

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 37
was approved as Minute Item
No. 37 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 4/24/79
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

37.

4/79
Hoagland
W 6325.25

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF GEYSERS KGRA

A 3-phased program has been proposed by the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the State Energy Commission in conjunction with the Geothermal Research Information and Planning Services Study (GRIPS) Commission; (a joint powers agency composed of representatives of the 4 aforementioned counties) to identify, establish values and design management plans for archaeological and native American sites within the Geysers-Calistoga Known Geothermal Resources Area (KGRA). This area encompasses portions of Lake, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties. In an effort to make this a meaningful regional approach to archaeological data gathering and resource management, the State Lands Commission has been asked to participate in the study on lands which it is contemplating leasing in the near future.

The first phase of the program will include participation of BLM and the Energy Commission in an overview and synthesis of existing archaeological information on the Geysers KGRA. Both BLM and Energy Commission plan to contribute \$5,000 each and contract through GRIPS for this phase. Approximately 50% of the area has already had some archaeological reconnaissance.

The second phase is for the design of an interim management plan and analysis of the significance of specific sites, and creation of a mitigation framework to provide specific information on site treatment. Again, BLM and the Energy Commission are contributing \$5,000 each and contracting the work through GRIPS.

The third phase, which is independent of GRIPS, or Energy Commission, but related to the regional study concept, is a proposal by BLM to do site specific reconnaissance of lands which it proposes to lease within the Geysers in the near future. This will be a walkover-type survey of pre-historic, historic and Native American sites. BLM proposes to send out requests for proposals early next month and select a contractor to do the work by the end of May.

Commission's staff was asked to identify State-owned land scheduled for competitive lease sale which might be contiguous to BLM lands scheduled for the proposed archaeological reconnaissance to determine if a speedy and economical reconnaissance of both Federal and State lands could be done at the same time.

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Of the 8 tracts of State-owned reserve mineral lands which have been designated for competitive leasing, 5 are contiguous to lands proposed for leasing by BLM and would lend themselves to archaeological investigation at the same time.

A total of 3,268 acres of State-owned geothermal lands in the Geysers could be brought into this study. Previous experience indicates the cost for such a study would range from \$3 to \$5 per acre.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

An EIR is not required. This project is within the purview of 2 Cal. Adm. Code 2907, Class 6(E) which exempts the collection of information for the purpose of performing archaeological surveys where animals or no disturbance of State lands is involved.

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 P.R.C 21685, 14 CAL. ADM. CODE 15100 ET SEQ., AND 2 CAL. ADM. CODE 2907.
2. AUTHORIZE THE STAFF TO EXPLORE ALL MEANS TO SEEK A CONTRACTOR TO PERFORM AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF STATE-OWNED LANDS PROPOSED FOR LEASING WHICH ARE CONTIGUOUS WITH FEDERAL LANDS SO THAT THE STATE STUDY WILL COINCIDE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITH WORK BEING DONE ON FEDERAL LANDS IN ORDER THAT THE DATA SO GATHERED CAN BECOME A PART OF THE REGIONAL 4 COUNTY STUDY.
3. AUTHORIZE THE STAFF, IF NECESSARY, TO CIRCULATE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND RECEIVE PROPOSALS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE.
4. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, IF NECESSARY, TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR SAID WORK SO THAT THE RECONNAISSANCE CAN BE PERFORMED IN THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS AND ECONOMICAL MANNER.