

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 21
was assigned to Minute Item
No. 21 of State Lands
Commission by a vote of 2
0 at its 9/27/78
meeting.

MINUTE ITEM

9/78
Atkins

21. AUTHORIZATION TO PERMIT MOTORCYCLE RACE ON
STATE SCHOOL LANDS - W 21891

During consideration of Calendar Item 21, attached, a telegram dated September 26, 1978, from the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, San Francisco, was read by Mr. William F. Northrop, Executive Officer. The telegram basically stated the Fund's objection to the motorcycle race being held on State lands without compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act or knowledge concerning the resources of the lands involved.

Mr. Stevens, Assistant Attorney General, then interjected comments regarding the alternatives which the Commission may take regarding this objection. Either the Negative Declaration, prepared by BLM, could be circulated for public comments, or the Commission could authorize the Executive Officer to issue a letter of permission to conduct the activity conditioned upon compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and his finding there would be no significant environmental impact which would require an EIR.

Acting-Chairman Sid McCausland recommended amendment of the item to require the Commission to circulate the Negative Declaration and report back at a special meeting to be held on October 11, 1978.

Therefore, the Commission adopted the following amended resolution by a vote of 2-0:

THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINES THAT AN EIR HAS NOT BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT BUT THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION EQUIVALENT HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1978.
2. CERTIFIES THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY.
3. CIRCULATE THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE REQUIRED 15-DAY PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE A LETTER PERMITTING THE USE OF STATE LANDS IN THE EVENT THAT THERE ARE NO SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC COMMENTS OFFERED.

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5. AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO CONVENE A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION TO HEAR TESTIMONY OR REVIEW THE COMMENTS IF THERE WERE, IN FACT, SUBSTANTIAL CONCERNS REGARDING THIS PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION.

Attachment: Calendar Item 21 (6 pages)

CALENDAR ITEM

21.

9/78
W 21891
Atkins

AUTHORIZATION TO PERMIT MOTORCYCLE
RACE ON STATE SCHOOL LANDS

SITUATION: The Commission's staff has been contacted by the Southern California Motorcycle Club for permission to cross a parcel of school land on October 22, 1978 for a motorcycle race. The Southern California Motorcycle Club is a non-profit organization to promote desert recreation. It is estimated that between 100 to 300 participants will be involved in the race. The applicant has submitted a \$25 filing fee and \$50 to cover processing costs. The applicant has agreed to name the State Lands Commission as coinsured on a \$1,000,000 policy of public liability insurance, and name the State along with the United States Bureau of Land Management on a \$400 surety bond.

An environmental appraisal record prepared by BLM has been received. This document fulfills the intent of CEQA in content and acts as an equivalent document to a negative declaration under CEQA.

This project is situated on school lands not identified as possessing significant environmental values. A staff review of available environmental information indicates no reason to identify the subject school land parcel as having such values at this time.

EXHIBITS: A. Location Map B. EAR Summary

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT AN EIR HAS NOT BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT BUT THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION EQUIVALENT HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1978.

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2. CERTIFY THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE RACE WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
4. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE A LETTER TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOTORCYCLE CLUB, PERMITTING THE MOTORCYCLE RACE TO BE HELD OCTOBER 22, 1978; IN CONSIDERATION OF THE \$50 PROCESSING FEE ON THE LAND SHOWN ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.

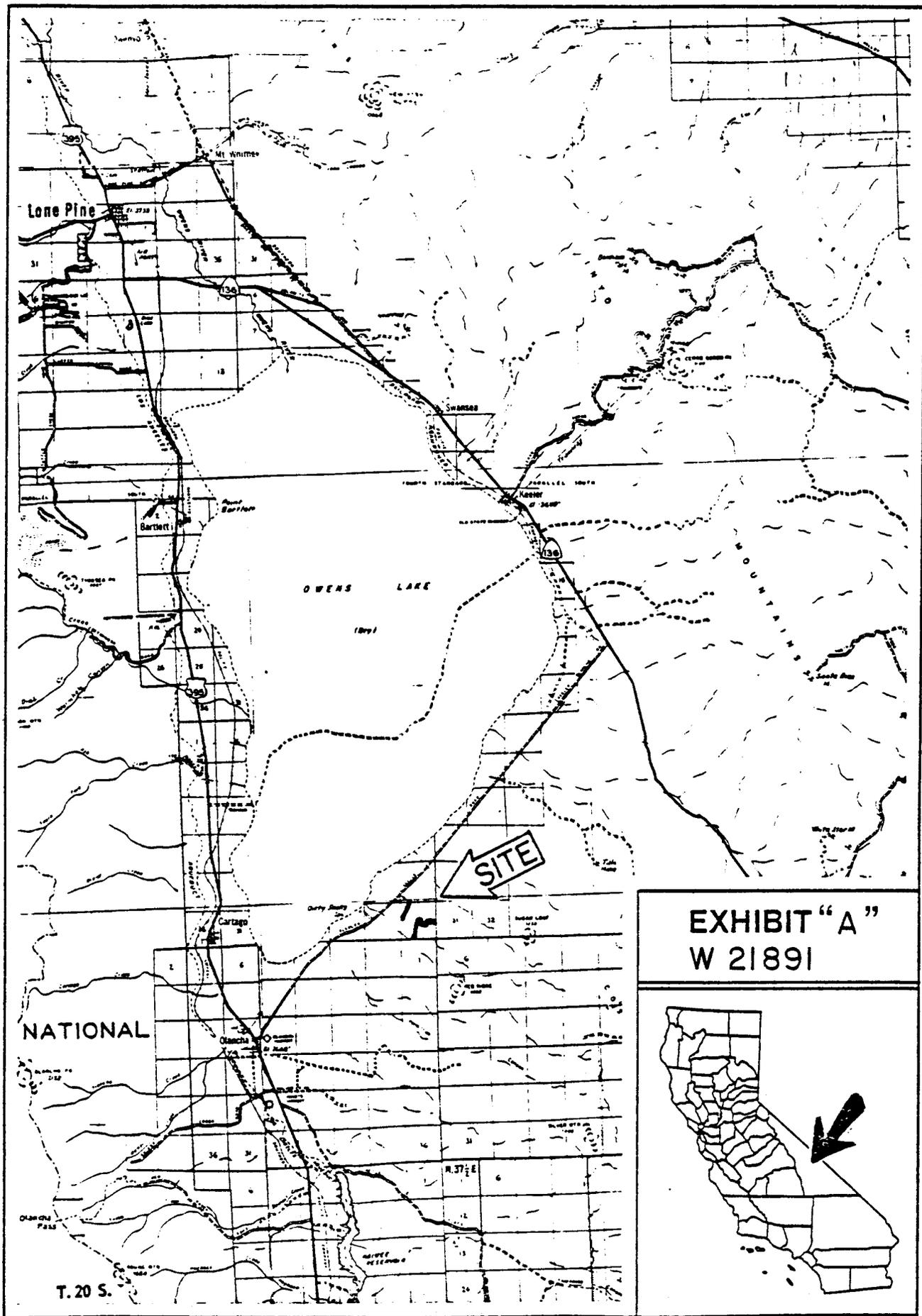


EXHIBIT "A"
W 21891



ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS RECORD SUMMARY

I. Introduction

The following is a summary of an environmental analysis record of a proposed motorcycle race that will cross a portion of the bed of Owens Lake, Inyo County. The applicant proposing the race is the Southern California Motorcycle Club.

II. Project Description

The proposed action is to hold a one-day motorcycle race in the Olancha Open Area on October 22, 1978. The Olancha area is in the southern end of Owens Valley, between the Sierra Nevadas and the Inyo Mountains. The area is moderately valuable for vehicular recreation. One motorcycle race a year has taken place for the past three years. The proposed race, which is expected to attract 200-300 participants and 300 spectators, will be mass started and will converge on a smoke bomb up the sand wash from the starting line and then follow the flagged 67-mile race course through a two loop route. The race will be conducted on the same course as the 1977 event with the exception of minor rerouting around a parcel of privately owned land. The portion of the course rerouted crosses approximately ½ mile of previously undisturbed land.

III. Alternatives

1. No project.
2. Two laps over first loop; elimination of second loop.
3. Modification of proposed course.

IV. Environmental Setting

The area facing Owens Lake primarily consists of wind blown and water-washed sandy flats and small dunes. Wind and heavy seasonal rains are the area's most important natural agents of change.

The centennial flat area supports the majority of the area's vegetation and wildlife. There are no known rare or endangered plant species at the subject site. The biotic communities do not show significant signs of off-road vehicle use in the Olancha Open Area. Past races in the area have been run primarily on existing roads and trails. The area contains a vertebrate fossil type site of the Alluvial Coso Formation of the Plio-Pleistocene age.

No historical sites are known to occur at the subject site. The Olancha Open Area is essentially archaeologically unknown. Prehistoric complexes can only be hypothesized for the area based on extrapolation from surrounding regions. The route of the 1977 Olancha motorcycle race was inspected by an

archaeologist and no cultural resources were discovered. In September of 1978 an archaeologist inspected possible re-routes around the private parcel of land. A large probable quarry workshop area was recorded. The site consists of crypto-crystalline cores and flakes embedded in the desert pavement matrix. The site apparently extends the length of the ridge in Section 21. Since the site extends to private land at the north and appears to extend into steep terrain unsuitable for motorcycles to the south, the archaeologist could not route the course around the site. The site is similar to those recorded previously on the ridges at the northern edge of the Coso Range. The fact that the culturally modified materials are in the desert pavement matrix suggests some antiquity for the site. No diagnostic artifacts were recorded. All materials observed at this site were debitage. Other sites in the general area contain pre-form tools.

Portions of the proposed race course cross two potential wilderness study areas identified during the initial California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Inventories.

V. Environmental Impacts

1. Rodents and reptiles which maybe hibernating underground in the race starting area may be heavily impacted.
2. Shrubs along the starting stretch may suffer damage and destruction which could reduce local faunal carrying capacity in the future.
3. Where the course crosses ridges, desert pavement will be disturbed thus allowing wind erosion to occur.
4. Racers straying from any portion of the marked trail will have the potential for impacting natural and cultural resources.
5. Cultural resources present at the quarry workshop area previously discussed in Section IV will be subject to destruction and damage.
6. Vegetation and wildlife on those portions of the course not on existing roads could be adversely impacted.
7. Visual impacts could result from littering, and destruction of vegetation.

VI. Mitigation Measures

1. Archaeologists should review the quarry workshop area and attempt to reroute the course away from the site.
2. The course should be carefully flagged across the least dense areas of the site.

3. The course should be kept as narrow as possible.
4. BLM race monitors should recommend additional sites for check points to discourage corner cutting by racers.

VII. Relationship Between Short-term Use and Long-term Productivity

Although some resources will be impacted, the race should not significantly lessen long-term productivity of the area. Impacts to wilderness resources should not be of such a magnitude that it will impair the suitability of the area for preservation as wilderness.

VIII. Irreversible Environmental Changes

If the course cannot be re-routed to avoid the archaeological site, some direct and subsequent indirect damage/destruction to cultural resources will occur.

IX. Growth Inducing Impact

There will be no direct growth inducing impact resulting from the proposed project since it involves a one-day event.