This Calendar Item No. 26
was approved as Minute Item
No. 26 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 9/23/82
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

26

9/23/82
W 22484
Shimer
PRC 6194

APPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLANS
AND AUTHORIZATION FOR
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
TO PROCEED WITH FOREST DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
ON TWO PARCELS OF STATE SCHOOL LAND
IN SHASTA AND LAKE COUNTIES

In June 1980, the Commission authorized entering into an Inter-agency Agreement with the California Department of Forestry, by which Forestry would manage certain parcels of forested State school lands to demonstrate forestry practices for small forest land owners. Subsequently, an agreement was entered into covering ten parcels of State school land.

One of the provisions of the agreement was that California Forestry provide a management plan for each parcel for State Lands Commission staff review and for authorization from the Commission to proceed. Five plans have been approved to date. The Department has submitted plans for two more parcels, one in Shasta County and one in Lake County. The three final plans are expected to be presented at the October meeting.

The Shasta County parcel near Shingletown contains 180 acres. Portions of the property are very steep in the canyon formed by Battle Creek. There are also areas of more moderate topography on the rim and on benches that support old growth

A 1, 2

S 1, 2

Ponderosa Pine and Douglas-fir sawtimber totalling a little under two million board feet. The long-term management goal under the plan is to maximize wood fiber production and to reduce the fire hazard. The initial prescription is to harvest trees infected with fungal heart rot, thin trees in immature stands and remove brush.

The Lake County parcel is at Cobb Mountain in the vicinity of the Geysers geothermal field. The geothermal resources are not developed now, but it is expected that the parcel will be leased for development in the near future. This management plan covers only the surface resources. The parcel contains 440 acres and about 2/3 of the area is classified as timber land with an estimated seven million board feet of Ponderosa Pine and Douglas-fir sawtimber. The long term goals are maximizing wood production, watershed protection and wildlife habitat. Initial steps are to obtain access agreements and plan an interior road system to facilitate timber harvest. Staff recommends that close liaison be maintained so that access routes and interior roads and landings will be compatible with future geothermal development.

Staff review indicates the plans have merit and should provide for optimum utility of the sites consistent with associated wildlife habitat and watershed values.

A final EIR was prepared and certified by the California Department of Forestry, pursuant to CEQA and the State EIR Guidelines. The Department of Forestry found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

The project is situated on lands not identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370.1.

AB 884: N/A.

EXHIBITS:
A. Site Maps.
B. EIR Summary.

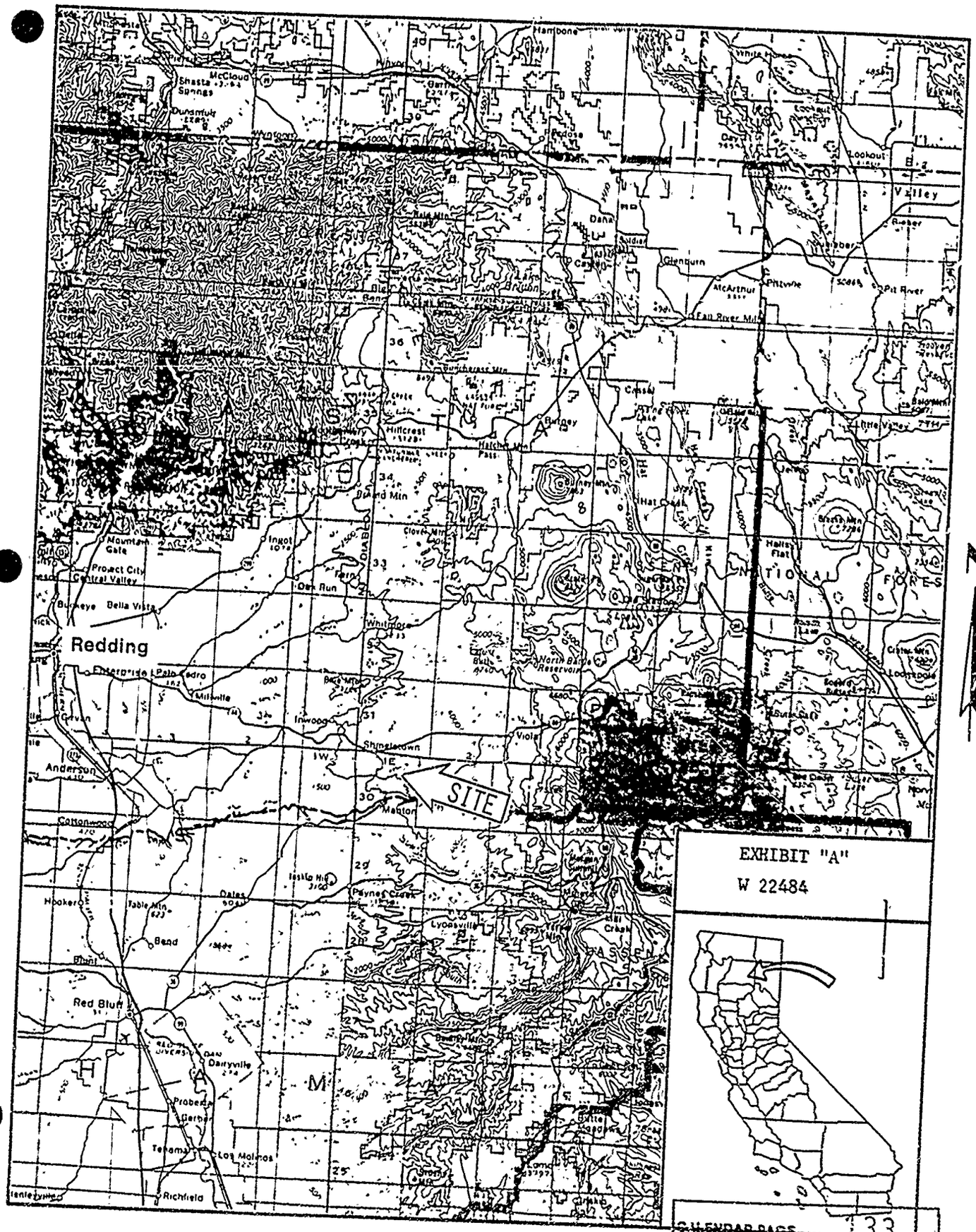
IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT THE EIR, SCH 81082617, HAS BEEN PREPARED AND CERTIFIED FOR THIS PROJECT BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY.

2. CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE EIR HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION.

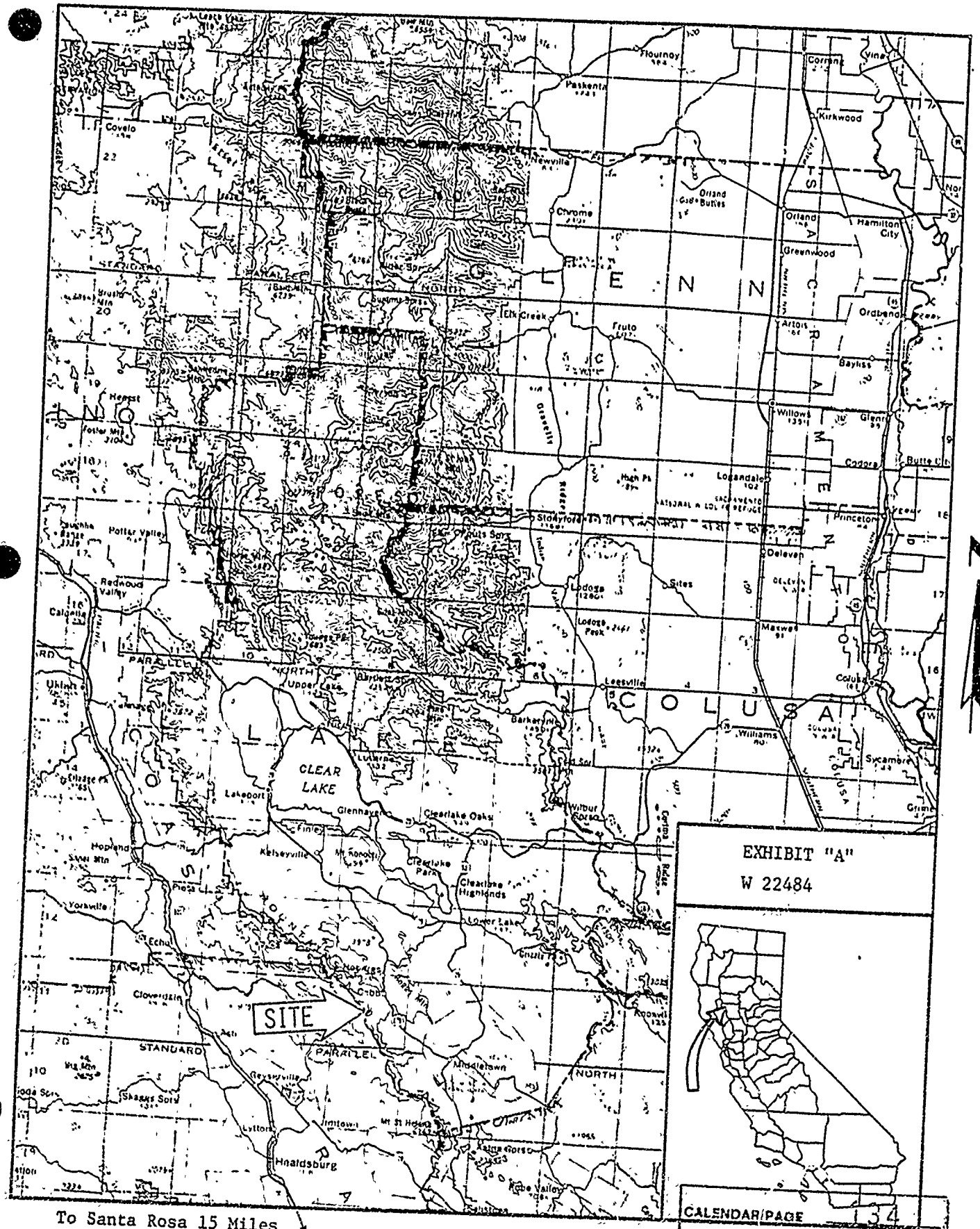
3. FIND THAT CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS HAVE BEEN REQUIRED IN, OR INCORPORATED INTO, THE PROJECT WHICH MITIGATE OR AVOID THE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS IDENTIFIED IN THE FINAL EIR (AS INCORPORATED IN EXHIBIT "B", PAGE 2, "MITIGATION MEASURES".)

4. AUTHORIZE THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY TO PROCEED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLANS SUBMITTED FOR PARCELS 7 AND 10, DESCRIBED IN THE INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT (LC 0380-B) DATED JULY 1, 1980, PROVIDED THAT NO ACTIVITIES ON PARCEL 10 (COBB MOUNTAIN) MAY CONFLICT WITH CURRENT OR FUTURE GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT AND THAT ACCESS ROUTES AND PLANS FOR INTERIOR ROAD SYSTEMS SHALL BE COORDINATED WITH COMMISSION STAFF TO INSURE COMPATIBILITY WITH DEVELOPMENT OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES.



CALENDAR PAGE 133

MINUTE PAGE 2366



CALENDAR PAGE 134

MINUTE PAGE 2337

W22484

SCH# 81082617

EXHIBIT "B"

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT SUMMARY

The following is a summary of a final environmental impact report for the management of State Lands Commission parcels by the California Department of Forestry which was prepared by the California Department of Forestry.

1. Project Description. California Department of Forestry, through an interagency agreement with the State Lands Commission, proposes to manage the surface resources on ten State School Lands' parcels. The following types of projects are likely to comprise the management program: road construction, timber harvesting, site preparation, planting, timber stand improvement, brush conversion, forest land conservation measures, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, fuel reduction, and recreational opportunity development.

2. Environmental Setting. Eight of the parcels are scattered throughout Shasta County with an additional parcel in both Trinity and Lake Counties. Vegetation on the parcels is varied but can generally be classified into seven types or communities: 1) mixed conifer, 2) ponderosa pine, 3) digger pine, 4) oak woodland, 5) chaparral, 6) riparian, and 7) meadow.

3. Environmental Impacts. Significant impacts resulting from the project implementation involve water quality, air quality, soil erosion, change in vegetation (both type and quantity), change in wildlife habitat and wildlife, possible archeological resources disturbance, visual quality, noise and a short-term increase in fire hazards.

Air quality will suffer temporary degradation due to dust caused by timber harvesting and smoke from burning vegetation.

Water quality will suffer with removal of ground cover, road building and the use of heavy equipment causing increased sediment in streams.

Soil erosion and compaction will take place in some areas as a result of road building.

Vegetation will change as a result of introduction of young timber and a decrease in old timber, and further by the introduction of new plant species and a corresponding decrease in existing plant species.

Wildlife changes will result from changes in the vegetation. There is a strong possibility that the rare Shasta Salamander may exist on one of the parcels and will therefore need to be protected. In addition, aquatic habitat may be affected by management activities which may cause changes in stream bottom material and turbidity, cover, water temperature, dissolved oxygen content and introduction of migration barriers.

Timber harvesting activities may disturb archeological sites and lessen their potential for scientific study.

There will be a short-term increase in fire hazard but a long-term reduction of fire hazard is expected.

4. Mitigation Measures. Mitigation of air quality impacts include: burning in accordance with air pollution regulations and the use of dust abatement procedures on logging operations.

Fire hazards will be avoided by burning when fire hazard is lowest. Equipment will have spark arrestors and all personnel will be equipped with means to extinguish fires.

Water quality and erosion impacts will be mitigated by retaining riparian vegetation to maintain stream temperature, keeping heavy equipment off of soils when moisture content is at or above field capacity, leaving a buffer strip on both sides of all blue line streams, keeping heavy equipment off potential slide areas and clearing stream of debris and any accidentdl deposits.

No program will be permitted within areas critical to survival of rare or endangered species unless the program will improve species' habitat. Special provisions will be made to protect potential bald eagle nesting trees. Wildlife habitat improvement projects will rejuvenate stagnating brush stands.

Visual impacts will be mitigated by utilizing mosaic patterns, by avoiding straight line boundaries and using natural boundaries when possible. One hundred percent burns will be avoided on highly visible slopes.

Archeological impacts will be mitigated by avoiding operations on presently identified sites unless the operation would improve the protected resources. Known areas will be marked for easy identification by work crews. Special treatment areas will be designated, as necessary.

5. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts.

a. Short-term reduction in scenic and aesthetic qualities as a result of cleared areas for reforestation.

b. Short-term reduction in local populations of small mammals and birds during management activities. Some species of wildlife will decrease and some will increase.

c. On some parcels, the natural quality of landscape patterns will change permanently.

CALENDAR PAGE 136
MINUTE PAGE 2339

d. Harvesting near streams may cause a short-term increase in water temperature which may have a small impact on aquatic life.

e. Use of heavy equipment, burning, and other management activities will cause soil erosion, compaction, and damage to microflora.

f. Burning will cause temporary degradation of air quality.

g. Burning will create potential for escaped fires.

h. Some undiscovered archeological resources may be disturbed.

i. Temporary noise will result from use of heavy equipment.

6. Alternatives. A number of possible management activities will be considered for each parcel. Harvesting alternatives include tractor, skyline, helicopter and horse logging. Lop and scatter, chipping, and burning are slash disposal alternatives.

CALENDAR PAGE 137
MINUTE PAGE 2390