

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 20
was approved as Minute Item
No. 20 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 5/7/84
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A 34
S 16

20 4

05/07/84
W 40361
Marsh
PRC 6621

APPROVAL OF A PROSPECTING PERMIT FOR
MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL
RESOURCES, SAND AND GRAVEL, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

APPLICANT: Asarco, Inc.
P. O. Box 5747
Tucson, Arizona 85703

PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION:

Approval of a Prospecting Permit for two years
to prospect for gold and silver and other
valuable minerals, other than oil, gas,
geothermal resources, sand and gravel, on
approximately 480 acres of land located in San
Bernardino County.

CONSIDERATION: Filing fee of \$25, expense deposit of \$100 and
an acreage deposit of \$480.

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:

S1/2, NE1/4 Section 16, T11N, R1E., SBB&M,
San Bernardino County, fourteen miles northeast
of Barstow.

PROPOSED PROJECT:

Asarco proposes to explore for deposits of
valuable minerals by drilling a maximum of
twenty rotary drill holes five and one-half
inches in diameter to a depth of 500 feet. If
indications of minerals are found in any of the
rotary drill holes, a maximum of ten additional
diamond drill core holes may be drilled to
obtain core samples for analysis and to
delineate any possible orebody.

Prior to prospecting activities, the drilling
sites will be examined for desert tortoises and
their burrows. Tortoises found will be moved to
a safe area and burrows will be identified to
prevent their destruction. Prospecting
activities will be conducted in such a manner
to result in minimal destruction of native
vegetation.

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. 20 (CONF'D)

A truck mounted rig will be used over existing roads; no new roads will be constructed.

Drill pads will be temporary installations for both the rotary drills and the diamond drills. Holes will be drilled dry and the cuttings taken for assay. Diamond drilling will require a level spot approximately 20 ft. by 60 ft., two or three 7 ft. diameter tanks and a 12 ft. by 30 ft. settling pit dug in the ground, all of which will be removed or covered when drilling is terminated. The surface casing for each of the holes drilled by rotary or diamond drill will be cut off and capped below ground level and then covered. All holes with both types of drills as noted above will be 5 1/2 inches in diameter and a maximum of 500 feet deep.

All rotary holes are expected to be dry; no water is to be used in drilling and no water should be intercepted by the holes. Water used in the second phase diamond drilling will be recirculated to the fullest extent possible. Any water which may be discharged will be left in a settling pond for an appropriate time to remove any sediments resulting from drilling.

All drill holes will be back-filled as soon as possible after their purpose has been accomplished unless groundwater is tapped. If groundwater is tapped, the location, depth, water quality and related information will be reported to the Department of Fish and Game for potential development as a wildlife water source.

All trash, toxic waste and debris will be removed and properly disposed of upon termination of prospecting activities.

Any proposed activity not authorized by this permit will not proceed without prior approval of a project amendment processed under the regulations of CEQA. If commercial mining operations are proposed, an EIR will be prepared and certified prior to issuing permits.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 20 (CONT'D)

The historic site identified as Site B3, Locus A, located in the NE1/4 of NW1/4 of SE1/4 Section 16, T11N, R1E, SBB&M, will be avoided during drilling activities.

If any artifacts or cultural features of potential significance are uncovered during the project, work will be stopped in the vicinity of the find and an archaeologist consulted.

TERM: The primary term of a Prospecting Permit is two years. The Commission may, in its discretion, extend the term for one additional year.

ROYALTY: Royalty payable under the permit shall be twenty percent of the gross value of the minerals secured from the permit area and sold or otherwise disposed of or held for sale or other disposition.

PREREQUISITE ITEMS:

1. Required statutory filing fee, expense deposit and acreage deposit have been submitted by the applicant.
2. Subject parcel is not known to contain a commercially valuable deposit of minerals.
3. Royalty payable under any preferential lease issued shall not be less than ten percent of the gross revenue, less specific charges, as approved by the Commission related to transporting and processing as set forth in said lease.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- A. P.R.C. Div. 6, Section 6891.
- B. Cal. Adm. Code: Title 2, Section 2200.

AB 884: 05/10/84.

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15025), the staff has

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 20 (CONT'D)

prepared and circulated for public review a proposed Negative Declaration, identified as EIR (NE 352) (State Clearinghouse No. 83040806) pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA.

2. Based upon the initial study, the proposed Negative Declaration and the comments received in response thereto, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15074(b)).
3. Permit shall provide for a performance bond of \$10,000 in favor of the State.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6890, the subject permit application has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General as to compliance with the applicable provisions of the law.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Land Description.
- B. Site Map.
- C. Negative Declaration

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 352, STATE 83040806, WAS PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CEQA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN. THE PROJECT SHALL INCLUDE THIS PROSPECTING PERMIT AND ANY EXTENSION THE COMMISSION MAY GRANT IN ITS DISCRETION FOR THE SAME PROJECT DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT. ANY EXTENSION SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR.
2. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS PROPOSED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT ARE NOT PRESENTLY KNOWN TO CONTAIN COMMERCIALY VALUABLE DEPOSITS OF MINERALS.

4. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF THE PROSPECTING PERMIT TO ASARCO, INC. FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, FOR ALL MINERALS, OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES, SAND AND GRAVEL, ON THE S1/2 AND NE1/4 SECTION 16, T11N, R1E, SBBM, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 480 ACRES; IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD FORM OF PERMIT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER THE PERMIT SHALL BE 20 PERCENT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER ANY PREFERENTIAL LEASE ISSUED UPON THE DISCOVERY OF COMMERCIALY VALUABLE DEPOSITS FOR ANY AND ALL MINERALS EXTRACTED OR REMOVED FROM SAID PREMISES FOR SALE OR STOCKPILING SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE GROSS REVENUE, LESS SPECIFIC CHARGES, AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION, RELATED TO TRANSPORTING AND PROCESSING, AS SET FORTH IN SAID LEASE: THE DETERMINATION OF SAID ROYALTIES SHALL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSION.

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EXHIBIT "A"

LAND DESCRIPTION

W 40361

A parcel of California State school lands in San Bernardino County,
California, described as follows:

The S $\frac{1}{2}$ and the NE $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 16, T11N, R1E, SBM.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED MARCH 19, 1984 BY BOUNDARY AND TITLE UNIT, LEROY WEED, SUPERVISOR

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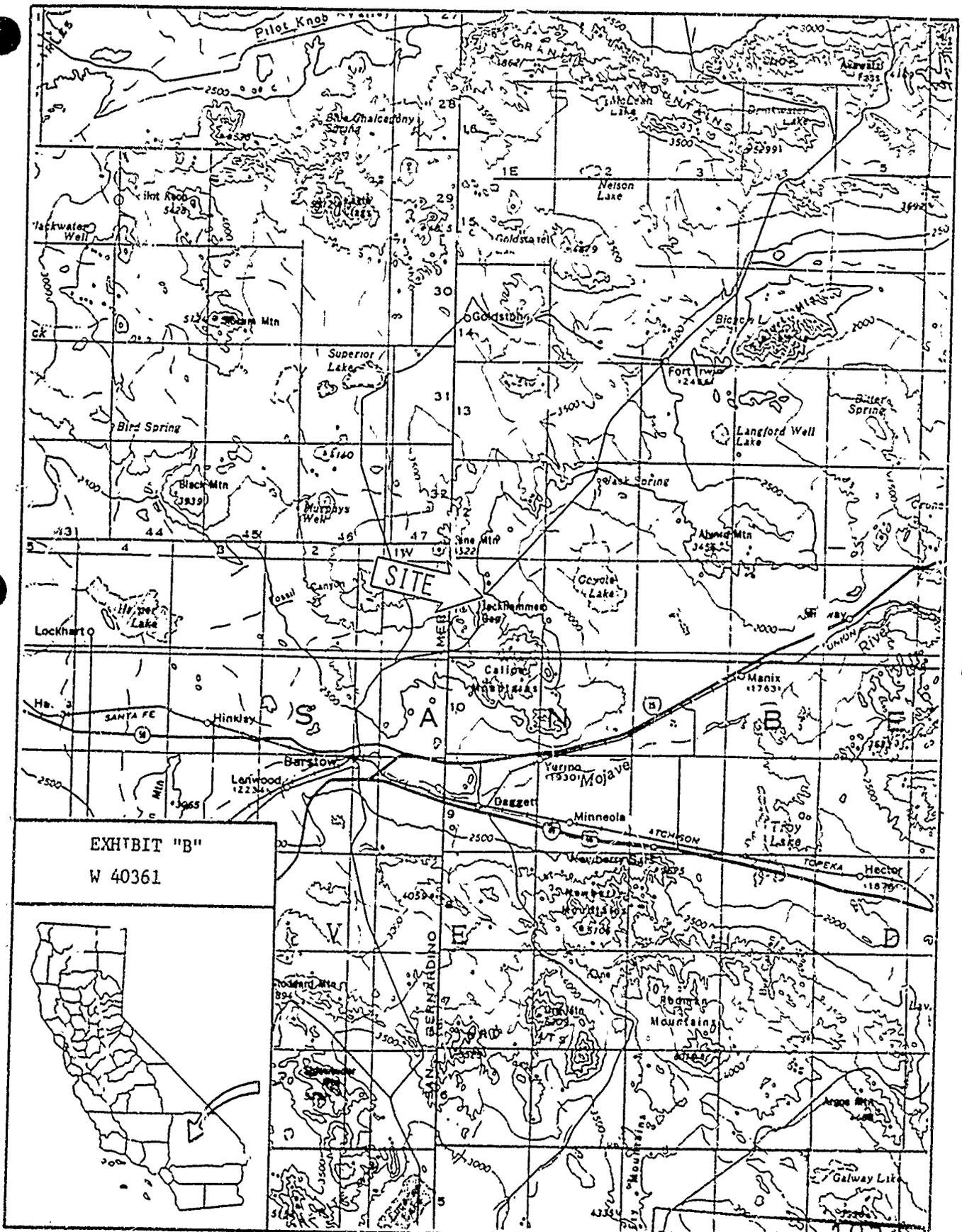


EXHIBIT "B"
W 40361



EXHIBIT "C"
PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR ND 352

file Ref.: W 40361

SCH#: 83040806

Project Title: Prospecting Permit - Calico Mountains

Project Proponent: ASARCO, Inc.

Project Location: S $\frac{1}{2}$ and NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 16, T.11 N., R.1 E., S.B.M., near Jackhammer Gap, approximately 14 miles northeast of Barstow, San Bernardino County.

Project Description: To explore for precious metals with a maximum of twenty rotary drill noles up to 500 feet deep. If indications of minerals are found in any of the rotary drill holes, a maximum of ten diamond drill core holes may be drilled.

Contact Person: Ted T. Fukushima

Telephone: (916)322-7873

This document is prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et seq., Public Resources Code), the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Administrative Code), and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section 2901 et seq., Title 2, California Administrative Code).

Based upon the attached Initial Study, it has been found that:

the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

mitigation measures included in the project will avoid potentially significant effects.

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MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Prior to prospecting activities, the drilling sites shall be examined for desert tortoises and their burrows. Tortoises found should be moved to a safe area and burrows should be identified to prevent their destruction.
2. Prospecting activities shall be conducted in such a manner to result in minimal destruction of native vegetation.
3. All drill holes shall be back-filled as soon as possible after their purpose has been accomplished, unless groundwater is tapped. If groundwater is tapped, the location, depth, water quality and related information should be reported to the Department of Fish and Game for potential development as a wildlife water source.
4. All trash, toxic waste and debris shall be removed and properly disposed of upon termination of prospecting activities.
5. Any proposed activity not authorized by this permit shall not proceed without prior approval of a project amendment processed under the regulations of CEQA. If commercial mining operations are proposed, an EIR must be prepared and certified prior to issuing permits.
6. Avoidance of the historic site identified as Site B3, Locust A located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 16, T11N, R1E, SBB&M, is recommended during drilling activities under this permit.
7. If any artifacts or cultural features of potential significance are uncovered during the project, work should be stopped in the vicinity of the find and an archaeologist consulted.

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON INITIAL
STUDY AND RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Comments:

"We could concur with issuance of a conditioned Negative Declaration if the following measures are incorporated into the project:

1. Prior to prospecting activities the drilling sites shall be examined for desert tortoises and their burrows. Tortoises found should be moved to a safe area and burrows should be identified to prevent their destruction.
2. Prospecting activities shall be conducted in such a manner to result in minimal destruction of native vegetation.
3. All drill holes shall be back-filled as soon as possible after their purpose has been accomplished unless groundwater is tapped. If groundwater is tapped, the location, depth, water quality and related information should be reported to the Department of Fish and Game for potential development as a wildlife water source.
4. All trash, toxic waste, and debris shall be removed and properly disposed of upon termination of prospecting activities.
5. Any proposed activity not authorized by this permit shall not proceed without prior approval of a project amendment processed under the regulations of CEQA. If commercial mining operations are proposed, an EIR must be prepared and certified prior to issuing permits."

Response:

The suggested mitigation measures will be incorporated as conditions of any prospecting permit issued.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Comments:

"We have reviewed the above referenced initial study and found that it does not address the possibility that the proposed prospecting might affect historic and/or prehistoric cultural resources. Specifically, in item 34 of the Environmental Information Form, no indication exists in our files which would support the statement that there are no cultural, historical, or scenic aspects of interest on the project site".

This office is the state designated repository for all recorded archaeological sites and survey reports for the County of San Bernardino. A review of

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our records indicates that the project site has never been the subject of a documented archaeological survey, but that numerous previously recorded archaeological sites in the areas immediately adjacent to the project site suggests that the area, including the project site, has moderate to high archaeological sensitivity.

Before a Negative Declaration can be filed, an archaeological survey of all proposed drill hole areas and access roads subject to disturbance should be completed and appropriate mitigative conditions attached to the Negative Declaration so that any archaeological or historical sites in or near the project drill hole areas can be avoided."

Response:

An archeological survey of the proposed drill sites was completed in August 1985, to determine the extent of the cultural resources & the impact of the proposed project. The recommendations of the archaeologist are followed in the mitigation measures attached to this document, and will be included as a condition of any prospecting permit issued for proposed activity.

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INITIAL STUDY
INTRODUCTION

ACAPCO has applied to the State Lands Commission for a prospecting permit for State lands located in the Calico Mountains, near Jackhammer Gap, approximately 14 miles northeast of Barstow, San Bernardino County. The proposed project to explore for deposits of valuable minerals consists of drilling a maximum of twenty rotary drill holes five and one-half inches in diameter to a depth of 500 feet. If indications of minerals are found in any of the rotary drill holes, a maximum of ten additional diamond drill core holes may be drilled to obtain core samples for analysis and to delineate any possible ore-body.

This Initial Study consists of an environmental impact assessment checklist, environmental information form responses and maps.

STATE LANDS COMMISSION
May 1983

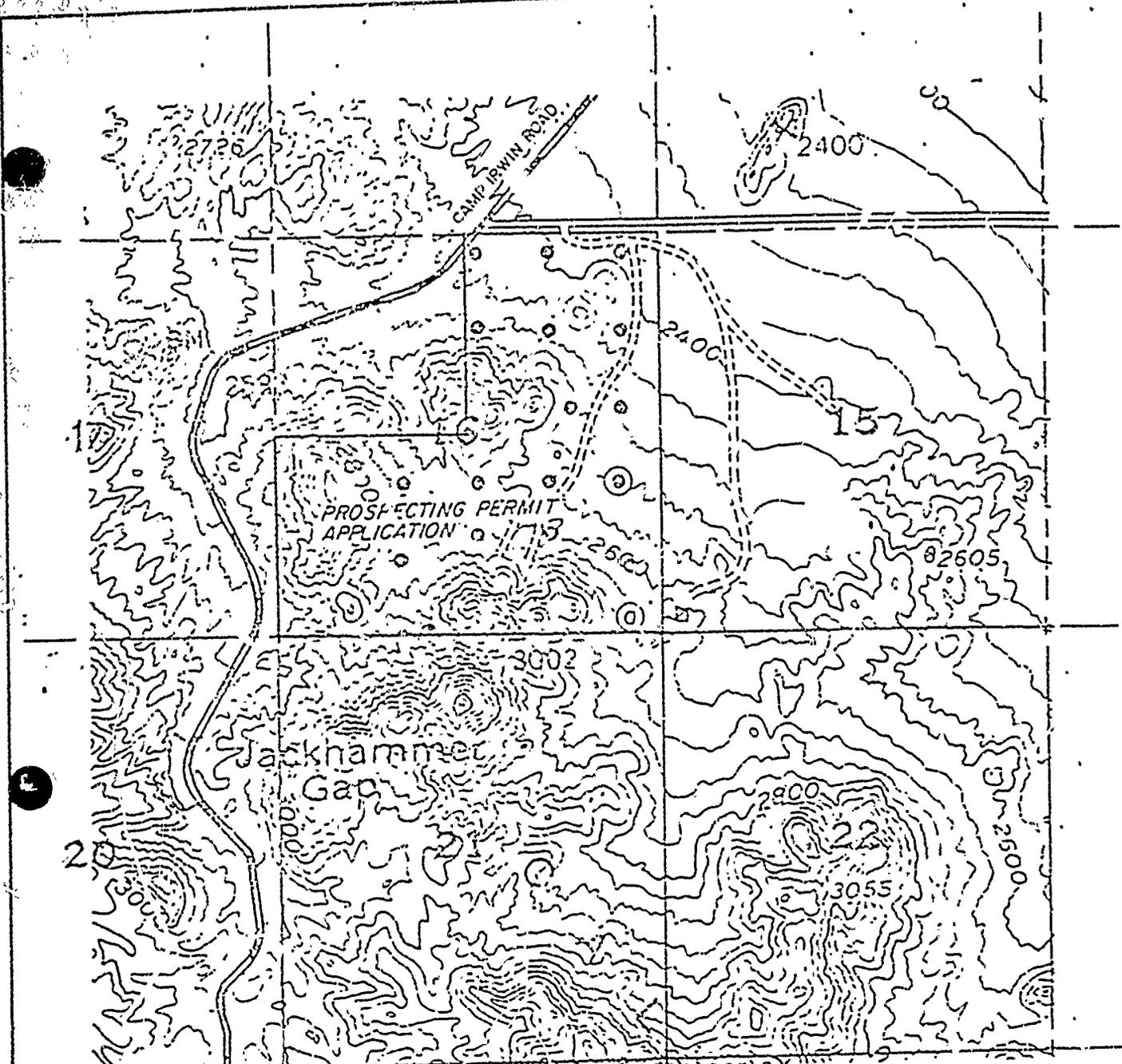
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DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. The D/J Project is located in the South half and the Northeast quarter of Section 16, Township 11 North, Range 1 East of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. (See attached maps)
2. The D/J Project is one of Mineral Prospecting. The search is being made to locate precious metal deposits which might be suitable for mining by open pit.
3. The following exploration plan would be followed:
 - A. 15 to 20 rotary drill holes, 5½ inches in diameter, would be drilled to a depth less than 500 feet. Spacing of the holes would be about 1000 feet.
 - B. If these holes indicated mineable amounts of precious metals, 2 or 3 diamond drill holes of the same diameter or less would be drilled to about the same depth as the rotary holes.
 - C. A map is attached showing proposed drill hole locations. Existing, unimproved roads are marked as well. We should be able to get to all of the drill sites without moving any dirt--a few rocks may have to be moved to allow high-centered vehicles to pass, but no road building involving cuts or fills is contemplated.
 - D. Drill pads would be temporary installations for both the rotary drills and the diamond drills. The only disturbance necessary for the rotary drills would be that to allow the carrier to get to the drills site. Holes would be drilled dry and the cuttings taken for assay.
 - E. Diamond drilling would require a level spot, 20 ft. by 60 ft. approximately, two or three 7 ft. diameter tanks and a 12 ft. by 30 ft. settling pit cut in the ground. All of these would be removed or covered when drilling was terminated. The surface casing for each of the holes drilled, rotary or diamond drill, would be cut off and capped below ground level and then covered. All holes with both types of drills as noted above would be 5½ inches in diameter and about 500 feet deep, at a maximum.

- F. All rotary holes are expected to be dry; no water is to be used in drilling and no water should be intercepted by the holes. Water used in the second phase diamond drilling will be recirculated to the fullest extent possible; any water which may be discharged will be left in a settling pond for an appropriate time to remove any sediments resulting from drilling.

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PROSPECTING PERMIT APPLICATION IN SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 11 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST,
SAN BERNARDINO BASE AND MERIDIAN, CALIFORNIA

- Rotary drill site on 1000' centers, except where modified due to topography.
- ⊙ Diamond drill hole (may be at any rotary site or mid-way between rotary site)

PROSPECTING PERMIT APPLICATION
PROPOSED DRILL HOLE LOCATIONS
ASARCO, INC.
STATE LANDS COMMISSION
W - 40361

ASARCO Incorporated
D/J PROJECT
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIF.

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ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FORM

(To be completed by applicant)

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name and address of developer or project sponsor: ASARCO Incorporated, P.O. Box 5747
Tucson, Arizona 85703
2. Address of project: S $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{2}$, S. 16, T11N, R1E, San Bernardino Meridian
Assessor's Block and Lot number: _____
3. Name, address, and telephone number of person to be contacted concerning this project: J.R. Stringham,
ASARCO Incorporated, P.O. Box 5747, Tucson, AZ 85703 Phone: 602-792-3010
4. Indicate number of the permit application for the project to which this form pertains: 1
5. List and describe any other related permits and other public approvals required for this project, including those required by City, regional, state and federal agencies. _____
None
6. Existing zoning district: RCN
Present use of site: None
7. Proposed use of site (Project for which this form is filed): Mineral prospecting

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

8. Site size. Approximately 480 acres.
9. Square footage.
10. Number of floors of construction.
11. Amount of off-street parking provided.
12. Attach plans.
13. Proposed scheduling.
14. Associated projects.
15. Anticipated incremental development.
16. If residential, include the number of units, schedule of unit sizes, range of sale prices or rents, and type of household and household size expected.
17. If commercial, indicate the type, whether neighborhood or city oriented, square footage of sales area, and loading facilities.
18. If industrial, indicate type, estimated employment per shift, and loading facilities.
19. If institutional, indicate the major function, estimated employment per shift facilities, and community benefits to be derived from the project.

Estimated occupancy, loading	<u>2</u>
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20. If the project involves a variance, conditional use or rezoning application, state this and indicate clearly why the application is required.

Are the following items applicable to the project or its effects? Discuss below all items checked yes. (attach additional sheets as necessary)

YES NO

21. Change in existing features of any bays, tidelands, beaches, lakes or hills, or substantial alteration of ground contours.
22. Change in scenic views or vistas from existing residential areas or public lands or roads.
23. Change in pattern, scale or character of general area of project.
24. Significant effect on plant or animal life.
25. Significant amounts of solid waste or litter.
26. Change in dust, ash, smoke, fumes or odors in vicinity.
27. Change in ocean, bay, lake, stream or ground water quality or quantity, or alteration of existing drainage patterns.
28. Change in existing noise or vibration levels in the vicinity.
29. Site on filled land or on slope of 10 percent or more.
30. Use of disposal of potentially hazardous materials, such as toxic substances, flammables or explosives.
31. Change in demand for municipal services (police, fire, water, sewage, etc.).
32. Increased fossil fuel consumption (electricity, oil, natural, gas, etc.).
33. Relationship to a larger project or series of projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

See attached 34. Describe the *project site* as it exists before the project, including information on topography, soil stability, plants and animals, and any cultural, historical or scenic aspects. Describe any existing structures on the site, and the use of the structures. Attach *photographs* of the site. Snapshots or polaroid photos will be accepted.

See attached 35. Describe the *surrounding properties*, including information on plants and animals and any cultural, historical or scenic aspects. Indicate the type of land use (residential, commercial, etc.), intensity of land use (one-family, apartment houses, shops, department stores, etc.), and scale of development (height, frontage, set-back, rear yard, etc.). Attach *photographs* of the vicinity. Snapshots or polaroid photos will be accepted.

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this initial evaluation to the best of my ability, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date 3/10/83

J. R. Stringham
For ASARCO Incorporated

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ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

34. The 480 acres of State land in Section 16 being solicited are on a pediment of decomposed bedrock thinly covered with alluvium. The one main drainage through the area has a little more alluvium in it but even it is thin enough to allow some small outcrops of the bedrock. Burro bush is sparsely scattered over the area. The one large hill has a large number of trenches and exploration pits upon it. There are no plants except the burro bush and no animals have been seen. There are no structures in the area; there are no cultural, historical or scenic aspects of interest. (Photographs of the area attached.)
35. The areas surrounding the area are much the same. Section 15, to the east, has a mining shaft with a small headframe. Several valid, unpatented mining claims have been recorded in that section, including some by Asarco. The terrain, geology, and vegetation are much the same as the State land in Section 15. There are no structures in the vicinity except the small headframe. ASARCO Incorporated has a State lease at the Waterloo Mine, about 6 miles to the south of this D/J project. (Photographs of the area attached.)

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST - PART II

Form 13.20 (7/82)

File Ref.: W 40361

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Applicant: ASARCO, Incorporated
P.O. Box 5747
Tucson, AZ 85703
(602) 792-5010

B. Checklist Date: 5 / 10 / 1983

C. Contact Person: Alexander E. Gonzalez
Telephone: (213) 590-5201

D. Purpose: Prospect for valuable minerals.

E. Location: NE 1/4, S 1/4 Section 16, Township 11 North, Range 1 East, SBB&M,
near Barstow, San Bernardino County. See attached maps.

F. Description: Drill a maximum of twenty rotary and ten diamond drill
holes to discover and delineate any possible valuable mineral
deposit. See attached project description.

G. Persons Contacted: See attached mailing list.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. (Explain all "yes" and "maybe" answers)

A. Earth. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures?
2. Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil?
3. Change in topography or ground surface relief feature?
4. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical feature?
5. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?
6. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may
modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet, or lake?
7. Exposure of all people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground
failure, or similar hazards?

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Yes Maybe No

B. Air. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality? Yes Maybe No
- 2. The creation of objectionable odors? Yes Maybe No
- 3. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally? Yes Maybe No

C. Water. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Changes in the currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters? Yes Maybe No
- 2. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff? Yes Maybe No
- 3. Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters? Yes Maybe No
- 4. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body? Yes Maybe No
- 5. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? Yes Maybe No
- 6. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters? Yes Maybe No
- 7. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations? Yes Maybe No
- 8. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? Yes Maybe No
- 9. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves? Yes Maybe No
- 10. Significant changes in the temperature, flow or chemical content of surface thermal springs? Yes Maybe No

D. Plant Life. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)? Yes Maybe No
- 2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants? Yes Maybe No
- 3. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species? Yes Maybe No
- 4. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop? Yes Maybe No

E. Animal Life. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Change in the diversity of species or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)? Yes Maybe No
- 2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals? Yes Maybe No
- 3. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals? Yes Maybe No
- 4. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat? Yes Maybe No

F. Noise. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Increase in existing noise levels? Yes Maybe No
- 2. Exposure of people to severe noise levels? Yes Maybe No

G. Light and Glare. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. The production of new light or glare? Yes Maybe No

H. Land Use. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. A substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area? Yes Maybe No

I. Natural Resources. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources? Yes Maybe No
- 2. Substantial depletion of any nonrenewable resources? Yes Maybe No

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- J. *Risk of Upset.* Does the proposal result in:
1. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substance (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions? Yes Maybe No
2. Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan? Yes Maybe No
- K. *Population.* Will the proposal result in:
1. The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area? Yes Maybe No
- L. *Housing.* Will the proposal result in:
1. Affecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing? Yes Maybe No
- M. *Transportation/Circulation.* Will the proposal result in:
1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement? Yes Maybe No
2. Affecting existing parking facilities, or create a demand for new parking? Yes Maybe No
3. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems? Yes Maybe No
4. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods? Yes Maybe No
5. Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic? Yes Maybe No
6. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians? Yes Maybe No
- N. *Public Services.* Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:
1. Fire protection? Yes Maybe No
2. Police protection? Yes Maybe No
3. Schools? Yes Maybe No
4. Parks and other recreational facilities? Yes Maybe No
5. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? Yes Maybe No
6. Other governmental services? Yes Maybe No
- O. *Energy.* Will the proposal result in:
1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy? Yes Maybe No
2. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources? Yes Maybe No
- P. *Utilities.* Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:
1. Power or natural gas? Yes Maybe No
2. Communication systems? Yes Maybe No
3. Water? Yes Maybe No
4. Sewer or septic tanks? Yes Maybe No
5. Storm water drainage? Yes Maybe No
6. Solid waste and disposal? Yes Maybe No
- Q. *Human Health.* Will the proposal result in:
1. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)? Yes Maybe No
2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards? Yes Maybe No
- R. *Aesthetics.* Will the proposal result in:
1. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view? Yes Maybe No
- S. *Recreation.* Will the proposal result in:
1. An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities? Yes Maybe No

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T. *Cultural Resources.*

Yes Maybe No

- 1. Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archeological site?
- 2. Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object?
- 3. Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic or cultural values?
- 4. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?

U. *Mandatory Findings of Significance.*

- 1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- 2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?
- 3. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?
- 4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

III. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION *(See Comments Attached)*

See attached project description, Discussion of Environmental Evaluation.

IV. PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

Date: / /

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DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

- A-2 Local disruption and compaction of soil will occur in the immediate vicinity of the drill rig when it is moved on and off a drillsite. A minimal amount of earthmoving to construct drillsites might be required at some locations.
- A-3 Some drilling sites might involve constructing level drillsites in hilly terrain.
- A-5 Some increase of wind and water erosion of any soil at newly constructed drillsites, especially in hilly terrain, will occur during rain and windstorms.
- B-1 Temporary dust emissions may occur during drilling and possible construction of drillsites.
- C-6 Drilling may penetrate one or more aquifers with a subsequent flow path through the drill hole. However, it is anticipated no water bearing formations will be penetrated. If ground water is encountered, the drill hole will be plugged with cement upon abandonment.
- F-1 The operating drill rig and service vehicle activities will temporarily increase the existing noise levels in the relatively quiet desert environment.