

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 37
was approved as Minute Item
No. 37 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 9/25/84
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

37 1

A 34
S 25

09/25/84
W 40186
Hart
PRC 6735

**APPROVAL OF A BORROW PERMIT,
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

APPLICANT:

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 427
Boulder City, Nevada 89005

Agent: Robert C. Wilborn
Chief, Land Branch
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 427
Boulder City, Nevada 89005

PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION:

Approval of a Borrow Permit for five years to
quarry granitic rock on approximately 90 acres
of land located in San Bernardino County.

CONSIDERATION: Filing fee of \$25, processing fee of \$250, and
a royalty of twelve cents (\$0.12) per short ton
(2,000 lbs.) of rock quarried on the subject
parcel.

TYPE OF LAND AND LOCATION:

State school land - S 1/2 of N 1/2 of NE 1/4
and N 1/2 of S 1/2 of NE 1/4 and W 1/2 of N 1/2
of S 1/2 of S 1/2 of NE 1/4, Sec 16, T11N,
R21E, SBM, San Bernardino County, 15 miles
northwest of Needles.

PROPOSED PROJECT:

The applicant will quarry approximately 500,000
tons of rock the first permit year for
placement as riprap to stabilize the banks and
armor the levees on the Colorado River. After

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the first permit year, approximately 50,000 tons of rock will be quarried per year to replenish existing riprap stockpiles. Riprap will be quarried by drilling blast holes in a regular pattern, filling the holes with a predetermined amount of explosive, and detonating the explosive. The broken rock will be loaded and transported to a grizzly/screening plant at the quarry work area for classification to 18-inch diameter. The classified rock will be hauled by approximately ten, 20-ton trucks to the Colorado River levee sites, six to twelve miles by gravel surfaced roads from the quarry site. One Bureau of Reclamation inspector will be required at the work site. The inspector will ensure that contractor's operations are performed in a safe manner and in accordance with all applicable provisions of the Bureau's publication entitled "Construction Safety Standards."

TERM: The primary term of the Borrow Permit is five years and it may be renewed for a maximum of two additional five-year terms.

ROYALTY: Royalty payable under the permit will be twelve cents per short ton (2,000 lbs.) of rock quarried on the above described lands.

PREREQUISITE ITEMS:

1. Required statutory filing fee and processing fee have been submitted by the applicant.
2. The subject permit has been reviewed and approved by Commission staff counsel and the Office of the Attorney General.

AB 884: 01/21/85.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (State clearinghouse No. SCH81081420) was prepared and adopted for this project by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region. The document was

circulated for public review as broadly as state and local law require and notice was given meeting the standards in 14 Cal. Adm. Code 15072(a). Therefore, pursuant to 14 Cal. Adm. Code 15225, the staff recommends the use of the federal FONSI in place of a Negative Declaration.

2. The applicant shall obtain all necessary and applicable permits and obey all laws and regulations applicable to the conduct of operations under this permit

EXHIBITS:

- A. Land Description.
- B. Site Map.
- C. Quarry Site Map.
- D. FONSI, NOD

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT PREPARED AND ADOPTED FOR THIS PROJECT BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, LOWER COLORADO REGION MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA THEREFORE PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. ADM. CODE 15225 ADOPT SUCH FEDERAL DOCUMENT FOR USE IN PLACE OF A NEGATIVE DECLARATION. THE PROJECT SHALL INCLUDE THIS PERMIT AND ANY RENEWAL THE COMMISSION MAY APPROVE FOR THE SAME PROJECT DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT.
2. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS APPROVED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF THE BORROW PERMIT TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, LOWER COLORADO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS TO QUARRY APPROXIMATELY 500,000 TONS OF ROCK THE FIRST PERMIT YEAR, 50,000 TONS ANNUALLY AFTER THE FIRST PERMIT YEAR, FOR PLACEMENT AS RIPRAP TO STABILIZE THE BANKS AND ARMOR THE LEVEES ON THE COLORADO RIVER, AT A ROYALTY OF TWELVE CENTS PER SHORT TON (2,000 lbs.) OF QUARRIED ROCK ON THE S 1/2 OF N 1/2 OF NE 1/4 AND N 1/2 OF S 1/2 OF NE 1/4 AND W 1/2 OF N 1/2 OF S 1/2 OF S 1/2 OF NE 1/4, SEC 16, T11N, R21E, SBM, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE PERMIT WILL BE OCTOBER 1, 1984 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 1989 AND IT MAY BE RENEWED FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWO ADDITIONAL FIVE-YEAR TERMS.

EXHIBIT "A"

LAND DESCRIPTION

W 40186

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

$S\frac{1}{2}$ of $N\frac{1}{2}$ of $NE\frac{1}{4}$, $N\frac{1}{2}$ of $S\frac{1}{2}$ of $NE\frac{1}{4}$, and $W\frac{1}{2}$ of $N\frac{1}{2}$ of $S\frac{1}{2}$ of $S\frac{1}{2}$ of
 $NE\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, T 11N, R 21E, SBM.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED AUGUST 14, 1984, BY BOUNDARY AND TITLE UNIT.

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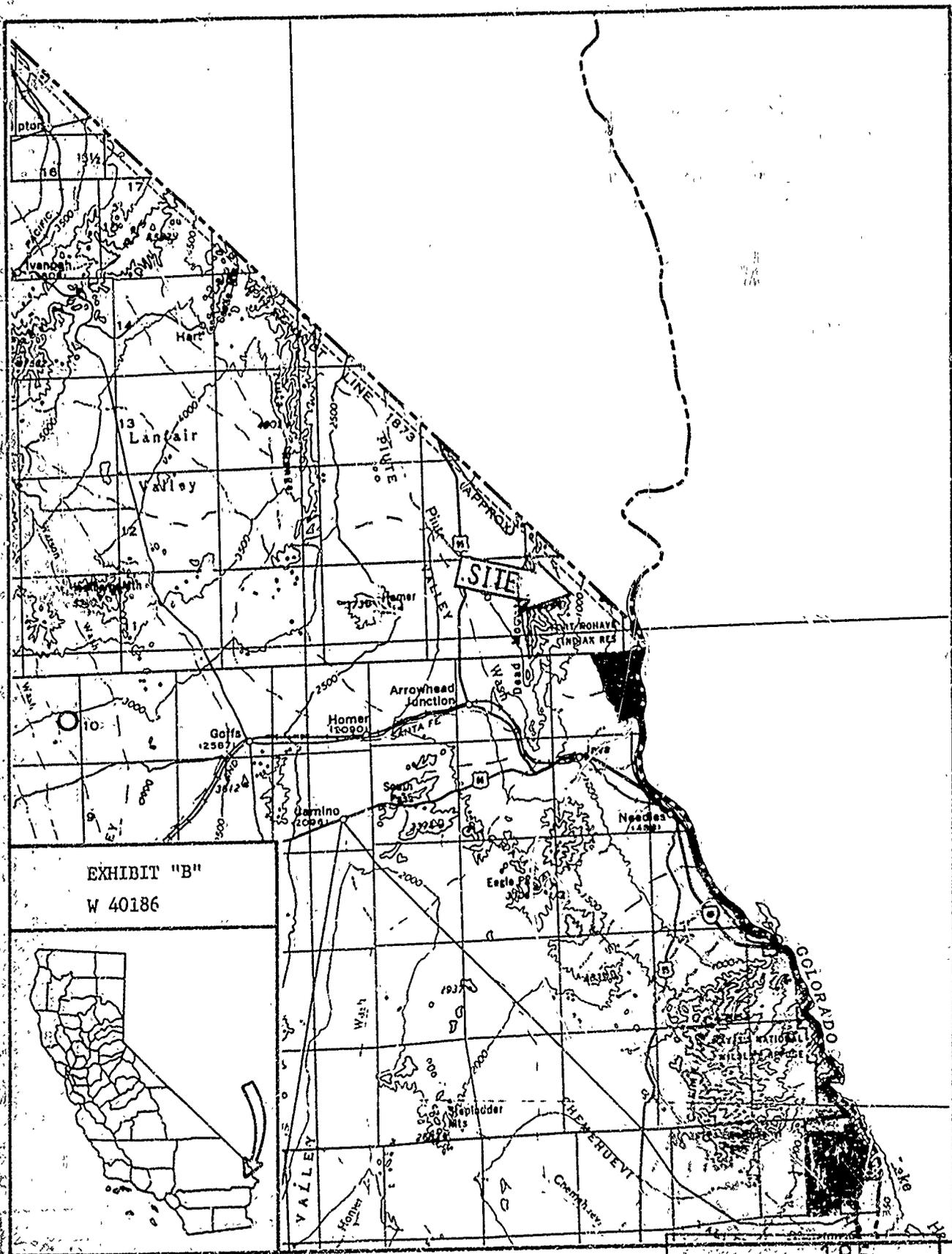


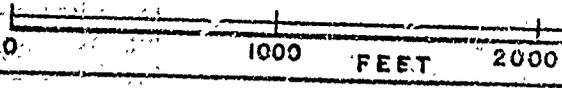
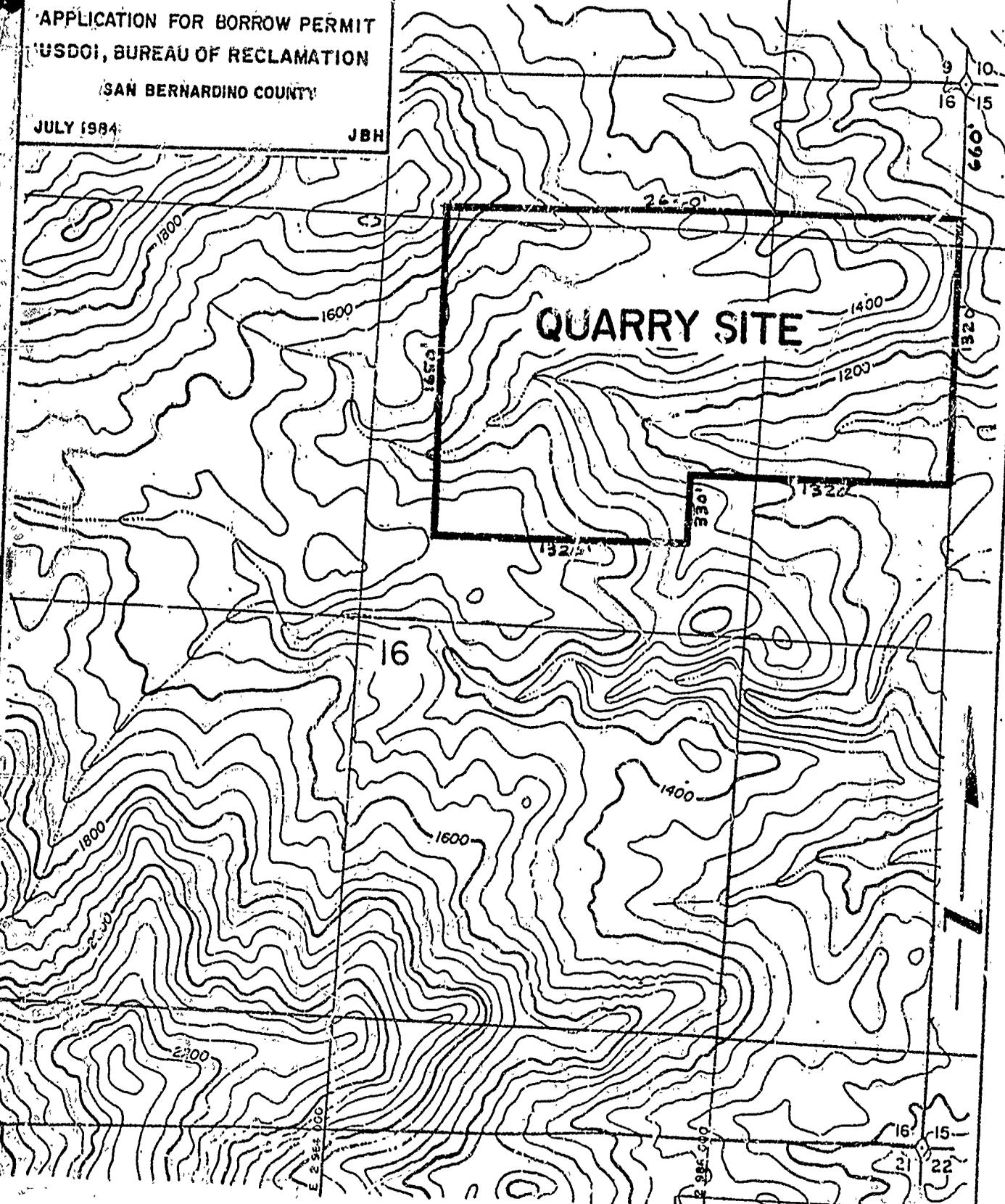
EXHIBIT "B"
W 40186



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EXHIBIT "C"
STATE LANDS COMMISSION
W-40186
APPLICATION FOR BORROW PERMIT
USDOI, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

JULY 1984 JBH



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EXHIBIT D

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
LOWER COLORADO REGION, BOULDER CITY, NEVADA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
COLORADO RIVER FRONT WORK AND LEVEE SYSTEM

FONSI NO. LC83-7
Finding of No Significant
Impact Number (Region)

Recommend: William E. Lane
Regional Environmental Officer

Date: 6-3-83

Approved: W. P. [Signature]
Regional Director

Date: 6-3-83

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Under authority of the Colorado River Front Work and Levee System Act, the Bureau of Reclamation maintains the channels, bank lines, levees, and control structures along the Colorado River. This maintenance program known as the Colorado River Front Work and Levee System (CRFWS) is for increased bank stabilization to prevent further erosion and to protect life and property in anticipation of high volume water releases from Hoover Dam and flood runoff from tributary drainages.

The Front Work and Levee System has been ongoing since at least 1925. An Environmental Assessment on the maintenance work for the next five years has been prepared and a copy is enclosed.

Based on the Environmental Assessment, we recommend a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), for the following reasons:

1. Approximately 760 acres of desert scrub vegetation will be disturbed by the maintenance work along the Lower Colorado River. This amount of vegetation is small when compared to the total of 19 million acres (30,000 square miles) of Lower Colorado Desert Scrub Association found along the Lower Colorado River (estimated from Brown and Lowe's (1980) map of "Biotic Communities of the Southwest.") After the work is completed, the project area will be allowed to revegetate.
2. There will be scars to the natural landscape due to the removal of rock at the quarry site; however, 13 out of 19 quarries are not visible from any population centers. Although some of the quarry sites are within areas rated Visual Resource Management Class II because they are within wilderness study areas, some of these sites would otherwise be rated Class III because they have previously been disturbed. After quarrying operations are done, the sites will be allowed to return to their natural condition.
3. Both Class I (literature searches) and Class III (on-the-ground) surveys were performed in the project area. Only four quarry sites have archaeological features in their vicinity; however, none of these features are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no significant archaeological or historical resources would be affected by the proposed activities.
4. No Federally-listed endangered or threatened species will be significantly impacted by this project. Although some of the quarry sites have habitat for bighorn sheep, raptors, and desert tortoises, the Bureau of Reclamation consulted with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Bureau of Land Management in order to find ways of reducing impacts to these species. Mitigation such as developing water sources, closing of access roads, and limiting quarrying operations during certain times of the year to avoid the migration and breeding season were agreed to in order to lessen impacts to these state special status species.

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5. The proposed action would have little impact on land use. It is expected that constructing new roads will result in some increase of public use; however, some roads will be blocked off when they are abandoned and these impacts will therefore be insignificant. The project may impair the suitability of the area for preservation as wilderness of those sites designated as wilderness study areas. However, some of these sites have already been disturbed and may not ever become wilderness areas. No significant impacts to land use are expected.

For the above reasons, this Finding of No Significant Impact has been prepared.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

LOWER COLORADO REGION, BOULDER CITY, NEVADA

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

COLORADO RIVER FRONT WORK AND LEVEE SYSTEM

June 1983

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Neither of the sites are visible from a major road or population center.

(f) Land Use and Ownership

Both sites are on private land. Little evidence of public use was observed. These sites are within CDCP Class L.

Public use of the area may increase following construction of the road into site No. 3 and improvement of the road into site No. 2.

Very little impact on land use would occur as a result of the project.

(18) Manchester (W1NW1, sec. 15 and NE1, sec. 16, T. 11 N., R. 21 E., California)

(a) Terrestrial Resource

This site is an approximately 250 foot high, rocky ridge which parallels a large wash for approximately 3,000 feet. Approximately 3,235,000 tons of rock would be removed from this site disturbing about 86 acres. The work area for the quarry would be located in the wash bottom. A 1-mile long haul road would be located on the relatively flat terrain above the wash for reasons of safety, and would connect the site to Highway 76.

(b) Vegetation

Vegetation on the quarry site is sparse, made up primarily of creosote bush, brittlebush, and bursage, with scattered bunches of grasses and forbs. Vegetation in the wash is relatively dense for a desert wash community. The wash appears to receive and hold a substantial amount of moisture, and supports mesquite, catclaw acacia, smoke-tree, paloverde, creosote bush, bursage, brittlebush, and cheese bush. The wash bottom also supports relatively dense stands of grasses and forbs.

Quarrying this site would disturb 86 acres of vegetation, including about 16 acres of vegetation in the wash.

(c) Wildlife

The wash is heavily used by wildlife. Wildlife observed in the area include jackrabbits, cottontail rabbits, Gambel's quail, red-tailed hawks, and western diamond back rattlesnakes. The area supports a large rodent population and

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therefore probably supports a number of predator and reptiles. Evidence of desert mule deer was found in the wash. BLM biologists indicate the area hasn't supported bighorn sheep in recent years, although observations of signs in the past two years hint that either a remnant or new population may be using the general area. Signs of coyotes and burros were also observed in the area.

As a result of this project, wildlife using this area would be displaced and some would perish. Several small, natural water catchments in the wash would be destroyed during construction of the haul road and work area. Several larger water catchments are located in the wash, but, being northwest of the quarry area, would not be disturbed.

Several small water catchments would be constructed to replace those destroyed by quarrying.

(d) Archaeology

A Class I literature search showed no cultural resources are located in this area. A Class III survey indicated that no significant archaeological or historical resources would be affected.

(e) Esthetics

This site is designated a visual resource management Class III because it does not contain any unique or outstanding visual features.

Quarrying and construction of the haul road would disturb the desert varnish and perhaps cause changes in contour, resulting in a noticeable scar. This site is visible from a small portion of Highway 76. Quarrying would be concentrated on the south and west end of the ridge to reduce visibility from Highway 76.

(f) Land Use and Ownership

This site is located on privately owned land. Little evidence of public use was observed. The site is inaccessible except by small all-terrain vehicles. The site is designated CDCP Class L.

Construction of an access road would increase public use. The area's suitability for preservation as wilderness may be affected.

W 6176

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LC-410/775.

Files

Through: Regional Environmental Officer
Through: Acting Regional Supervisor of Water and Land Operations
Chief, Environmental Operations Branch

March 9, 1981

Field Assessment of Proposed Manchester Quarry Site

On February 11, 1981, I conducted an onsite assessment of the subject quarry site, which is located in the W.M. of section 15, and the E.M. of section 16, T. 11 N., R. 21 E., California. I was accompanied by Joan Middleton, LC-150; Stan Foster, Yuma Projects Office (YPO); and Ruth Musser, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Needles, California.

The Manchester site is an approximately 300-foot high rocky ridge which parallels a large wash for about 3,000 feet (the approximate length of the quarry site). The work area for the quarry would be located in the wash bottom. The approximately 1-mile long haul road would be located on relatively flat terrain, above the wash, and would connect the site to highway 76 (the Davis Dam to Needles road).

The mining plan for this site calls for the removal of approximately 3,235,000 tons of material, resulting in the disturbance of about 36 acres (haul road - 9.6 acres; work area - 16 acres; quarry - 60 acres).

Vegetation

Vegetation on the quarry site (ridge) is sparse, made up primarily of creosote-bush, brittle-bush, bur-sage and Quercus sp., with scattered bunches of grasses and forbs.

Vegetation in the wash is relatively dense for a desert wash community. The wash appears to receive and hold a substantial amount of moisture, and supports mesquite, catclaw acacia, smoke-tree, paleo-yucca, creosote bush, bur-sage, brittle-bush and cholla bush. The wash bottom also supports relatively dense stands of grasses and forbs.

Quarrying operations, as proposed, would result in the destruction of vegetation on about 36 acres, the most significant of which would be the loss of about 16 acres of vegetation in the wash.

Wildlife

Based on observation, I believe the wash (proposed work area site) receives relatively heavy use by wildlife. Wildlife observed during the assessment includes: cottontail rabbits, Gambel's quail, a red-tailed hawk, and a western diamond-backed rattlesnake. The area appears to be part of a network of above average habitat, and therefore likely supports an above or above average number of predators. It is likely that a normal complement of raptorial birds exists on the site. In addition, the presence (tracks and feces) of either black or canyon wild cat was observed on the site. Bird biologists indicate that the area has, or supported, higher bird density in recent years (undocumented), although our reviews of signs in the area over the past several years indicate a decline in bird population may be taking place. No other birds were observed in the area.

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Several small, natural water tanks in the wash would be destroyed during construction of the haul road and west dyke. Several larger water tanks are located in the wash but are northwest of the permit area and should not be disturbed. In general, losses and impacts on wildlife will be proportional to the amount of vegetation destroyed during construction and quarry operation.

Visual and Land Use

The site is largely undisturbed and very little evidence of public use was observed. The site is not now accessible by vehicle except perhaps by small all terrain vehicles. Construction of an access road would most certainly increase public use and may result in secondary impacts to the site and the surrounding area.

Since the site is largely undisturbed but does not contain any unique or outstanding visual features, I recommend it be placed in Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III (based on BLM Annual 1981-1982 Upland Visual Resource Inventory and Evaluation). However, since the site is located in a designated Wilderness Study Area (California WSA no. 476), I recommend the VRM classification be adjusted to class II. Quarrying activities and construction of the haul road will destroy vegetation, disturb desert varnish, and perhaps result in changes in contour, resulting in a noticeable scar. The site is visible, briefly, to motorists on Highway 76.

Mitigation

The following mitigating measures may be recommended if deemed appropriate: (1) prohibit quarrying activities during spring lambing periods if it is shown sheep prove to be using the area; (2) construct natural small water tanks to replace those which would be destroyed (this could be accomplished by rip rap in depressions of local roads which cross washes, etc.); (3) construct the haul road in the wash to reduce visual impacts; and (4) concentrate quarrying activities on the south and west sides of the "ridge" to reduce visibility from Highway 76.

DENNIS E. BREITZMAN

C. W. Bowser

MAR 10 1984

Notes: _____
NATIONAL BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

K.M. FLOMPETER

MAR 11 1984

Notes: _____
NATIONAL BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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A Cultural Resource Investigation
of a
Proposed Riprap Material Site,
Colorado River Front Work and Level System

MANCHESTER

June, 1979

J.G. Middleton, Archeologist
Lower Colorado Regional Office
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Interior

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Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation is in the ongoing process of locating material sources for riprap to stabilize the Colorado River bank-line. The purpose of this project is to prevent further erosion and to protect life and property downstream from the Colorado River flows during the high volume water releases from Boulder Dam or during other periods of flood runoff from tributary drainages.

On April 24, 1979, I accompanied Mr. Dennis Brietzman, LC-425, on an inspection of the proposed riprap material site. As he conducted the biological survey, I examined the site area and access route for evidence of cultural resources.

Objectives

The primary objective of the survey was to insure that the proposed testing and subsequent working of the material site would not affect any cultural resources.

Another objective was to gather reconnaissance-level information important for an understanding of the prehistory and/or history of the area.

Location

The Manchester site is located in the W 1/2 NW 1/4 of Section 15 and the NE 1/4 of Section 16, T. 11 N., R. 21 E., San Bernardino County, California. This quarry site is situated 5 miles (8 kilometers) west of the Colorado River and 7 1/2 miles (12 kilometers) east of U.S. Highway 95.

Environment

The proposed site lies between 1160 and 1200 (353.6 to 365.8 meters) above sea level. The site is situated at the head of a narrow wash

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that flows from west to east. The wash is approximately 10 to 20 feet in width and about 20-40 feet in height. The slopes around and to the northwest of the site were dense rocky outcrops. The terraces above the wash to the north paralleling the wash is covered with desert pavement. The vegetation is characteristic of the Lower Colorado subdivision of the Sonoran Desert scrub (Brown 1973).

The natural dense vegetation in the wash (45-50% ground cover) consisted of catclaw (*Acacia Greggii*), smoke tree (*Dalea spinosa*), and creosote bush (*Larrea Tridentata*). The dominant species on the rocky terraces above the quarry site were cholla (*Opuntia sp.*) and prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*).

Archeological Background

Relatively little archeological research has been done in the Lower Colorado Region compared to the rest of the American Southwest. However, this situation is changing due to cultural resource management. More work is now being done in the Lower Colorado River area than ever before.

The only two studies that we are aware of in this general area are Albert H. Schroeder's survey of lands along the Colorado River between Davis Dam and the International Border, and Brooks, Alexander, and Crabtree's survey of the Lower Colorado River. Both surveys were predominantly confined to the terraces above the flood plain of the Colorado River. There have been no surveys that we are aware of in the area of Manchester Wash.

Field Methods

Sheets of USGS 7.5' topographic maps were used as aids in accomplishing the surveys. In general, transects were walked 3-6 feet (.9 to 1.8 meters) apart along the wash for a distance of approximately 1,500 feet (457 meters) up to the quarry site, and continued in the wash beyond the site. The terraces above the wash to the north and north-east were also surveyed. Due to the more rugged nature of the terrain, systematic parallel transects was difficult. East-West non-parallel transects were conducted over the rocky ground.

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Results and Conclusion

No archeological evidence was discovered in any of the areas surveyed. There was no sign of any previous disturbance of the area. The finding of no cultural resources is predictable since the site is located in the bottom of a wash with a relatively steep gradient.

The survey is in compliance with 43 CFR 422. No cultural materials were located. The arrangement to use this site can proceed as far as the cultural resources are determined. However, if the proposed quarry site is expanded, the additional area should be archeological surveyed.

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References.

Brooks, Alexander, and Crabtree

1969/1970 The 1969/1970 Report on the Archeological Survey of the Lower Colorado River. Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Brown, D.E.

1973 Natural Vegetation Communities of Arizona (Map, 1:500,000). Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix.

McGregor, John C.

1965 Southwestern Archeology. Second Edition. University of Illinois Press, Urbana.

Schroeder, Albert H.

1951 A Brief Survey of the Lower Colorado River from Davis Dam to the International Border. National Park Service. Boulder City, Nevada.

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