

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 23  
was approved as Minute Item  
No. 23 by the State Lands  
Commission by a vote of 3  
to 0 at its 5/24/84  
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A 33

23

05/24/84  
W 40296  
Hamilton/  
Gonzalez  
PRC 6669

S 16

NEGOTIATED SUBSURFACE OIL AND GAS LEASE

APPLICANT: Mr. Corbin J. Robertson  
P. O. Box 3331  
Houston, Texas 77253

AGENT: Quintana Petroleum Corporation  
P. O. Box 3331  
Houston, Texas 77253  
Attention: Mr. Bryan E. Stanek

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:

A portion of contiguous State-owned lands containing 919 acres out of 964 available acres that were originally disposed of as patented S&O lands with no minerals reserved; however, the lands were reacquired through donation with the surface use now administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the minerals disposition under the jurisdiction of the Commission. The State-owned lands are known as the Tule Elk State Reserve and are located about 20 miles west of Bakersfield, east of and adjacent to the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve in Kern County.

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LAND USE:

Surface drillsites are prohibited in the Tule Elk State Reserve pursuant to P.R.C. Section 5001.65 which states, in part, that "[C]ommercial exploitation of resources in units of the state park system is prohibited. However, slant or directional drilling for oil or gas with the intent of extracting deposits underlying the Tule Elk State Reserve in Kern County is permissible in accordance with Section 6854." As operator for the applicant, Quintana Petroleum Corporation intends to drill a vertical test well on private property adjacent to and east of the Tule Elk State Reserve. This exploratory well will be located about 1,000 to 2,000 feet from the eastern fence of the Tule Elk Reserve on non-State lands (see Exhibit "A"). Should commercial quantities of oil and gas be found under the Tule Elk State Reserve, the commercial exploitation of this resource will be by slant or directional drilling from the adjoining private lands.

TERMS OF THE PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASE:

The subject parcel is surrounded by land under lease to the applicant. The general area is considered "wildcat" territory as it has not previously produced oil or gas. Staff has evaluated the applicant's proposal and has negotiated with Quintana Petroleum Corporation and Corbin J. Robertson the following lease terms: (1) the lessee agrees to pay in advance an annual rental in the sum of \$50 per acre \$45,950 per year until commercial production is established then a rental of \$10 per acre will be required; (2) a flat rate royalty of 30 percent on all oil and gas produced from the leased lands; and (3) initial drilling term of two years, plus an extension not to exceed one year granted by the State at its discretion and as specified in the lease on file in the Sacramento and Long Beach offices of the State Lands Commission.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- A. P.R.C. Sections 5001.65, 6815 and 6854.
- B. Cal. Adm. Code: Title 2, Div. 3; Title 14, Div. 6.

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AB 884: 7/29/84.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

P.R.C. Section 6854 states, in part, that "[T]he Commission may grant a subsurface oil and gas lease in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 6815 covering all or any portion of the Tule Elk State Reserve in Kern County for the production of oil and gas underlying the reserve by means of slant or directional drilling from surface locations outside of the reserve." The proposed leasing has been reviewed by Staff Counsel who has advised that the development of the State-owned lands (Tule Elk State Reserve) is consistent and in full compliance with the applicable provisions of law and the rules and regulations of the Commission.

As required by P.R.C. Section 6854, the Executive Officer has consulted with the Department of Parks and Recreation during the environmental review process to ensure that the purposes for which the lands encompassing the Tule Elk State Reserve were acquired are not adversely affected by the proposed leasing. Comments made during this consultation are discussed in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.

Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15025), the staff has prepared a Proposed Negative Declaration identified as EIR ND 359, State Clearinghouse 84011604. Such Proposed Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated for public review pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA.

Based upon the Initial Study, the Proposed Negative Declaration and the comments received thereto, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment ((14 Cal. Adm. Code 15074(b))).

EXHIBIT:

- A. Location Map.
- B. Land Description.
- C. Proposed Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION, EIR ND 359, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE 84011604, WAS PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CEQA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.
2. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS APPROVED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE TO CORBIN J. ROBERTSON OF A SUBSURFACE OIL AND GAS LEASE WHICH CONTAINS APPROXIMATELY 919 ACRES OF STATE-OWNED LANDS THAT UNDERLIE THE TULE ELK STATE RESERVE IN KERN COUNTY.

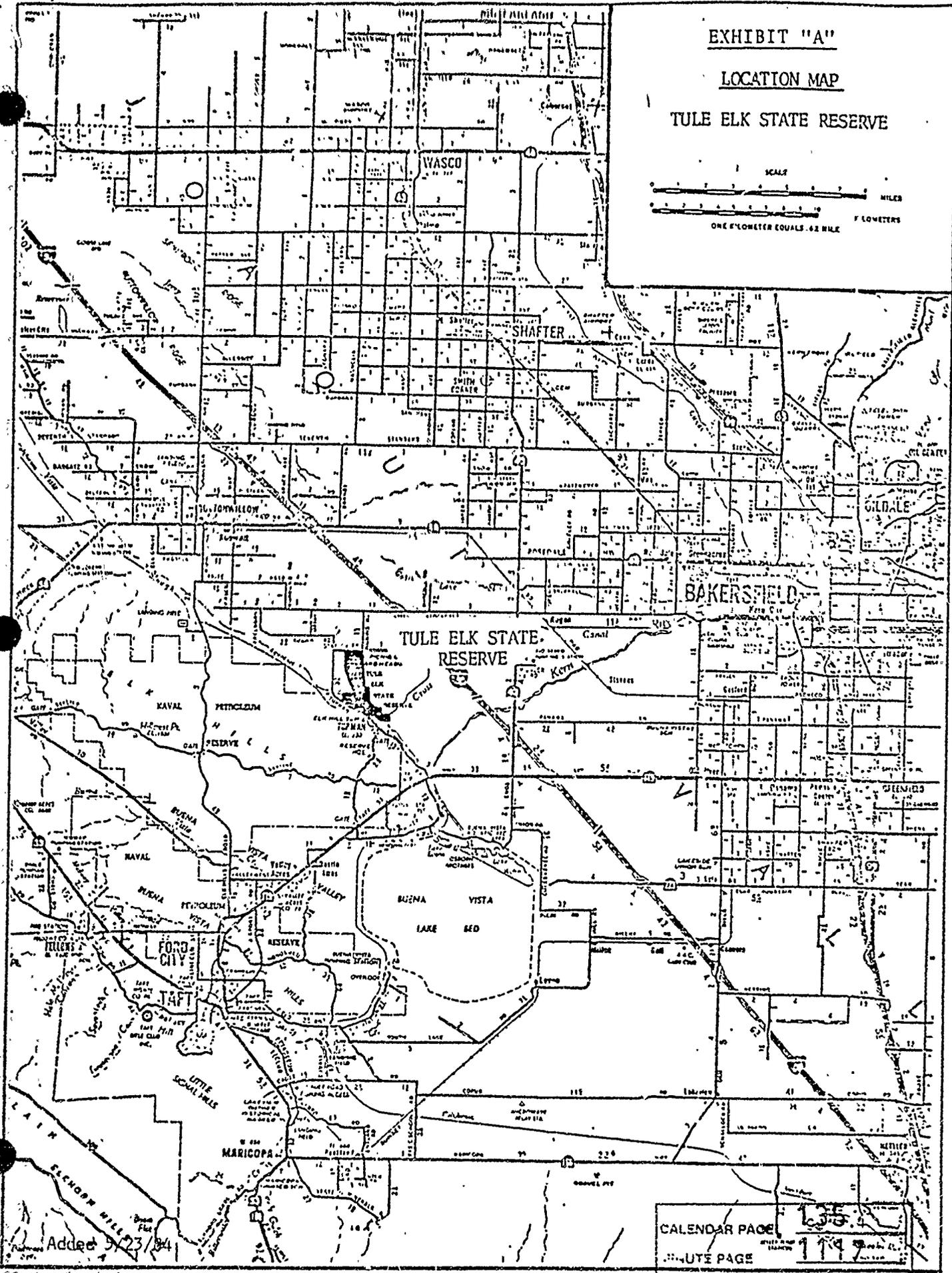
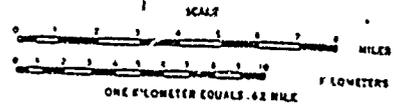
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EXHIBIT "A"

LOCATION MAP

TULE ELK STATE RESERVE



Addes 9/23/84

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## EXHIBIT "B"

## LAND DESCRIPTION

W 40296

Eight parcels of California State lands in T30S, R24E, MDM, Kern County, California, more particularly described as follows:

PARCEL 1

That portion of Section 11, T30S, R24E, MDM, described as follows:

BEGINNING at the northeast corner of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of said Section 11, from which point the northeast corner of said Section 11 bears N 0° 04' 00" E 3966.00 feet; thence S 89° 52' 00" W 1321.30 feet to the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of said Section 11; thence S 0° 05' 00" W 1321.50 feet to the southwest corner of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of said Section 11; thence along the south line of said Section 11 S 89° 53' 00" W 1948.20 feet to a point on the east right-of-way line of the East Side Canal; thence along said right-of-way line N 8° 55' 00" W 1897.90 feet; thence N 7° 55' 30" W 745.10 feet; thence leaving said right-of-way line N 89° 45' 00" E 3702.85 feet to a point on the east line of said Section 11; thence along said east line S 0° 04' 00" W 1294.19 feet to the point of beginning.

PARCEL 2

SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 11, T30S, R24E, MDM.

PARCEL 3

SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 13, T30S, R24E, MDM.

PARCEL 4

That portion of Section 14, T30S, R24E, MDM, described as follows:

BEGINNING at the southeast corner of said Section 14; thence along the south line of said Section 14, S 89° 55' 30" W 1263.80 feet to a point on the easterly right-of-way line of the East Side Canal; thence along said right-of-way line N 44° 06' 00" W 158.30 feet; thence N 57° 42' 30" W 387.50 feet; thence N 41° 50' 30" W 192.20 feet; thence N 19° 30' 00" W 278.00 feet; thence N 4° 15' 00" W 561.30 feet; thence N 13° 53' 00" W 421.00 feet; thence N 23° 06' 00" W 2356.60 feet; thence N 17° 30' 00" W 296.30 feet; thence N 8° 56' 00" W 1152.70 feet; thence leaving said right-of-way and along the north line of said Section 14, N 89° 53' 00" E 1948.20 feet to the northwest corner of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of said Section 14; thence S 0° 08' 00" W 1321.70 to the southwest corner of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of said Section 14; thence N 89° 54' 00" E 1321.10 feet to the southeast corner of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of said Section 14; thence along the east line of said Section 14, S 00° 08' 00" W 3966.00 feet to the point of beginning.

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PARCEL 5

NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 14, T30S, R24E MDM.

PARCEL 6

E 1/2 of the NE 1/4, NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4, and the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 23, T30S, R24E, MDM. EXCEPTING THEREFROM that portion of the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of said Section 23 lying northerly of the southerly boundary line of the Outlet Canal.

PARCEL 7

W 1/2 of the NW 1/4, N 1/2 of the SW 1/4, and the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 24, T30S, R24E, MDM.

PARCEL 8

That portion of Section 24, T30S, R24E, MDM, described as follows:

BEGINNING at the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of said Section 24; thence S 51° 52' 00" E 2130.00 feet to a point on the south line of the north half of said Section 24; thence along said south line West 1672.80 feet to the southwest corner of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of said Section 24; thence along the west line of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of said Section 24 North to the point of beginning.

END OF DESCRIPTION

REVIEWED MARCH 27, 1984 BY BOUNDARY AND TITLE UNIT, LEROY WEED, SUPERVISOR.

Added 5/23/84

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PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR ND 359

File Ref.: W 40296

SCH#: 84011604

Project Title: Proposed Subsurface Oil and Gas Lease of State-Owned Lands

Project Proponent: Corbin J. Robertson

Project Location: Tule Elk State Reserve near the community of Tupman in Kern County

Project Description: Subsurface oil and gas leasing of 909 acres of State-owned lands underlying the Tule Elk State Reserve with all development under the lease to be made by slant or directional drilling from adjacent non-State (private) lands.

Contact Person: Ted T. Fukushima Telephone: (916) 322-7813  
State Lands Commission  
1807 - 13th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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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Form 15.17 (8/83)

W 40296  
SCH# 84011604

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON  
THE INITIAL STUDY

Keen County Air Pollution Control District  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
California Department of Conservation - Office of the Director  
California Department of Fish and Game - Region 4  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central  
Valley Region  
Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk  
Letters of Comment follow:

Added 5/23/84

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### Additional Comments Received

In addition to the comments received during the public review period via the State Clearinghouse, the following comments were sent directly to the State Lands Commission from the Kern County Planning Department. Each comment is followed by the staff's response which has also been communicated to the County in letter form.

#### Comment

The document needs to provide a description and amount of waste drilling fluids that the proposed project could potentially produce. If significant wastes are generated, identification of a suitable waste disposal site is required. Lack of a disposal site or inadequate capacity over the long term will result in an amendment to the Kern County General Plan and the Kern County Solid Waste Management Plan to establish a waste disposal site. Economic data on the disposal of waste should be included.

#### Response

The proper disposal of waste drilling fluids is within the purview of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Central Valley Region Board has reviewed the proposed drilling program and in a memo to the Commission dated 2, February 1984, had no adverse comment on the project.

Guidelines on disposal sites suitable for waste drilling fluid disposal as well as surface disposal of oil and gas production water has been sent by the Central Valley Board directly to the applicant. The standard oil and gas lease form of the State Lands Commission contains the requirement that the lessee comply with all valid laws, rules and regulations of Federal, State and local agencies.

The proposed drilling program, which has been reviewed by the California Division of Oil and Gas, calls for an initial well drilled to an approximate depth of 10,700 feet.

The quantity of drilling fluid to be disposed of will probably not exceed 300 barrels or 1,600 cubic feet. According to the Central Valley Region Board (RWQCB) and Bakersfield office of D. O. G. the waste fluid may be disposed of as ordinary non-toxic waste at any approved disposal site. The nearest approved site to the project area is west of Buttonwillow near Highway 33 and 58, approximately 20 miles distant. Other approved sites within close proximity of the project area are: Petroleum Waste Management located 2½ miles east of Highway 33, Liquid Waste Management located at the intersection of Highway 33 and 58, and EPC Westside Dump located in the town of Fellows.

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Comments

Subsidence due to withdrawal of oil and/or gas products has not been addressed. It is well-documented that these types of geologic constraints are present in this area (Lofgren, "Land Subsidence Due to Groundwater Withdrawal, Arvin-Maricopa Area, California" Geological Survey Professional Paper 437-D, 1975). Due to the amount of public money invested in this area (Aqueduct, Canals, Preserve, etc.), substantially more input is required.

Response

The drilling and operational requirements section of the standard oil and gas lease form of the State Lands Commission contains the provision for suspension of operations under the lease upon receipt of evidence of subsidence of the surface of leased or adjacent lands. The United States Geological Survey professional Paper 437-D by Lofgren, et al, describes the reasons for land subsidence in the Arvin-Maricopa area as:

- 1) heavy pumping of ground (meteoric) water; and
- 2) hydrocompaction of moisture-deficient deposits when water is first applied.

Oil field subsidence is of secondary significance and was more extensive during earlier periods of heavy production. Staff members of the Division of Oil and Gas and Department of Water Resources have stated that the subject project is not likely to cause or aggravate subsidence.

Comment

Noise generated by drilling rigs constitute only a portion of the accoustical impacts that may occur as a result of this project. Noise evaluations conducted on oil wells by this office resulted in noise levels between 47 and 52 dba at 300 feet (Western Almond FEIR). The Kern County Noise Element lists wildlife sancturaries as Highly Sensitive Land Uses where maximum daytime noise levels should be 45 dba and nighttime levels at 35 dba. If oil well operation is a day-night function, then land within the preserve even in excess of 300 feet from well sites will be rendered significantly impacted by this action. State Lands Commission responds to State Parks and Recreation's noise concerns by noting "It does not seem....," which indicates that no evaluation of noise generated by rig activities or any other activity has been made.

In addition to noises generated by drilling rig and oil well operation, impacts from trucks moving to and from well pads must be considered.

Response

Under the provisions of an oil and gas lease issued by the State Lands Commission, the lessee is obligated to comply with all Federal, State or local agency laws and

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regulations. Muffling and noise reduction barriers, equipment and technology are available for use by the project proponent should specific project modifications be required by the County pursuant to their Noise Element. Operations site selection is likewise a decision to be made by the applicant to satisfy any local regulatory constraints. While the Commission has no direct regulatory responsibilities for enforcement of local noise standards, its lease provisions can ensure that such standards, once applied, will be observed.

Comment

It is doubtful that access roads to well pads will be paved. If this is correct, the EIR needs to address particulates (dust) generated by truck movement, not only on wildlife and vegetation within the Reserve, but on agriculture on private lands as well. While this county considers oil production and agriculture compatible, excess truck activity may make agricultural productions less viable.

Response

The Kern County Air Pollution Control District has reviewed the project and has stated:

"On the basis of the information provided, it would appear that air quality impacts would be minimal. We therefore believe a negative declaration would suffice for air quality concerns."

Comment

In responding to comments, State Lands notes that the elk "can accommodate themselves by moving away from the drilling operations as they have from agricultural activities, hunting club and stubble burning." We point out that these are all site specific temporary activities and that the size of the preserve is large enough to allow the animals area to move away from these temporary activities. Drilling operation and oil well pumping are constant and permanent and are located around almost the entire perimeter of the reserve thus minimizing the area of relief that the elk may seek.

Response

The California Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the project and has stated: "We do not believe the proposed action will adversely affect fish or wildlife or their habitat."

Comment

State Lands judges aesthetic impacts to be insignificant and temporary. Once installed, oil wells will be permanent until removed and capped. At present, the public view of the Reserve and surrounding agricultural land is of visual

openspaces; project area is rated Class II - Excellent Visual Space in the Kern County Master Environmental Assessment. The loss of this visually valuable land must be assessed.

Response

The dominant visual effect will be from the drilling rig and associated equipment. This will be a temporary effect and outside the State preserve. Permanent visual features, also outside the preserve, will be located on private lands and consist of well heads, pumping units or tanks. This equipment is not alien to the area and relatively passive and unobtrusive. These units could be painted to blend with the landscape or be landscaped such that they would not be readily visible.

Comment

It is immaterial whether the proposed project may continue with or without participation from the State of California; an adequate and legally defensible environmental document is required. Based on the comments received, the County's concerns and the level of analysis afforded in the draft negative declaration, it would appear that an Environmental Impact Report would be required under Section 15064 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Response

The staff of the State Lands Commission has determined that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. There will be no surface occupancy of the State-owned parcel; the responsible and trustee agencies identified through the assistance of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research have concurred that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment, wildlife or habitat of the project area.

Comment

A recent (December 1983) visit to the Reserve by our then Staff Biologist resulted in a finding that the reserve contains valuable remnants of San Joaquin Valley grasslands. Invasion of this unique reserve will result in long term irreplaceable loss of the native environment. This potential loss and impacts of oil production on the grassland needs to be addressed in an EIR.

Response

The California Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the project and has stated:

"We do not believe the proposed action will adversely affect fish or wildlife of their habitat."

There will be no surface occupancy or invasion of the Tule Elk Reserve by the project.

Added: 5/23/84

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KERN COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

1601 "H" Street, Suite 250  
Bakersfield, California 93301-5199  
Telephone: (805) 861-3682



LEON M HEBERTSON, M.D.  
Director of Public Health  
Air Pollution Control Officer

January 24, 1984

Mr. D. J. Everitts  
Assistant Chief  
Extractive Development Program  
State Lands Commission  
245 West Broadway, Suite 425  
Long Beach, CA 90802

ATTN: Mr. Michael Hamilton

Dear Mr. Everitts:

Subject: Initial Study for Proposed Subsurface Oil and Gas Lease  
for State Lands Underlying the Tule Elk State Reserve

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above environmental document and associated information. Our comments regarding this project are as follows:

1. The Rules and Regulations of the Kern County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) are so structured as to require the acquisition of permits from the District prior to the initiation of construction. These permits are required of equipment the operation of which will either emit, reduce, or control the discharge of air contaminants as described in Rule 201(a) of the Rules and Regulations of the Kern County APCD.

Kern County APCD Rule 210.1 (Standards for Authority to Construct) as amended April 5, 1983, provides the criteria for approving the permits. The objective of this rule is to insure that any new project or modification of an existing project will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of applicable ambient air quality standards. As a result, projects which receive approval under the above provisions are deemed to have no adverse air quality impacts.

2. The project as described involves the drilling for petroleum which underlies the Tule Elk State Reserve. At the present time, the Kern County APCD does not require the acquisition of permits for such activity.

1/24/84

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W40296

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Added 5/23/84

Mr. D. J. Everitts  
State Lands Commission  
January 20, 1984

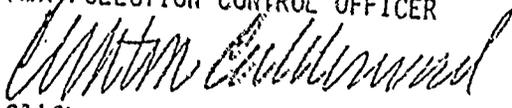
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3. On the basis of the information provided, it would appear that air quality impacts would be minimal. We therefore believe a negative declaration would suffice for air quality concerns.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Should you or your staff have any questions, please telephone our office at (805) 861-3682.

Sincerely,

LEON M HEBERTSON, M.D.  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER

  
Clifton Calderwood  
Assistant Chief Air Sanitation Officer

CC/d1

Added 5/23/84

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## Memorandum

Date : January 31, 1984

To : State Lands Commission  
245 West Broadway, Suite 425  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Attention: Mr. Michael Hamilton

From : Department of Parks and Recreation

DATE	FEB 2 1984
4 DJE	<i>[Signature]</i>
CFE	
3 ADW	<i>[Signature]</i>
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1 RCP	<i>[Signature]</i>
2 REG	<i>[Signature]</i>
Enc.	
W 40296	

Subject: Subsurface Oil and Gas Lease -  
Tule Elk State Reserve  
W30296  
SCH 84011604

The California Department of Parks and Recreation requests that an Environmental Impact Report be prepared for the subject project. We believe that an E.I.R. is required for the following reasons.

1. Disturbance by noise, dust, and light

The Initial Study has assumed that the apparent lack of impacts from agricultural machinery operations indicates that the additional noise and dust of drilling would cause no significant impacts. We are not aware of any research that indicates a threshold level of noise at which normal elk behavior or habits would be disrupted. Without such findings, a determination of no significant impact by the incremental increase of noise by drilling is unsubstantiated. There is some evidence, however, that some elk behavior may be photoperiodic, and, therefore, altered or disrupted by the lighting necessary for night drilling operations. These potential impacts should be researched, and recognized in the Environmental Impact Report, and mitigation developed and described in the E.I.R.

2. Aesthetic Impacts

The Initial Study relied on a site description of the State Reserve prepared in 1971 and updated in 1972. Since that description was written, the telephone poles have been removed, additional acreage placed under irrigation, trees planted, watering holes and riparian habitat established, rubbing posts removed, and the range flora has generally improved and increased through better herd management and the increased rainfall of the last several winters. The lease would

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potentially allow the installation of twelve wells around the perimeter of the State Reserve, forty wells in a 1600 acre area, and storage tanks. The effects of the intrusion of all these human made structures may not be severe, but the impacts and mitigation should be demonstrated in an E.I.R.

3. State Reserve significance.

The establishment of the State Reserve was based on the need to protect and manage the Tule Elk herd. The State Reserve may also contain San Joaquin Kit Fox and the Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard. The creation of watering holes has attracted waterfowl and riparian wildlife. Other improvements have increased the habitat value for wildlife, as well as creating a more favorable environment for visitors. The Initial Study has denigrated the State Reserve status of this unit based on an outdated site description. Whether or not this unit presents a good example of Tule Elk habitat is immaterial; it is the only area which provides a protected range for their preservation.

If we can provide more information, please feel free to call us.

*Maurice H. Getty for*

Maurice H. Getty, Chief  
Resource Protection Division

MHG:RUeltren:mb

Added 5/23/84

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State of California

# Memorandum

DATE	FEB 6 1984
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SOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

To : State Lands Commission  
 245 West Broadway, Suite 425  
 Long Beach, California 90802  
 Attention: Michael Hamilton

February 2, 1984

SCH 84011604  
 Subsurface Oil and  
 Gas Leases, Tule Elk  
 Reserve, Kern County

From : Department of Conservation—Office of the Director

The Department of Conservation has reviewed the Initial Study regarding the proposal to issue a subsurface oil and gas lease for the Tule Elk State Reserve. In regard to the impact of drilling operations, the Department's Division of Oil and Gas (CDOG) believes that a Negative Declaration is appropriate because the proposed wells must be drilled in accordance with statutes and regulations, administered by the CDOG. These statutes and regulations stress resource protection and safety.

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If you have any questions, please contact George Borkovich at the CDOG district office in Bakersfield. The address is 4800 Stockdale Highway, Suite 417, Bakersfield 93309, telephone (805) 322-4031.

*Dennis J. O'Bryant*  
 Dennis J. O'Bryant  
 Environmental Program Coordinator

cc: G. Borkovich, Division of Oil and Gas, Bakersfield  
 R. Reid, Division of Oil and Gas, Sacramento

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# Memorandum

DATE	FEB 6 1984
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2 REG	<i>100</i>
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FILE:	W40296

Date February 3, 1984

To : State Lands Commission  
 245 W. Broadway, Suite 425  
 Long Beach, CA 90802

Attention: Mr. Michael Hamilton

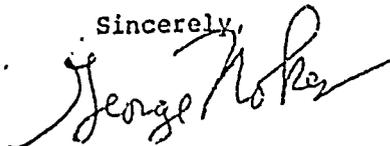
From : Department of Fish and Game - Region 4

Subject: SCH #84011604, Initial Study for Subsurface Oil and Gas Lease  
 Underlying Tule Elk State Reserve, Kern County

We have reviewed subject document and, on the basis of the information provided, we do not believe the proposed action will adversely affect fish or wildlife or their habitat. Should additional information become available, we would appreciate an opportunity to provide further comments or recommendations.

If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact Rod Goss at 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710, phone (209) 222-3761.

Sincerely,



George D. Nokes  
 Regional Manager

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Memorandum

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD • CENTRAL VALLEY REGION  
3374 E. Shields Avenue, Room 18 Fresno, California 93726 Phone: (209) 445-5116

TO: Mr. D. J. Everits, Assist. Chief Extractive Development Program  
State Lands Commission  
245 W. Broadway  
Long Beach, CA 90802

FROM: F. Scott Nevins  
Senior Engineer

DATE: 14 February 1984

SIGNATURE: F. Scott Nevins

SUBJECT: FILE NO. W04296 - SCH NO. 84011604

The proposed facilities will primarily be governed by the Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas. Our concern in drilling, redrilling or exploratory operations is that waste drilling fluids be disposed of properly upon completion of the drilling operation. Proper disposal of waste drilling fluids implies either transport to a Class I or II-1 disposal site, or disposal in a manner consistent with the subject waste generators previously submitted and approved proposal for alternate disposal.

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Surface disposal of oil and gas production water is subject to a limitation of 1,000 micromhos Electrical Conductivity, 200 mg/l Chloride, and 1 mg/l Boron. Any production water exceeding any one of these limitations could not be disposed of to a surface facility unless it has been made impervious to percolation.

If you have any questions on this matter, please call Scott Smith at our office.

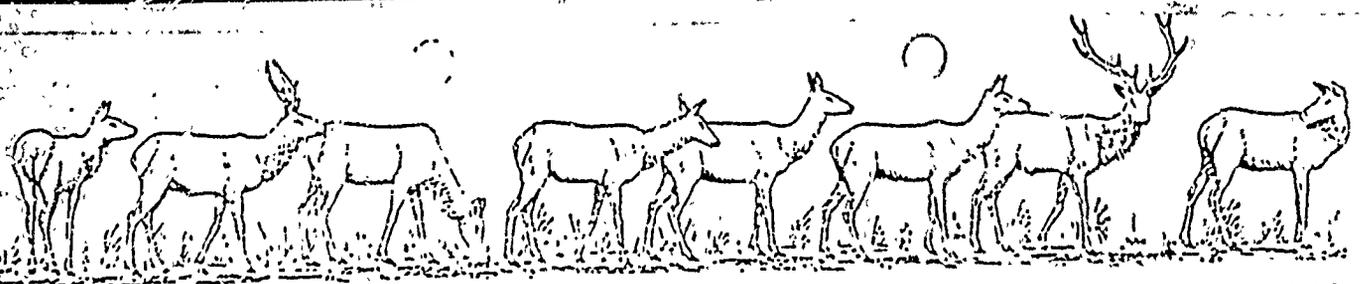
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cc: Mr. Bryan E. Stanek, Quitana Petroleum

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4 MG	4/22

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# COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE TULE ELK

P.O. Box 3696, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92102

FEB 22 1984	
4 DJE	February 20, 1984
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State Lands Commission  
245 West Broadway, Suite 425  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Attn: Mr. Michael Hamilton

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The position of the Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk in regard to the proposed project for a sub-surface oil and gas lease of lands underlying the Tule Elk State Reserve, your file ref. W 40296, SCH 84011604, is that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be required.

Among the substantial impacts of this project are liable to be a drastic increase in noise levels, a deterioration of air quality, and considerable movement of vehicles and machinery, all of which could adversely affect tule elk behavior, in what is intended to be a tule elk refuge. Our preliminary judgment, on the basis of the information so far available, is that this project, as planned, is inherently incompatible with the idea and functions of a state tule elk reserve.

Moreover, in the course of preparation of the EIR, we believe that a resources inventory of the Tule Elk State Reserve must be compiled. In addition to the tule elk, there are other bird and animal species inhabiting the Reserve that will be affected by the project to a significant degree. It is possible that these include rare, endangered, or otherwise protected species. It is absurd to think that one can accurately gauge the impacts of a project of this kind without first knowing what is there to be impacted.

Thank you for including us in your consultation on this matter, and please keep us informed of any proposed actions.

Sincerely yours,  
*Steven E. Slap*  
Steven E. Slap

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RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Kern County Air Pollution Control District

1. General Comment/Permitting--Comments noted; no response required.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

California Department of Parks and Recreation

2. Disturbance by noise, dust and light--

These impacts are discussed in the Initial Study Evaluation, Items B1, B2, F1 and G1.

The proposed subsurface oil and gas leasing will depend on the results of an exploratory drill hole to be located on private land some 2000 feet from the eastern boundary of the State Reserve. If a commercial hydrocarbon accumulation is discovered in this initial hole, and geologic data infers that the reservoir may extend beneath the State Reserve, additional drilling may take place to develop the resource. The maximum number of slant drill holes that would be required to fully develop a reservoir beneath the State Reserve is twelve holes at the locations shown on the initial study map. Drilling of these holes would be done consecutively using one drilling rig. It does not seem that noise generated by the rig will have the sound characteristics or intensity sufficient to cause a permanent effect of the Elk. Some dust may be generated by service vehicle traffic. Drilling operations will not generate dust as drilling will be done using drilling fluids. Lighting of the drill rig and auxiliary equipment will be directed to the working area only and glare will be incidental.

It appears that the Elk can accommodate themselves by moving away from the source of any disturbance caused by drilling operations as the Elk no doubt have done during Reserve enhancement work mentioned in the DPR comments, agricultural activities in the neighboring fields, hunting activities at the Mesquite Hunting Club and burning of stubble in the adjoining fields.

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3. Esthetic Impacts--

The area surrounding the State Reserve is dedicated to intensive agriculture and petroleum production. Thousands of oil wells have been drilled in the nearby Tule Elk, Elk Hills, Canals, North Coles Levee, Strand and Bowebank oil fields. Drilling operations will have temporary and insignificant esthetic impact. Any production and storage structures or equipment, if required, will be located on private lands, fully permitted by all State and local agencies and complying with local codes.

4. State Reserve Significance--

The legislature has provided for the leasing of public use lands with development of the oil and gas resources of these lands by slant drilling (PRC 6854). The legislature has specifically designated the Tule Elk Reserve as suitable for directional drilling production of any oil and gas deposits underlying the Reserve (PRC 5001.65).

The transient, temporary and insignificant impacts on the Tule Elk and the State Reserve due to drilling operations conducted on the adjacent private lands indicate that a negative declaration is satisfactory for this project. Additionally it should be noted that the proposed drilling could be conducted without the State lease entitlement by limiting the bottom hole location to the private lands. In such circumstance the State lands could be subjected to drainage of the resource without compensation. It is believed that the proposed agreement is in the best interests and provides maximum protection to the State.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

California Department of Conservation - Office of the Director

5. General Comment/Permitting -- Comments noted; no response required.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

California Department of Fish and Game - Region 4

6. General Comment -- comments noted; no response required.

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RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region

7. Disposition of waste drilling fluids or production water--

All leases issued by the State Lands Commission require compliance by the lessee with Division 3 and 6 of the Public Resources Code, Title 2, of the California Administrative Code and with all applicable laws, rules and regulations of the State of California and the various agencies including but not limited to, the Division of Oil and Gas, Department of Fish and Game, Division of Industrial Safety, Air Resources Board, State Water Resources Control Board, and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. A performance bond is required from the lessee as well as an active surveillance program by the Commission, to insure compliance with all terms and conditions of the lease.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk

8. Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be required--

The transient, temporary and insignificant impacts on the Tule Elk and the State Reserve due to drilling operations conducted on adjacent private lands indicate that a negative declaration is satisfactory for this project. Additionally it should be noted that the proposed drilling could be conducted without the State lease entitlement by limiting the bottom hole location to the private lands. In such circumstance the State lands could be subjected to drainage of the resource without compensation. It is believed that the proposed agreement is in the best interests and provides maximum protection to the State.

9. Substantial impacts are liable to be a drastic increase in noise levels, ...deterioration of air quality...movement of vehicles which could adversely affect Tule Elk behavior-- These impacts are discussed in the Initial Study Evaluation, Items B1, B2, F1 and G1.

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It does not seem that noise generated by the rig will have the sound characteristics or intensity sufficient to cause permanent effect on the Elk. Some dust may be generated by service vehicle traffic. Drilling operations will not generate dust as drilling will be done using drilling fluids. Lighting of the drilling rig and auxiliary equipment will be directed to the working area only and glare will be incidental.

It appears that the Elk can accommodate themselves by moving away from the source of any temporary disturbance caused by drilling operations as the Elk no doubt have done during Reserve enhancement work, agricultural activities in the neighboring fields, hunting activities at the Mesquite Hunting Club and burning of stubble in the adjoining fields.

The area surrounding the State Reserve is dedicated to intensive agriculture and petroleum production. Thousand of oil wells have been drilled in the nearby Tule Elk, Elk Hills, Canals, North Coles Levee, Strand and Bowerbank oil fields. Drilling operations will have a temporary and insignificant esthetic impact. Any production and storage structures or equipment, if required, will be located on private lands, fully permitted by all State and local agencies and complying with local codes.

The legislature has provided for the leasing of public use lands with development of the oil and gas resources of these lands by slant drilling (PRC 6854). The legislature has specifically designated the Tule Elk Reserve as suitable for directional drilling and, if successful, production of any oil and gas deposits underlying the Reserve from the adjacent private lands (PRC 5001.65).

10. A resources inventory...must be compiled. It is possible that (other species inhabiting the Reserve) include rare, endangered or otherwise protected species.

The California Division of Oil and Gas, Department of Fish and Game, Regional Water Quality Control Board and Kern County Air Pollution Control District upon reviewing the initial study have all concluded that any impacts to the State Reserve will be insignificant and that a Negative Declaration is adequate for the project. Although a

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resources inventory of the State reserve may be desirable it should be remembered that the proposed operation may be conducted entirely on privately-owned lands with or without the State's participation. Therefore we believe it is in the State's best interest to enter into a lease with the applicant which will provide restrictions and controls during drilling and production operations and for protection of any potential resource under the State Reserve.

END OF COMMENTS, RESPONSES

Added. 5/23/84

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INITIAL STUDY FOR PROPOSED SUBSURFACE OIL AND GAS LEASE  
FOR STATE LANDS UNDERLYING THE TULE ELK STATE RESERVE,  
KERN COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

The State Lands Commission has received a request from the Quintana Petroleum Corporation, agent for Corbin J. Robertson, for a negotiated subsurface oil and gas lease of lands that underlie the Tule Elk State Reserve. Any lease issued by the Commission will be conditioned to require that all exploration be conducted by directional or slant drilling from adjacent non-State Reserve (private) lands. Furthermore, should commercial quantities of petroleum be found, any development of the resource will also be from adjoining lands that are not included in the state park system and will be conducted in strict compliance with all applicable rules, regulations and requirements of the State Lands Commission, Division of Oil and Gas, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Kern County APCD and other permitting agencies. The staff of the Commission intends to adopt a Negative Declaration for the proposed leasing.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND ITS LOCATION

This project involves the subsurface leasing of minerals on 909 acres out of 964 available acres of State owned lands that are controlled by the State Lands Commission and which underlie the Tule Elk State Reserve. Surface use of the parcel is administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The proposed leasing of the Tule Elk State Reserve for the production of oil and gas is authorized by sections 5001.65 and 6854 of the Public Resources Code. This initial study consists of an environmental impact assessment checklist, location and site maps, distribution list, and is prepared pursuant to the requirements of CEQA and addresses the potential environmental effects which might occur as a result of this proposed leasing.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Tule Elk State Reserve near Tupman contains about 964 acres of fenced and sparsely vegetated flatlands lying just northeast of the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve in the San Joaquin Valley. As this project will not involve the surface use of the Tule Elk State Reserve, this initial study addresses only the environmental effects which may result from leasing activities on adjacent

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(private) non-State Reserve lands.

The area surrounding the Tule Elk State Reserve consists mainly of privately owned cultivated farmland and rangeland. To the south, the Reserve is transected by the California Aqueduct and Buena Vista Canal. To the immediate south of the Reserve lies the community of Tupman. The East Side Canal and Levee borders the Reserve to the east and then bisects the southern half of the Reserve. Numerous paved and unpaved public and private roads surround the Reserve making access to the adjacent lands readily available.

IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

See attached checklist.

DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

See attached discussion.

COMPATIBILITY WITH EXISTING ZONING AND PLANS

There will be no drilling within the Tule Elk State Reserve; however, all drilling outside the Reserve on adjoining private lands will comply with all permitting agencies rules and regulations, and shall be consistent with existing zoning, plans and other applicable land use controls.

PERSONS WHO PREPARED AND PARTICIPATED IN THIS INITIAL STUDY

Alex Gonzalez  
Senior Mineral Resources Engineer  
Michael Hamilton  
Associate Mineral Resources Engineer  
245 W. Broadway, Suite 425  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4471  
(213) 590-5201 or ATSS 635-5201

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST - PART II

Form 13.20 (7/82)

File Ref.: W 40296  
SCH# 84011604

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Applicant: Corbin J. Robertson Agent: Quintana Petroleum Corp.  
P.O. Box 3331 P. O. Box 10658  
Houston, TX 77253 Bakersfield CA 93389  
Attn: Bryan E. Stanek

B. Checklist Date: 1 / 18 / 84

C. Contact Person: Mike Hamilton or Alex Gonzalez  
Telephone: (213 ) 590-5201 - ATSS 635-5201

D. Purpose: See "Introduction" statement of attached Initial Study.

E. Location: See "Description of Project and its Location" statement of Initial Study.

F. Description: Same as Item "E" above.

G. Persons Contacted: See attached distribution list.

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

A. Earth. Will the proposal result in:

- |  | Yes                      | Maybe                    | No                                  |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Change in topography or ground surface relief features? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Exposure of all people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or similar hazards? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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Yes Maybe No

B. Air. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?
- 2. The creation of objectionable odors?
- 3. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?

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?
- 2. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff?
- 3. Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters?
- 4. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?
- 5. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?
- 6. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters?
- 7. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?
- 8. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?
- 9. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves?
- 10. Significant changes in the temperature, flow or chemical content of surface thermal springs?

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)?
- 2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants?
- 3. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?
- 4. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop?

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)?
- 2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?
- 3. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?
- 4. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat?

F. Noise. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Increase in existing noise levels?
- 2. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?

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

- 1. The production of new light or glare?

H. Land Use. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. A substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?

I. Natural Resources. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources?
- 2. Substantial depletion of any nonrenewable resources?

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- J. Risk of Upset.** Does the proposal result in:
1. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (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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Yes Maybe No

T. Cultural Resources.

- 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 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)

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: 1 / 18 / 84

Added 5/15/84

For the State Lands Commission  
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 Form 1320 (7/78)

Discussion of Environmental Evaluation

- B-1 & 2. Drilling and producing activities and related vehicular movement on adjacent private lands would cause an increase in dust, fumes and odors in the vicinity. However, the impact of this potential increase would be similar to and probably in less quantity than the dust, fumes, smoke and odors currently generated by farming activities on these adjacent lands.
- D-4. There will be a slight reduction of acreage available for agricultural use due to the drillsite requirements. However, the adjacent parcel land owner(s) have consented to this land use.
- F-1. Drilling activity on the adjacent private lands, which would be temporary in nature, would cause an increase in the noise and vibration levels in the vicinity, but the same would not be significantly greater than those currently generated by farming operations on the adjacent lands. In the event of discovery of oil or gas, permanent oil and/or gas producing operations would result in minimal long-term noise and vibration.
- G-1. Any well drilled on lands adjacent to the Reserve would cause a drilling rig to be visible at a distance of over 1000 feet from Station Road and the visitor viewing area at the north end of the Reserve for a period of 60 to 90 days. In the event production is established, permanent production facilities, consisting primarily of an oil well pumping unit and oil storage tanks, may be visible on a low profile from that distance.
- I-1. Although the drilling of wells requires the consumption of electricity and fossil fuels, such activity may lead to the discovery and production of significant new reserves of fossil fuels.
- J-1. Potentially hazardous materials such as toxic chemicals, radio-active substances (well logging tools) and flammables would be present on drillsite location(s) on the adjacent properties in accordance with normal oilfield practices. However, full compliance with the regulations of the Division of Oil and Gas and local permitting agencies should reduce the potential of an accident or upset conditions.

M-1 & 2. Aside from rig move-in and move-out, the average number of employees and contractors per 8-hour shift is estimated at seven with seven light vehicles (autos and pickup trucks). As many as twenty people may be present at one time depending upon the operation being conducted at the well. One small trailer home will be used for shelter and temporary office for Operator's employees, one small trailer and "dog house" for contractors.

O-1. Please see I-1 above.

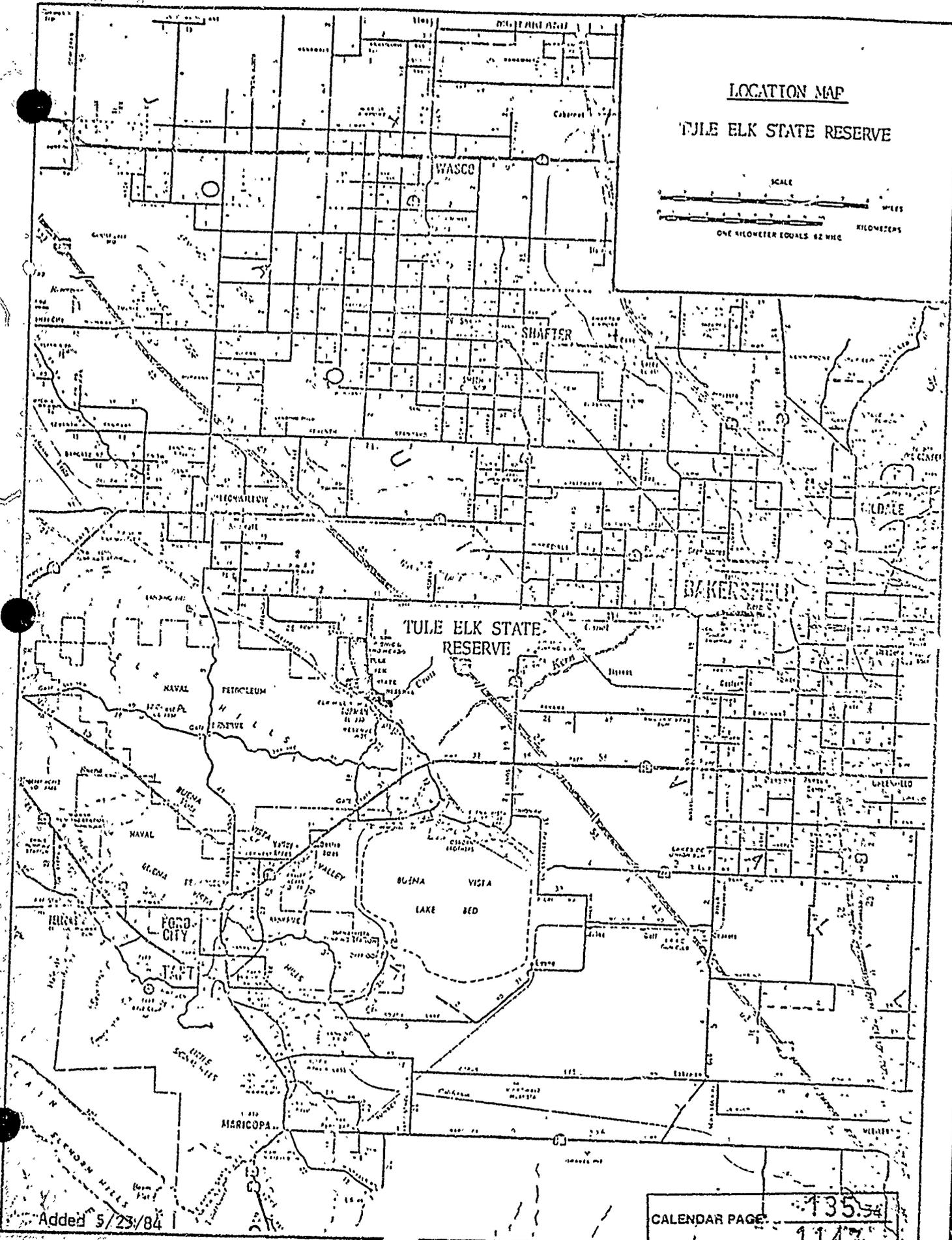
R-1. The drillsite will be located on private lands adjacent to the Tule Elk State Reserve and the permanent visual impact will be minimal.

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LOCATION MAP  
 TULE ELK STATE RESERVE

SCALE  
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES  
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 KILOMETERS  
 ONE KILOMETER EQUALS 0.62 MILE



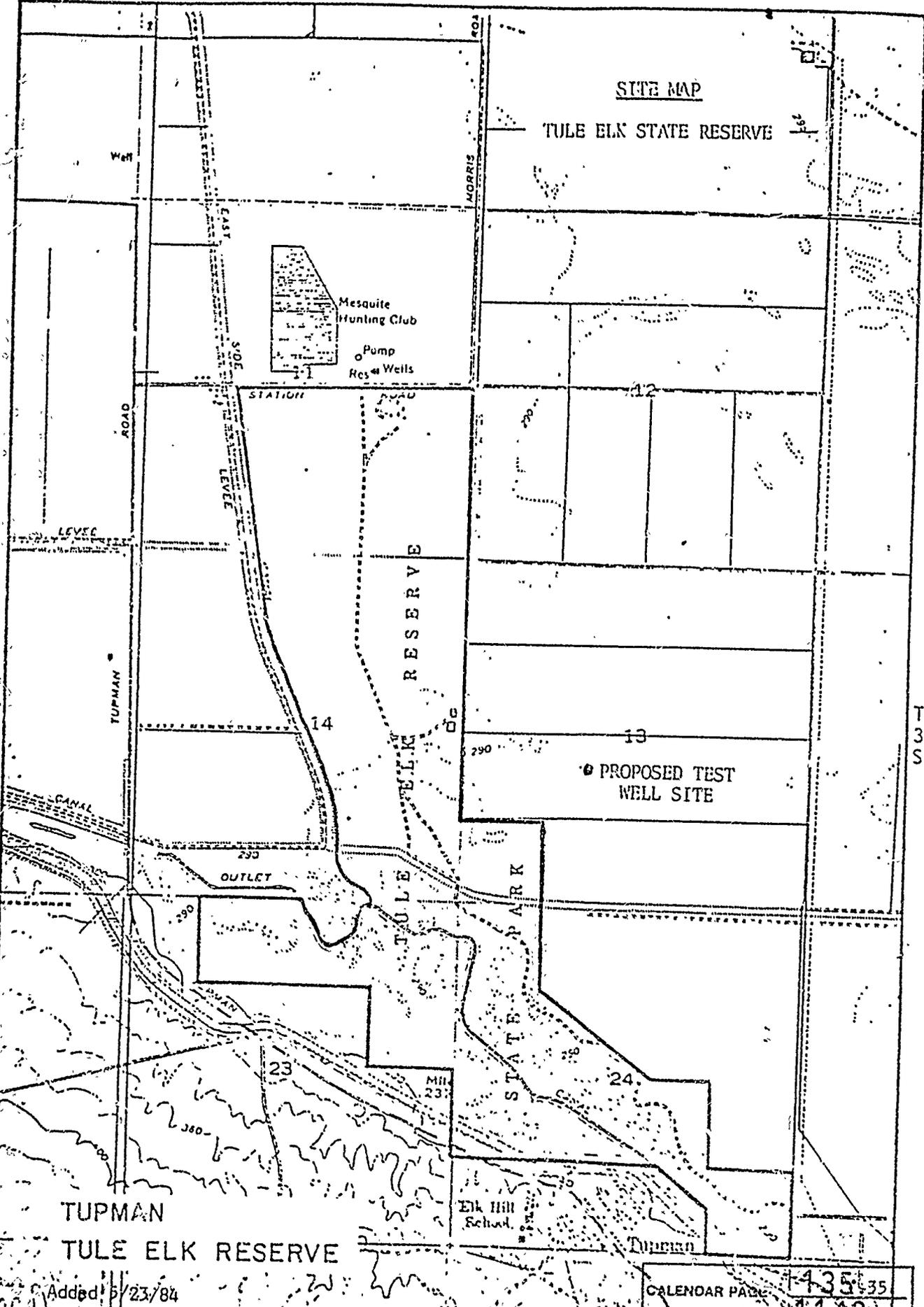
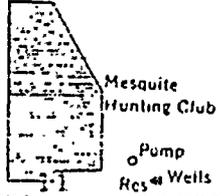
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R 24 E

SITE MAP

TULE ELK STATE RESERVE



TUPMAN  
TULE ELK RESERVE

Added 5/23/84

R 24 E

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM - Part I  
(To be completed by applicant)  
FORM 69.3 (7/82)

## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

## 1. Name, address, and telephone number:

## a. Applicant:

Corbin J. RobertsonP.O. Box 3331Houston, TX 77253( 713 ) 651-8915

## b. Contact person if other than applicant:

Bryan E. StanekP.O. Box 10658Bakersfield, CA 93389( 805 ) 398-5651

2. a. Project location: Tupman Tule Elk Reserve (administered by California Department of Parks and Recreation), covering portions of Sections 11, 13, 14, 23 and 24, T30S-R24E, MDB&M, Kern County, California, containing a total of 909 acres, more or less, insofar as Applicant's area of interest is concerned. (The Reserve also covers an additional 56 acres, more or less, that are not of interest to Applicant - see attached map)

- b. Assessor's parcel number: #159-050-011; 150-180-001; 159-180-002; 152-180-009; and portion of #159-180-005

3. Existing zone of project site: All above parcels are zoned Agriculture, except #159-180-005 which is zoned Open Space

4. Existing land use of project site: State Park - Tule Elk Reserve

5. Proposed use of site: Subsurface Oil and Gas Lease allowing drilling for and development of oil and gas deposits underlying same by means of slant or directional drilling from wellsite locations on adjacent privately owned lands. Absolutely no entry upon the surface of the Reserve will be required for this use.

6. Other permits required: Prior to drilling a well under the project site, Quintana Petroleum Corporation, which serves as Operator for Applicant, will secure the approval of the Division of Oil and Gas of the Department of Conservation. No County Use Permit will be required; Applicant is not aware of any other permits that will be required other than those that may be additionally required by the State Lands Commission.

## B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

For oil and gas lease applications, please complete attached supplement to Form 63.9.

**C. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

1. 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.

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.).

**D. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Answer the following questions by placing a check in the appropriate box. Discuss all items checked "yes" or "maybe". (Attach additional sheets as necessary)

Will the project involve:	Yes	Maybe	No
1. a change in existing features of any bays, tidelands, beaches, lakes or... hills, or substantial alteration of ground contours?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. a change in scenic views or vistas from existing residential areas or... public lands or roads?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. a change in pattern, scale, or character of the general area of project?...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. significant effect on plant or animal life?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. significant amounts of solid waste or litter?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. a change in dust, ash, smoke, fumes, or odors in the vicinity?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. a change in ocean, bay, lake, stream, or ground water quality or quantity, or alteration of existing drainage patterns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. a change in existing noise or vibration levels in the vicinity?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. construction on filled land or on slope of 10 percent or more?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials, such as toxic or radioactive substances, flammables, or explosives?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. a change in demand for municipal services (police, fire, water, sewage, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. increase in fossil fuel consumption (electricity, oil, natural gas, etc.)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. a larger project or a series of projects?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**E. 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: October 5, 1983

*Bryan E. Stalder*  
 Bryan E. Stalder  
 For CORBIN J. ROBERTSON  
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## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

(Attachment to Environmental Impact Assessment Form Submitted October 5, 1983, on behalf of Corbin J. Robertson regarding Tupman Tule Elk Reserve.)

### 1. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT SITE:

The Tupman Tule Elk Reserve is one of 13 separate areas in California where the Tule Elk herds are established. The total population of all 13 herds is approximately 900 animals. The Tupman Reserve in Kern County is comprised of approximately 965 acres, of which approximately 685 acres are presently available for use by the Tule Elk. Situated on the west side of the southerly San Joaquin Valley, the vast majority of the acreage is very sparsely vegetated with desert type scrub. The Reserve is totally fenced and is presently occupied by approximately 80 Tule Elk which must be fed substantial quantities of alfalfa pellets in order to supplement the food supply offered by the sparse natural vegetation. The width of the Reserve averages approximately one-half mile in an east-west direction and is two and one-half miles long in a north-south direction. (Please look through the accompanying 3-ring binder containing an index map and 9 pages of annotated photographs that were taken in April of 1983 from the points shown on the index map.)

In the Applicant's opinion, the following description of the Reserve, which appears in "A Report on the Tule Elk State Reserve With Recommendations for Management" by Jack L. Hinkle, State Park Wildlife Ecologist, dated July 13, 1971 and updated November, 1972, holds fairly accurate today:

"When a visitor comes to the elk reserve today, he finds an oasis of about five acres at the entrance where the elk can be viewed. This area consists of green lawns, many trees, picnic ramadas and restrooms. All this is on the visitor's side of the fence. A chain link fence on the south side of this oasis separates the visitor from the 'elk range'.

"On the elk side of the fence, the area is treeless, and completely without vegetation as far as one can see (June). A water trough and four feeding troughs are in the immediate foreground and several water wallows are in the back of the feeding troughs. Several posts have been placed in the area to be used by the elk to rub their antlers and these are well worn. About 75 feet to the west of the viewing area and extending south is a 12-inch steel water main laid on top of the ground. A telephone pole line follows the water main and is a part of the same installation. Looking southerly from the viewing area one can also see numerous power poles, and in the far distance, the Elk Hills. The setting is extremely bleak and under no stretch of the imagination could be considered typical of original elk habitat. (emphasis added)

"The lack of any shade for the animals would probably be the item of greatest criticism by visitors, followed by the lack of any vegetation.

"In spite of the poor range, the elk appear to be in a very healthy and thrifty condition and they are probably in a better state than they would

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be under even pristine times. This, of course, is due to the feeding program that very satisfactorily meets their food requirements. Artificial feeding supplies the major portion of the food consumed by the elk and natural feed (annuals) is only available in the first few months of the year. An irrigated area of 15 acres also supplements the alfalfa pellets that are fed to the elk.

"The elk range at the present time is bisected by the Miller Canal and the elk in recent years have only used the northern portion which is about 65 percent of the 954-acre [sic] area."

For a full copy of this report (Document #E1) and copies of all other printed information on the Tule Elk of which Applicant is aware, please refer to "Publication Survey and Status Report for the Tule Elk" dated October 23, 1981 which was prepared by the independent environmental consulting firm of MCR Services, Inc. of Santa Barbara. A copy of this Publication Survey and Status Report was previously furnished to the State Lands Commission office in Long Beach under Quintana Petroleum Corporation's cover letter of January 21, 1982. (Quintana serves as Operator for the interests of Corbin J. Robertson.)

The Applicant also offers the following quote from page 7 of the 5th Annual Report to Congress on the Tule Elk in California dated March, 1981 and prepared by the Bureau of Land Management for the Secretary of the Interior (please see MCR Survey Document #F), which describes the nature and condition of the habitat of the Tupman Elk Reserve:

"Although this unit provides transplant stock for the rest of California, it resembles a zoo like operation. A 38-acre automated irrigation system has been installed to provide additional habitat. The natural forage of the area will support 30 adult elk for four months."

The Applicant does not desire to enter upon the surface of the Tupman Tule Elk Reserve for any purposes whatsoever in connection with the proposed subsurface oil and gas lease.

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF SURROUNDING PROPERTIES:

The properties adjacent to the north, east and west of the Tule Elk Reserve are cultivated, irrigated farmlands planted primarily in cotton and alfalfa. (Please see annotated 1" = 600' aerial photograph of the Reserve and surrounding acreage mounted on apx. 28" x 42" poster board and furnished to the State Lands Commission as a part of this Environmental Impact Assessment.) The farming activity on these lands includes a considerable amount of vehicular movement on the roads running immediately next to the boundaries of the Reserve, and the operation of large-scale farm machinery such as tractors and harvesting equipment that carry relatively high noise and dust levels. The Tule Elk that choose to graze near the fenced boundaries are therefore well accustomed to the noise and dust generated by this machinery, vehicular movement in general, and other human activities that are similar to the impact of drilling operations that may be performed on these adjacent lands as a result of the subsurface oil and gas lease proposed by the Applicant. (Please note the close distance between the elk and automobile from which photographs in accompanying 3-ring binder were taken.)

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The town of Tupman and National Petroleum Reserve "A" (formerly known as the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve) abut the southerly boundary of the Tupman Tule Elk Reserve. The Petroleum Reserve is the site of numerous oil and gas wells and oil storage facilities (please see aerial photograph).

The Applicant does not anticipate that any wellbore that may be directionally drilled from the adjacent lands to subsurface locations underlying the Reserve will be located closer than 100 feet from the Tupman Reserve boundary. The Applicant is willing to make that a condition of any resultant subsurface lease covering the Reserve. The Applicant is of the opinion that such drilling activities will not have a significant impact on the habitat of the Tule Elk within the Reserve. Further, the Applicant is of the opinion that drilling and producing operations on these adjacent lands would not be inconsistent with the general type of activities that are currently conducted on these adjacent lands.

The Applicant does not anticipate that any well would be surface located closer than 1000 feet from the fenced five-acre visitor and ranger station area located in the north end of the Reserve, and is also willing to make that a condition of the subsurface lease.

The Applicant is not aware of any cultural, historical or scenic (see accompanying photographs) aspects of significance in the vicinity of the Reserve. The only residences in the immediate vicinity of the Reserve are the home for the park ranger on the Reserve (in the visitor area at the extreme north end) and a farmhouse fronting on Station Road that is adjacent to the northwest corner of the Reserve.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(Attachment to Environmental Impact Assessment Form Submitted October 5, 1983, on behalf of Corbin J. Robertson regarding Tupman Tule Elk Reserve.)

Discussion of "Yes" and "Maybe" answers to Questions #1-13 of Section D:

Question #

2. Any well drilled on lands adjacent to the Reserve would cause a drilling rig to be visible at a distance of over 1000 feet from Station Road and the visitor viewing area at the north end of the Reserve for a period of 60 to 90 days. In the event production is established, permanent production facilities, consisting primarily of an oil well pumping unit and oil storage tanks, may be visible on a low profile from that distance. However, the area is not one that is considered scenic (see accompanying photographs) and the permanent visual impact would therefore be minimal.
6. Drilling and producing activities and related vehicular movement on the adjacent lands would cause an increase in dust, fumes and odors in the vicinity. However the impact of this potential increase would be similar to and probably in less quantity than the dust, fumes, smoke and odors currently generated by farming activities on the adjacent lands, and by oil producing operations on National Petroleum Reserve "A" to the south.
8. Drilling activity on the adjacent lands, which would be temporary in nature, would cause an increase in the noise and vibration levels in the vicinity, but the same would not be significantly greater than those currently generated by farming operations on the adjacent lands. In the event of discovery of oil or gas, permanent oil and/or gas producing operations would result in minimal long-term noise and vibration.
10. Potentially hazardous materials such as toxic chemicals and radioactive substances (well logging tools) and flammables would be present on drill site locations on the adjacent properties in accordance with normal oilfield practices. However, disposal of all such substances would be made at approved disposal sites, not in the vicinity of the subject lands.
12. Although the drilling of wells requires the consumption of electricity and fossil fuels, such activity may lead to the discovery and production of significant new reserves of fossil fuels.

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Date Filed \_\_\_\_\_

Work Order W-40296

FORM 69.3  
SUPPLEMENT FOR OIL AND GAS APPLICATIONS  
(Please provide the following information  
as appropriate on a separate sheet)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Applicant.
2. Name, and telephone number of person or agent to be contacted concerning this project.
3. Project location (Township, Range, County Quad Sheet and Assessor's parcel numbers).
4. Present use of site.
5. Project for which this form is filed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: (Please submit narrative responses)

6. Site size (acres).
7. Number of drillsites for exploratory phase and at anticipated maximum development.
8. Proposed location of drillsites.
9. Access routes to drillsites.
10. Attach map of lease area, showing drillsites and access routes.
11. Specification of drill rig (or type) to be used particularly with respect to air quality emissions and aesthetic impacts (visibility).
12. Procedures for handling drill cuttings and drilling mud.
13. Critical Operations and Curtailment Plan (please attach).
14. Oil Spill Contingency Plan (please attach or explain why not required).
15. Tentative drilling program.
16. Proposed scheduling.
17. Anticipated incremental development.
18. Associated projects.
19. If production ensues, how will product be transported.
20. Indicate estimated employment per shift, means of transportation and on-site facilities for employees.
21. If project will require a variance, conditional or special use or rezoning application, state this and indicate clearly why the application is required.

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ATTACHED TO SUPPLEMENT FORM 69.3  
for Initial Study Requisite to  
Application by Corbin J. Robertson

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Corbin J. Robertson, P.O. Box 3331, Houston, TX 77253
2. Bryan E. Stanek, P.O. Box 10658, Bakersfield, CA 93389 (805) 398-5651
3. Portions of Sections 11, 13, 14, 23 and 24, T30S-R24E, MDB&M, Kern County, California; assessor's parcel numbers 159-050-011, 150-180-001, 159-180-009 and portion of 159-180-005 (see attached maps)
4. State Park - Tule Elk Reserve
5. Application for negotiated subsurface Oil and Gas lease allowing slant drilling for exploration and development of oil and gas reserves that may underlie the Tupman Elk Reserve.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

6. The Reserve covers a total of approximately 965 acres. Applicant is interested in acquiring a subsurface Oil and Gas Lease covering approximately 909 acres of same (see attached map).
7. One drillsite (straight hole) on adjacent lands will be required for the exploratory phase; in the event of a discovery, the anticipated development will require a maximum of approximately 12 directionally drilled wells to be surface located on adjacent lands and bottomed under the Reserve.
8. Please see attached map for approximate surface locations of directional development wells assuming maximum development.
9. Existing dirt roads running down the outside of the easterly and westerly boundaries of the Reserve, accessed from Station Road (paved) running along the north boundary of the Reserve.
10. Please see attached map.
11. Diesel-electric rig with 142 foot mast and minimum 12,000 foot depth capability.
12. Upon completion of drilling each well, all drilling mud and cuttings will be removed to an approved disposal site.
13. None of the proposed wells to be drilled on lands adjacent to the Reserve will be classified as Critical Wells.
14. No Oil Spill Contingency Plan is required for non-critical wells. All precautionary measures required by the Division of Oil and Gas will be undertaken.

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15. Tentative drilling program:

20 inch conductor pipe set at 40 feet  
String of 10-3/4 inch casing pipe set to 3500 feet  
7-5/8 inch production string of casing set to apx. 10,700 feet should commercial hydrocarbons be encountered

16. The proposed initial test well to be drilled on Tenneco's property adjacent to the East of the Reserve (see map) will be drilled as a straight hole, commencing as soon as practicable following issuance of the proposed sub-surface Oil and Gas Lease to Corbin J. Robertson from the State Lands Commission covering the Reserve. The initial well will take approximately 60 to 90 days to drill. In the event of a discovery, additional drilling may take place on the adjacent lands (including directional wells to be bottomed under the Reserve) at the rate of approximately one well every 4 to 6 months.
17. Applicant currently estimates that the development of oil underlying the area, if present, would require one well to every 40 acres; in the event of gas development, one well to every 160 acres.
18. The entire project, if oil and/or gas is discovered, could involve an approximate maximum total of 1600 acres that are capable of producing oil and/or gas. This maximum, optimum situation would result in a total of approximately 40 oil wells if oil is discovered, or 10 gas wells if gas is discovered. There are no additional projects currently planned by the Applicant in this vicinity.
19. Oil production would be trucked out over existing roads; gas production would be transported by means of buried pipelines to be constructed.
20. Aside from rig move-in and move-out, the average number of employees and contractors per 8-hour shift is estimated at seven with seven light vehicles (autos and pickup trucks). As many as twenty people may be present at one time depending upon the operation being conducted at the well. One small trailer home will be used for shelter and temporary office for Operator's employees; one small trailer and "dog house" for contractors.
21. No conditional use permits or variances or re-zoning will be required for drilling on the lands adjacent to the Reserve.

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R 24 E

# TUPMAN TULE ELK RESERVE AND SURROUNDING LANDS, KERN COUNTY, CA.

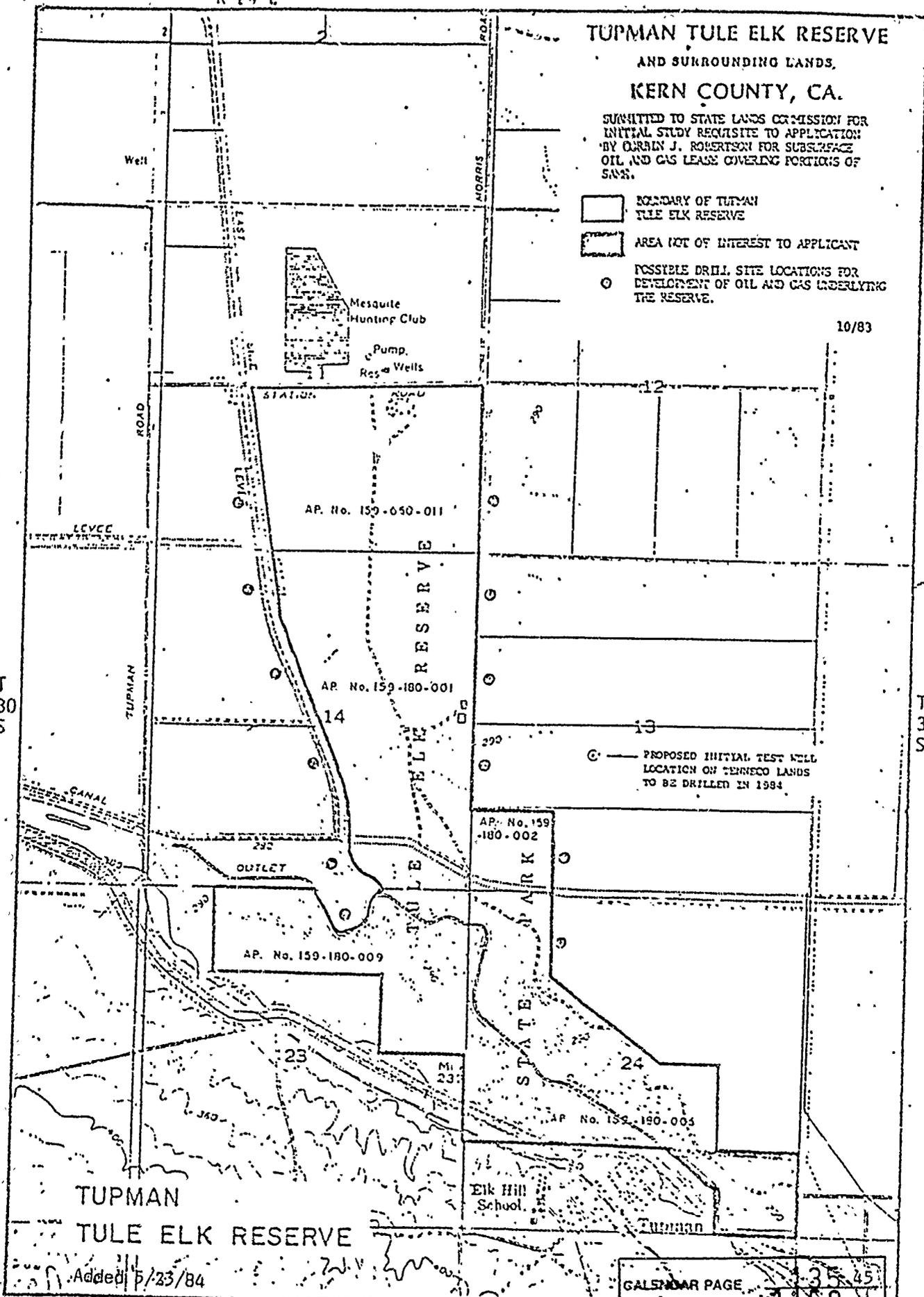
SUBMITTED TO STATE LANDS COMMISSION FOR  
INITIAL STUDY REQUISITE TO APPLICATION  
BY CURRIN J. ROBERTSON FOR SUBSURFACE  
OIL AND GAS LEASE COVERING PORTIONS OF  
SANS.

-  BOUNDARY OF TUPMAN TULE ELK RESERVE
-  AREA NOT OF INTEREST TO APPLICANT
-  POSSIBLE DRILL SITE LOCATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OIL AND GAS UNDERLYING THE RESERVE.

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TUPMAN  
TULE ELK RESERVE

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