected to have high exploration, development, and production costs.

The Department of the Interior analyses indicate that the minimum economically developable discovery on a block in such high-cost areas under a 12½-percent royalty system would be less than for the same block under a 16⅔-percent royalty system. As a result, more blocks may be explored and developed. In addition, the lower royalty rate system is expected to encourage more rapid production and higher economic profits. It is not anticipated, however, that the larger cash bonus bid associated with a lower royalty rate will significantly reduce competition, as the higher costs for exploration and development are the primary constraints to competition.

2. *Designation of Blocks.* All blocks in this lease sale will be offered under a 12½-percent royalty system because that system is most appropriate to the resource levels and costs expected in this sale area.

Dated: April 16, 1997.

Cynthia Quarterman,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent to Issue a Prospectus For Operation of a Boat Transportation From Santa Barbara Harbor to Channel Islands National Park

SUMMARY: The National Park Service will be releasing a concession prospectus authorizing an operation of a new boat transportation service from Santa Barbara City Harbor to Channel Islands National Park. The primary service will be to the islands of Santa Rosa and San Miguel within the park. Extended service to the other three islands will also be allowed. The concession contract will be for a period of five (5) years.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: There is no existing concessioner providing this service and award of this concession contract will be fully competitive. The operation is year-round with the peak season more than likely being from May through October. The service will provide visitors with an opportunity for regular and reoccurring boat service for day visitors, campers or multi-day live-aboard visitors from Santa Barbara Harbor. The cost for purchasing a Prospectus is \$30.00. Parties interested in obtaining a copy should send a check payable to "National Park Service" to the following address: National Park Service, Office of Concession Program, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, 600 Harrison Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, California 94107-1372. The front of the envelope should be marked "Attention: Office of Concession Program Management—Mailroom Do Not Open." Please include a mailing address indicating where to send the prospectus. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Teresa Jackson, Office of Concession Program Management at (415) 427-1369.

Dated: March 26, 1997.

Stanley T. Albright,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent to Issue a Prospectus for Operation of a Boat Transportation From Ventura Harbor to Channel Islands National Park**Summary**

The National Park Service will be releasing a concession prospectus

authorizing continued operation of a boat transportation service from Ventura Harbor to Channel Islands National Park. The primary service will be to the islands of Anacapa and Santa Cruz within the park. Extended boat service to the other three islands will also be authorized. The service will provide day visitors and campers with the opportunity for one and multi-day trips to the islands. The concession contract will be for a period of ten (10) years.

Supplementary Information

The existing concessioner, Island Packers Company, Inc., has performed its obligations to the satisfaction of the Secretary under an existing contract and therefore pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of the Act of October 9, 1965 (79 Stat. 969 U.S.C. □20), is entitled to be given preference in the renewal and execution of a new contract providing that the existing concessioner submits a responsive offer (a timely offer which meets the terms and conditions of the Prospectus). This means that the contract will be awarded to the party submitting the best offer, provided that if the best offer was not submitted by the existing concessioner, then the existing concessioner will be afforded the opportunity to match the best offer. If the existing concessioner agrees to match the best offer, then the contract will be awarded to the existing concessioner.

If the existing concessioner does not submit a responsive offer, the right of preference in renewal shall be considered to have been waived, and the contract will then be awarded to the party that has submitted the best responsive offer.

The Secretary will consider and evaluate all proposals received as a result of this notice.

The cost for purchasing a prospectus is \$30.00. Parties interested in obtaining a copy should send a check payable to "National Park Service" to the following address: National Park Service, Office of Concession Program Management, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, 600 Harrison St., Suite 600, San Francisco, California 94107-1372. The front of the envelope should be marked "Attention: Office of Concession Program Management—Mail Room Do Not Open". Please include a mailing address indicating where to send the Prospectus. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Teresa Jackson, Office of Concession Program Management at 427-1369.