

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 7
was approved as Minute Item
No. 7 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 7/17-79
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM
7.

APPROVAL IN PRINCIPAL
COLORADO RIVER EXCHANGE

7/79
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In the early 1920's, the Colorado River frequently flooded the farm lands of the Palo Verde Valley in Riverside County. The United States Bureau of Reclamation and the Palo Verde Valley Irrigation District collaborated to rechannel the river away from the levees. The cuts left loops of the previous channel to dry up and later to be filled and added to the lands being farmed. Under existing law, these former main channels are owned by the States of California and Arizona.

The staff has identified 4 cut-off loops of the Colorado River in the area between Blythe, on the North, and the Riverside-Imperial County line, on the South. These loops have been located from the field notes of surveys made by the Palo Verde Valley Irrigation District just prior to the construction of the cuts. The cuts are locally known as the Raab, Hauser, Comer and Casad cuts.

The property owners in the area have organized under the leadership of Mr. Dana Fisher to negotiate with the State of California for the exchange of privately-owned lands along the river for the lands in the cut-off loops which are now part of their fields. The staff is presently working with Mr. Fisher to consummate the exchanges. The lands to be acquired by the State are valuable for recreation and wildlife habitat.

The staff believes the private property owners will be encouraged and negotiations will be greatly facilitated if the Commission will take the action of approving these exchanges, in principle, with the understanding that the State will receive land of equal or greater value than what it gives up. The final exchange package and boundary line agreements will be brought to the Commission for consideration at a later date. Final action on this project will solve land title problems along a 15-mile reach of the river.

EXHIBIT:

A. Site Map.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. APPROVE, IN PRINCIPLE, THE EXCHANGE OF STATE-OWNED LANDS IN THE RAAB, HAUSER, COMER AND CASAD FORMER LOOPS

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. 7. (CONTD)

OF THE COLORADO RIVER FOR LANDS ALONG THE PRESENT CHANNEL OF THE RIVER; THE LANDS TO BE ACQUIRED BY THE STATE TO BE OF EQUAL OR GREATER VALUE THAN THE LANDS GIVEN IN EXCHANGE BY THE STATE.

2. AUTHORIZE THE STAFF TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GROUP OF LANDOWNERS HEADED BY MR. DANA FISHER UNTIL AGREEMENT IS REACHED AND THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION.

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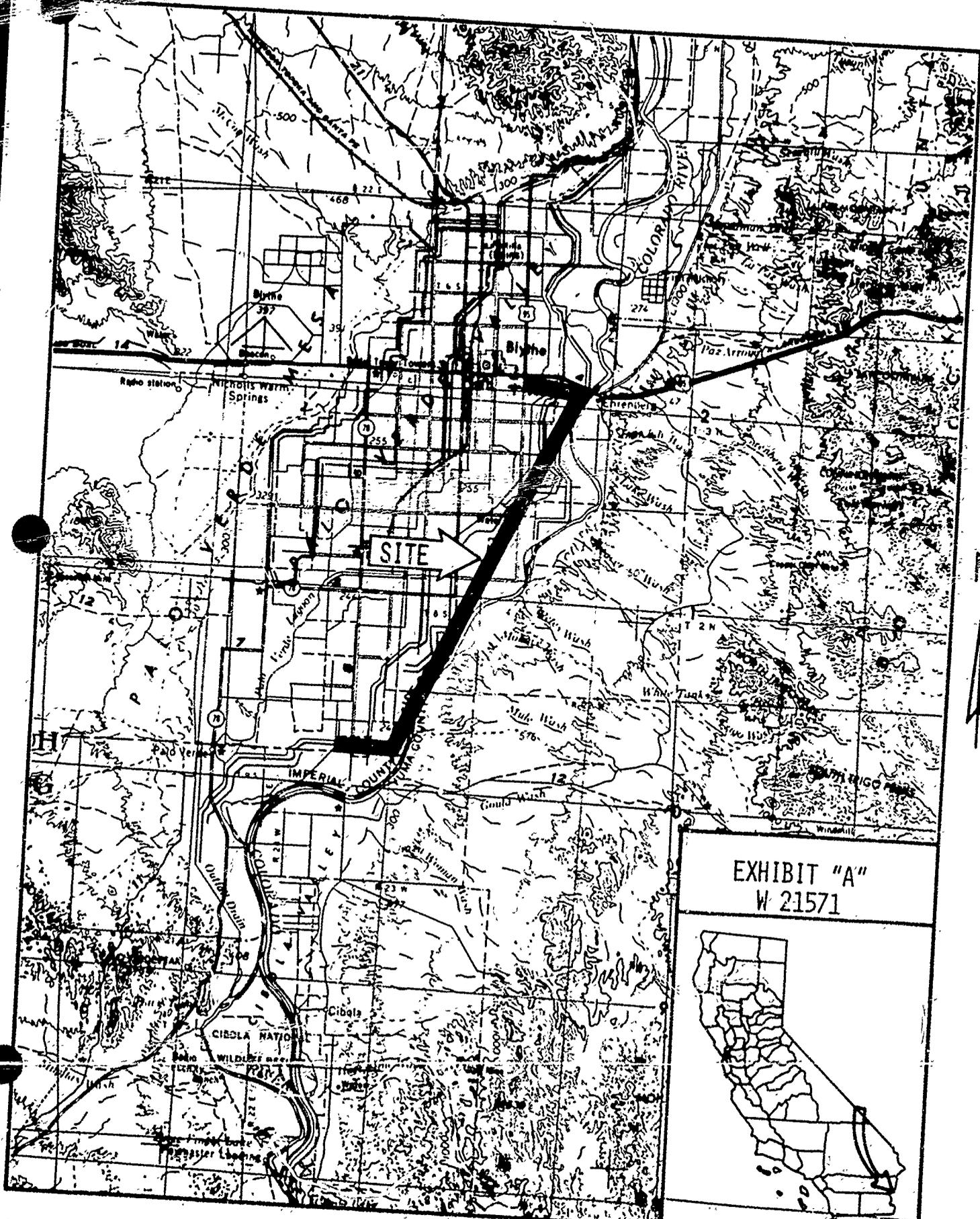


EXHIBIT "A"
W 21571



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MINUTE PAGE