

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 15
is approved as Minute Item
No. 15 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 1/23/84
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

15

1/23/84
W 23331
Childress
PRC 6550

HAZARDOUS CONDITION CONTROL

APPLICANT: California Department of Forestry
1572 Railroad Avenue
St. Helena, California 94574

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:
Thirteen acres, more or less, of State
school land within Section 36, T15N R7W,
MDM, in Lake County.

LAND USE: Prescribed burn project - as defined in
Section 4464 (d) of the Public Resources
Code.

TERMS OF PROPOSED LEASE:

Initial period: One year from January 10,
1984.

Public liability insurance: Combined single
limit coverage of \$1,000,000.

Special: The total cost of the
project is to be borne
by the California Department
of Forestry and the Bureau
of Land Management. The
Commission shall incur
no expenses regarding
this project.

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CONSIDERATION: Increased water yield to local streams and reservoirs, improve wildlife habitat and reduce hazards of wild fires.

BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION:
Pursuant to 2 Cal. Adm. Code 2003.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Parts 1 and 2; Div. 13.
- B. Cal. Adm. Code: Title 2, Div. 3; Title 14, Div. 6.

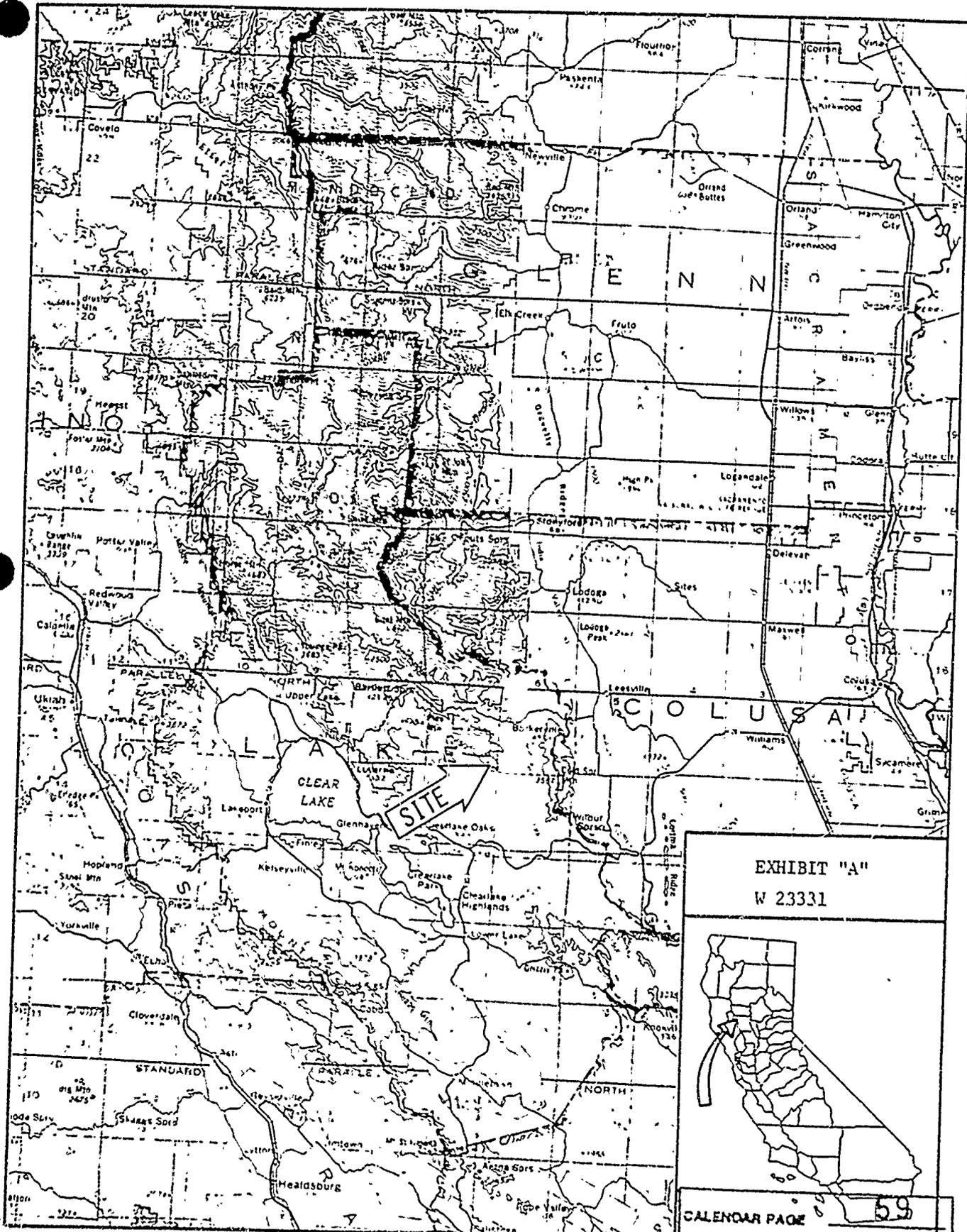
OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The California Department of Forestry, in concert with the Bureau of Land Management, is planning to conduct prescribed burns on 1014 acres in Lake County, generally along the tops of ridges or other natural geographic boundaries. Inclusion of a portion of the school land parcel within the burn area is required in order to carry out the most cost effective and least hazardous burn possible. The cost of the proposed burn is to be split between the California Department of Forestry and Bureau of Land Management with the Commission incurring no expenses.
2. Pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guideline a final EIR was prepared and certified by the California Department of Forestry (State Clearinghouse #80100262), which found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
3. The project is situated on lands not identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370.1.

EXHIBITS: A. Location Map.
 B. EIR Summary.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT AN EIR 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. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, AND FIND THAT THE PROJECT IS SITUATED ON LANDS NOT IDENTIFIED AS POSSESSING SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES PURSUANT TO P.R.C. 6370.1.
4. AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY TO CONDUCT A PRESCRIBED BURN WITHIN A ONE-YEAR PERIOD FROM JANUARY 10, 1984, PROVISION OF PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT COVERAGE OF \$1,000,000; ON THIRTEEN ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OF STATE SCHOOL LANDS LYING WITHIN SECTION 36, T15N R7W, MDM, IN LAKE COUNTY.



To Santa Rosa 15 Miles

EXHIBIT "A"
 W 23331

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EXHIBIT "B"

EIR SUMMARY

The following is a summary of a final environmental impact report entitled "Chaparral Management Program", prepared in May 1981 by the California Department of Forestry (SCH 80100262).

1. Project Description. The invasion of brush and buildings into former grasslands and the increasingly decadent condition of protected chaparral stands produce a number of undesirable effects which include: increasing probability of wildfire over watersheds; decreased watershed yields; poor range forage conditions; and recreational land closures due to fire danger. The program entails a series of projects of varying complexity and size; each project will involve the following procedure:
 - a. A preliminary meeting with the landowner(s) and/or steward(s) involved will be held. A California Department of Forestry (CDF) employee will explain the program in detail, and discuss the landowner's/steward's objectives. The parties will define the scope of the project in broad form, and discuss which other agencies and/or individuals should be involved. If the owner/steward already has a plan, a copy will be provided for review by the CDF Ranger-in-Charge. A preliminary application form will be completed.
 - b. If the project appears at this point to be within the scope of the Program, the CDF Ranger-in-Charge will assign a Project Manager to the project. If there is no existing plan, the process continues as below.
 - c. The owner/steward becomes the leader of the project interdisciplinary (I.D.) team, and the team is assembled on the site for development of the plan. The I.D. Team may include a Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) specialist, a local Air Pollution Control District (APCD) representative, a soil scientist from the Soil Conservation Service, a specialist from the Cooperative Extension Service or other needed expertise. The local Resources Conservation

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District may assume an important role in plan development as may the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

- d. The environmental checklist is prepared, and needed mitigations are designed into the plan. Burning plans are prepared and costs are estimated.
- e. The finished plans and checklist complete the application procedure, and the Ranger-in-Charge reviews all documents. If satisfactory, they are forwarded to the Region Chief, with a draft contract, for approval.
- f. The Region Chief reviews and, when satisfied that requirements have been met, signs the contract and approves the project.
- g. The project is assigned a regional priority, based on degree of public benefits and other criteria such as scheduling of needed crews and equipment.
- h. The project is carried out according to the plan. The burned area is mapped by CDF on a permanent record.
- i. Follow-up evaluation is done on a representative sample of projects to check on program success and to obtain data for improving the program.

It is estimated that between 120,000 and 150,000 acres annually will be affected by these programs of prescribed fire, biological and chemical control, and natural regeneration.

2. Environmental Setting. Approximately 5 million acres of California land may be in need of this management program under SB 1704. Lands excluded under this program are:

--lands of the federal government (federal management, protected under NEPA).

--lands administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The EIR addresses the varied California topography, climate, and biotic provinces.

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3. Environmental Effects. There will be some soil losses, but they will be less than a third of those occurring under wildfire conditions. Burns on grasslands, in chaparral communities, and in hardwood scrub areas will approximate fires that would have occurred naturally, and are not expected to result in negative impacts. Minimal impacts are expected with regard to air and water quality, and wildlife.
3. Mitigation. The Environmental Checklist, Land Management Plan, and Prescription and Smoke Management Plan are designed to mitigate environmental effects unique to each project. If a significant effect is probable with a specific project, a draft EIR shall be prepared for that particular project.
4. Alternatives. (1) No action; (2) Change some factor other than vegetation; (3) Put less emphasis on prescribed burning, more on other methods; (4) "Let Burn" or selective fire control; (5) Employ prescribed fire as a major method on private land as provided for under SB 1704 (preferred alternative).
5. Adverse Impacts Which Cannot be Mitigated.
(1) Disturbance of "Nonwetttable" soil layer; (2) Some soil erosion and compaction; (3) Some animal mortality, nest disturbance, and habitat disruption; (4) Visibility restriction and air pollution due to smoke; (5) Short-term aesthetic impacts.