

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 12
was approved as Minute Item
No. 12 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
0 at its 6-22-78
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM
12.

6/78
W 21621
Chatfield

REFORESTATION CONTRACTS

BACKGROUND:

In late October, 1977, State Lands Commission's staff applied to the Employment Development Department (EDD) for Title II, Round 2 funds for watershed and forest rehabilitation. The concept was approved by EDD with the stipulation that "labor for reforestation will be furnished by California Conservation Corps (CCC) under the supervision of the Department of Forestry and the State Lands Commission".

On November 18, 1977, EDD and the Department of Finance approved \$500,172 for an 18-month period which commenced January 1, 1978.

In late December of 1977, the "Section 28" application was approved by the Legislature. The contracts for the first 6 months (expiring June 30, 1978), for approximately \$128,514 were approved by the Commission in Minute Item No. 38 for January, 1978.

The staff proposed a 3½-year project to plant an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 acres of non-productive and under-productive State owned school lands with commercial species. Trial plantings on 3 separate parcels were completed this spring.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The program for the 1978-79 fiscal year of approximately \$371,658, is to prepare the sites and plant up to 1,000 acres and perform some erosion-control, habitat and forage enhancement, and timber stand improvement on some additional land within the same parcels. The land is spread among 22 tentatively-selected school land parcels in several north-state counties.

Site evaluations and specific plans for each parcel will be prepared during June and July following visits to each candidate site by a team made up of representatives

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of the Commission, the Department of Forestry, Fish and Game, and the California Conservation Corps. In order to utilize all available avenues to improving each parcel's productivity of its individual values, and to get the most done while CCC crews are on the site, each parcel will be prescribed as combination of treatments, designed around the planting of commercial species.

IMPLEMENTATION: The approvals requested herein will authorize the execution of negotiated agreements with EDD for the project funding, with CDF and CCC for continued planning and evaluation work on the project, and with contractors and the United States Forest Service for site preparation and access road maintenance agreements. This is not a request for approval of the actual work of site preparation, planting and other vegetative manipulation. Once the parcels for the project have been selected, approval for those parcels will be requested following completion of a final EIR now in preparation.

These approvals will allow the continued inspection of the parcels for the project, the preparation of the prescription for planting and other work for each parcel, and the obtaining of access permissions and road agreements.

The Commission's staff will also be preparing announcements and contracts for site preparation. A few isolated and small jobs may permit direct selection of a contractor, but most will require bidding procedures.

The commercial tree seedlings for planting, to the extent they are available, will be donated by the Department of Forestry, according to its letter dated May 12, 1978.

The contract with EDD will be for approximately \$371,658 for the next fiscal year, plus or minus any over-spending or underuse of the \$128,514 approved for this fiscal year. Final figures will be available on or about July 20, 1978 but the total will

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not exceed the \$500,172 for the 18-month period.

The contract for the Department of Forestry consists of "service forester" salaries, overhead and travel. At this time, the total is estimated at \$50,000. As cost experience increases, amendments may be brought before the Commission to adjust the total as explained below.

The Commission's allocation for the project is to be about \$121,000. This will cover the approved two full-time associate positions together with overhead and travel.

The CDF and State Lands Commission components of the total for fiscal year 1978-79 are relatively fixed, regardless of the exact number of acres treated. Subtracting these components from the total leaves approximately \$200,000 for site preparation contracts with private contractors (for mechanical clearing of areas not allowing hand methods) and for the CCC in hand clearing, and planting. Seed collecting, growing of selected hardwood, browse and other native seedlings, thinning, manual release of brush-inhibited young trees, and erosion control work must also be included in that amount. At this time, it can only be estimated that perhaps 40% to 50% of the areas selected for planting will require mechanical means of brush removal with 50% to 60% suitable for hand methods. Assuming hand methods are more costly than mechanical, it would be expected that some 30% to 50% of the site preparation costs would be needed for mechanical clearing contracts (\$40,000) to (\$67,000) with the remainder available for CCC (\$67,000 to \$94,000). The total funding will be approached by adding or dropping parcels as cost experience is gained.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. This project is exempt from CEQA because it is not a project.

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IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT AN EIR HAS NOT BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS ACTIVITY AS SUCH REPORT IS NOT REQUIRED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PRC 21065, 14 CAL. ADM. CODE 15037 AND 2 CAL. ADM. CODE 2903(d).
2. AUTHORIZE (A) THE EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS FOR PROJECT FUNDING (EDD), EXPERTISE AND SUPERVISION (CDF), AND IMPLEMENTATION (CCC) FOR A REFORESTATION PROJECT; (B) NEGOTIATION AND EXECUTION OF ACCESS AND ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS; (C) COMMENCING, PURSUANT TO LAW, OF BID PROCEDURES FOR SITE PREPARATION CONTRACTS; AND (D) SUCH OTHER MEASURES, EXCEPT COMMENCING OF ACTUAL SITE PREPARATION WORK, AS MAY BE NECESSARY IN FURTHERANCE OF SAID PROJECT.