

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 17
was approved as Minute Item
No. 17 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 4/25/85
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A 2
S 4

17

04/25/85
W 23522
Miller, D.
PRC 6829

INTERAGENCY PROJECT AGREEMENT
FOR PRESCRIBED BURNING

APPLICANT: California Department of Forestry
Sonoma Ranger Unit
2210 West College Avenue
Santa Rosa, California 95401

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:
36 acres located on three parcels of State
school land in the vicinity of the Geysers,
Sonoma County.

LAND USE: Vegetation management, fuel hazard reduction
using prescribed burning.

TERMS OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT:
Initial period: One year beginning May 1,
1985.

APPLICANT STATUS:
Applicant is lead agency of cooperative
Vegetation Management Program.

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

AB 884: N/A.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The California Department of Forestry's Sonoma Ranger Unit's Vegetation Management Program will generally consist of rotational burning of 20 to 30 percent of the total project area or about 400 acres annually over the next 20 years in a mosaic pattern to enhance wildlife habitat, reduce fire hazard, and increase water yield to local streams and reservoirs. This burning is part of the 15,000 acre Sonoma County, Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) Vegetation Management Project of which 8,000 acres are scheduled to be burned during the 20-year project. The Master Plan area includes three school land parcels totalling 192 acres of which 36 acres are scheduled for burning in the first year pursuant to the agreement which is the subject of this Calendar Item. This is a cooperative effort because the school land's productivity and environment will be improved and CDF's costs on this project will be reduced because they will not have to construct additional fire lines to exclude the school lands from this project.
2. The California Department of Forestry assumes all responsibility and liability in connection with this project. There will be no cost or expenses charged to the State Lands Commission concerning this project.
3. In December, 1982, the Executive Officer of the State Lands Commission signed the Memorandum of Understanding for Coordinated Resource Management Planning in California. This document encourages the State Lands Commission to enter into the Vegetation Management Program with the California Department of Forestry.

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4. This activity involves lands which have NOT been identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370, et seq. However, the Commission has declared that school lands are "significant" by nature of their public ownership (as opposed to "environmental significant"). Since such declaration of significance is not based upon the requirements and criteria of P.R.C. 6370, et seq., use classifications for such lands have not been designated. Therefore, the finding of the project's consistency with the use classification as required by 2 Cal. Adm. Code 2954 is not applicable.
5. A Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared and adopted for this project by the California Department of Forestry. This Program Environmental Impact Report and an environmental evaluation of each proposed project consisting of an Application, Environmental Checklist, Land Management Plan, Prescription, Smoke Management Plan, Insurance Policy and Contract will be used to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Environmental Checklist, Land Management Plan, Prescription and Smoke Management Plan are designed to mitigate the environmental effects identified in the EIR and will also indicate what, if any, additional CEQA documentation will be required. The Sonoma Range Unit has prepared the above-mentioned supplemental documents for the particular area that is subject of this Calendar Item. The approved environmental checklist, Land Management Plan, Prescription, and Smoke Management Plan have identified potential significant impacts and have provided mitigation measures and do not indicate any additional CEQA documentation is required.

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The State Lands Commission staff has reviewed such documentation and believes it complies with the requirements of CEQA and, based upon the information provided in such documentation, believes this activity will not have a significant effect on the environment.

6. On file with the State Lands Commission are copies of the following documents:

- a. Memorandum of Understanding for Coordinated Resource Management Planning in California.
- b. Chaparral Management Program
The Resources Agency, California
Department of Forestry Final
Environmental Impact Report
SCH 80100262
- c. CDF, Sonoma Ranger Unit prescribed burn agreement package.
 - (1) Project Agreement for Prescribed Burning.
 - (2) Certificate of Insurance
 - (3) Contract No. 14-030/036-84-UMP prescribed burn plan for Sonoma KGRA Project #3, Units 1 and 2 and Smoke Dispersal Plan
 - (4) Sonoma KGRA CMP Project Management Plan
Sonoma Ranger Unit - Healdsburg Ranger District
 - (5) Environmental Checklist for Sonoma KGRA* Project
 - (6) Memorandum of Understanding for Coordinated Resource Management Planning in California.

7. The California Department of Forestry provides public liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and \$1,000,000 for property damage; provisions of public liability insurance for combined single limit coverage of \$6,000,000.

*Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA)

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 17 (CONT'D)

- EXHIBITS:
- A. Land Description.
 - B. Location Map.
 - C. Project Agreement for Prescribed Burning.
 - D. CEQA Findings.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT AN EIR HAS BEEN PREPARED AND ADOPTED FOR THIS PROJECT BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.
2. ADOPT THE FINDINGS MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 15091 OF THE STATE EIR GUIDELINES AS CONTAINED IN EXHIBIT "D".
3. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS APPROVED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
4. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF THE INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT FOR PRESCRIBED BURNING ON STATE SCHOOL LANDS WITH CDF, TO PROVIDE FOR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ON THE LAND DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF, FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 1985.

EXHIBIT "A"

LAND DESCRIPTION

W 23522

Those parcels of California State school lands in Sonoma County, California, described as follows:

Lot 5, Section 29, T11N, R8W, MDM.

Lots 17, 18, 20, and 22, Section 33, T11N, R8W, MDM.

Lots 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, Section 2, T11N, R9W, MDM.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED DECEMBER 11, 1984, BY BOUNDARY SERVICES UNIT, M. L. SHAFER, SUPERVISOR

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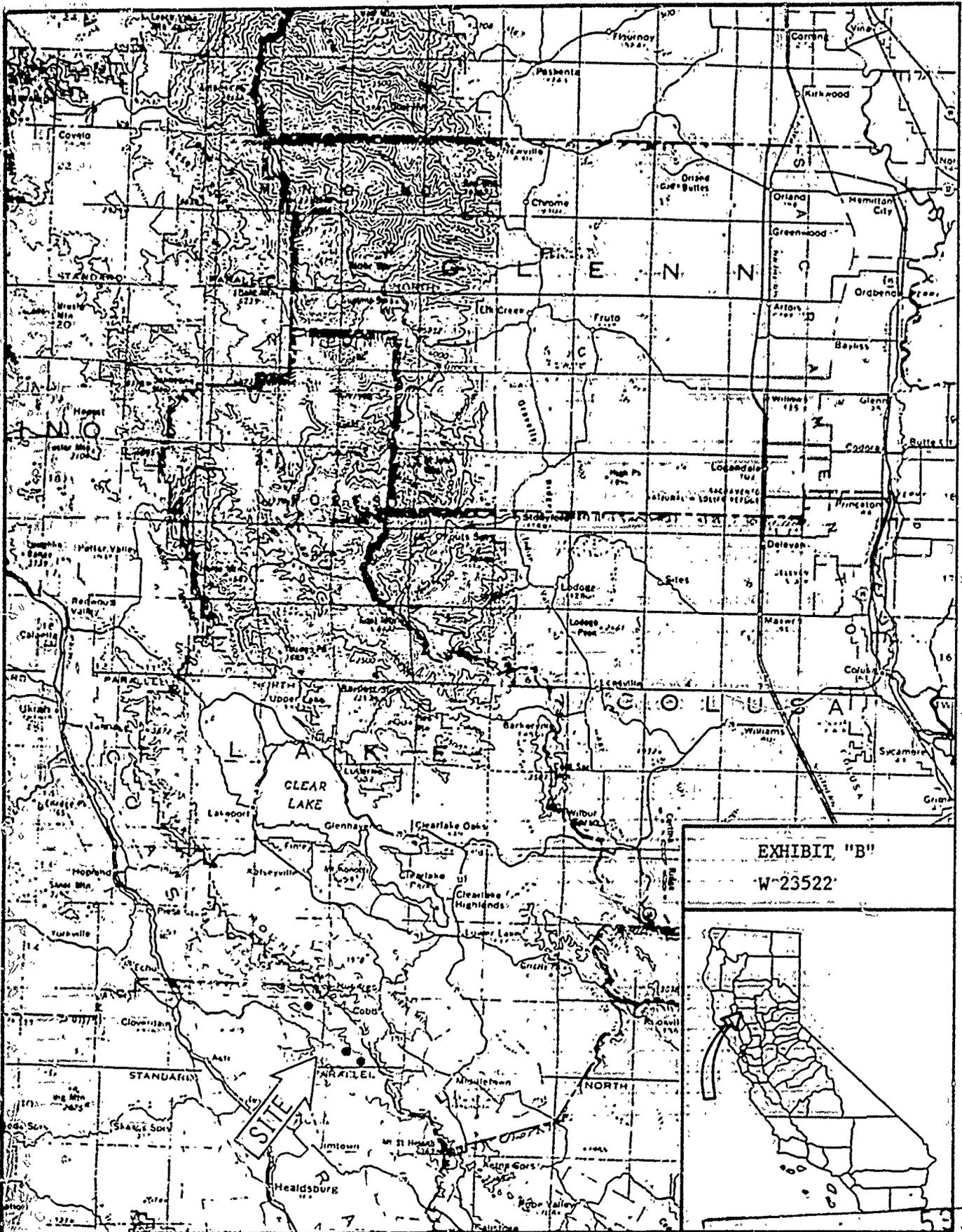


EXHIBIT "B"

W-23522



To Santa Rosa 15 Miles

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NIGHTS PAGE

53.6

W 23522

EXHIBIT "C"
PROJECT AGREEMENT
FOR
PRESCRIBED BURNING

1. THIS AGREEMENT, entered into in conformance with the provisions contained in the 1983 INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATIVE USE OF PRESCRIBED FIRE IN CALIFORNIA, is made by and Between the:

California Department of Forestry
(hereinafter referred to as CDF)
State Lands Commission
(hereinafter referred to as SLC)
(hereinafter referred to as _____)
(hereinafter referred to as _____)

for the purpose of cooperatively executing the Sonoma KGRA #3 Prescribed Burn Project, located in Sonoma County, State of California.

2. The attached Prescribed Burn Plan for the Sonoma KGRA #3 Prescribed Burn Project, prepared by CDF on October 1, 1984 establishes the standards to be met and will govern project execution. The Prescribed Fire Plan is appended hereto and is accepted by all parties as a part of this agreement.

3. This project is a cooperative effort because lands of the SLC are in small parcels interspersed in larger private ownerships. It will be less costly to the SLC and to the CDF to burn the SLC parcels along with the private parcels.

4. Costs and benefits are apportioned as follows:
-Avoided cost to CDF for not having to construct bulldozer lines around SLC parcels = \$1485.00.
-Avoided cost to SLC for not having to construct bulldozer lines around the SLC parcels = \$1485.00 (in the event they decided to burn their own parcels without burning the private land).
-Cost to CDF = \$17.92/acre x 36 acres = \$645.12.
-Cost to SLC = \$0.00

5. Reimbursements and/or payments will be made as follows:

No reimbursements and/or payments will be made between the CDF and SIC.

6. Suppression cost responsibility is assigned as follows:

CDF will be responsible for suppression costs.

7. Should an escaped fire review be necessary, the CDF is hereby designated as "lead agency."

8. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this agreement by their authorized representatives and this agreement is in effect as of the last date written below:

(Date)

Unit: California Department of Forestry
By: _____
Title: Ranger-in-Charge, Sonoma Ranger Unit

(Date)

Unit: State Lands Commission
By: _____
Title: _____

(Date)

Unit: _____
By: _____
Title: _____

(Date)

Unit: _____
By: _____
Title: _____

EXHIBIT "D"

The following findings relate to each of the potential significant effects identified in the environmental impact report prepared for the project:

Water Quality

Impact: Potential degradation of water quality in the project area from both site preparation and prescribed burn operations. These impacts include turbidity, higher bio-oxygen demand, and sedimentation caused by erosion and increased water temperatures caused by removal of streamside shading.

Finding: (a) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which mitigate or avoid the significant environmental effects thereof as identified in the final EIR and site specific assessment.

(b) Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding (California Department of Forestry (CDF) - Sonoma Ranger District). Such changes have been adopted by such other agency, or can and should be adopted, by such agency.

Facts Supporting Finding

Prescribed burning in the proposed agreement area could result in several water quality impacts to the environment from the site preparation (i.e., use of heavy equipment) and the prescribed burn itself (i.e., not burning in appropriate season; burning too large an area; use of high-intensity fires; etc.).

Pursuant to Division 4 of the Public Resources Code, CDF has jurisdiction and responsibility over management of the Chaparral Management Program. Section 4476 of Division 4 provides for the identification of an officer of such department as the fire boss with final authority to approve and amend the plan and formula applicable to the prescribed burning operation.

The proposed Interagency Agreement provides that a: "Prescribed Burn Plan for the Sonoma-KGRA #3 Prescribed Burn Project, prepared by CDF on October 1, 1984, establishes the standards to be met and will govern project execution...". The plan provides for specific measures designed to avoid or significantly lessen the above-mentioned water quality impacts.

Geology

Impact: Potential effects on the geology from both site preparation and prescribed burn operations. These impacts include potential landslide areas.

Finding: (a) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which mitigate or avoid the significant environmental effects thereof as identified in the final EIR and site specific assessment.

(b) Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding (CDF - Sonoma Ranger District). Such changes have been adopted by such other agency, or can and should be adopted by such agency.

Facts Supporting Finding

Prescribed burning in the proposed agreement area could result in significant environmental impacts from the site preparation (i.e., use of heavy equipment) and the prescribed burn itself (i.e., burning in "Geologic Hazard Areas"). The proposed area includes potential landslide areas.

Pursuant to Division 4 of the P.R.C., CDF has jurisdiction and responsibility over management of the Chaparral Management Program. Section 4476 of Division 4 provides for the identification of an officer of such department as the fire boss with final authority to approve and amend the plan and formula applicable to the prescribed burning operation.

The proposed Interagency Agreement provides that: "...Prescribed Burn Plan for the Sonoma KGRA #3 Prescribed Burn Project, prepared by CDF on October 1, 1984, establishes the standards to be met and will govern project execution...". The plan provides for specific measures designed to avoid or significantly lessen the above-mentioned environmental impacts.

Air Quality

Impact: Potential impacts on air quality from the proposed prescribed burn operation.

Finding: (a) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which mitigate or avoid the significant environmental effects thereof as identified in the final EIR and site specific assessment.

(b) Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding (North Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board). Such changes have been adopted by such other agency, or can and should be adopted by such other agency.

Facts Supporting Finding

The prescribed burn operation could have potential significant impacts on air quality by the emission of pollutants into the atmosphere.

Jurisdiction and regulatory authority over air quality in the proposed agreement area resides with the North Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District and the Air Resources Board. The District has and enforces rules and regulation applicable to controlled emissions into the atmosphere. In order to assure compliance with the air quality regulations, CDF has developed a Smoke Management Plan in close coordination with the North Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District. Such Smoke Management Plan is attached to, and is part of, the Prescribed Burn Plan.

Some of the mitigation measures included in such Smoke Management Plan are: when the burn should occur, i.e., time of day; time of year; wind direction; humidity; etc. These provisions will serve to mitigate potential air quality impacts.

Biota

Impact: Potential significant impacts could occur to the biota in the project area from both site preparation and prescribed burn operation. Some of these impacts are: loss of escape cover; loss of riparian habitat; loss of habitat of rare or endangered fauna; loss of vegetation containing rare or endangered flora; etc.

Finding: (a) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which mitigate or avoid the significant environmental effects thereof as identified in the final EIR and site specific assessment.

(b) Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding (CDF - Sonoma Ranger District). Such changes have been adopted by such other agency, or can and should be adopted by such agency.

Facts Supporting Finding

Prescribed burning in the proposed agreement area could result in several significant environmental impacts to the biota from the site preparation (i.e., use of heavy equipment; providing too large an area for the burn; etc.) and the prescribed burn itself (i.e., burning too large an area; loss of riparian vegetation; loss of rare or endangered species habitat; etc.).

Pursuant to Division 4 of the P.R.C., CDF has jurisdiction and responsibility over management of the Chaparral Management Program. Section 4476 of Division 4 provides for the identification of an officer of such department as the fire boss with final authority to approve and amend the plan and formula applicable to the prescribed burning operation.

The proposed Interagency Agreement provides that:
"... Prescribed Burn Plan for the Sonoma KGRA #3 Prescribed Burn Project, prepared by CDF on October 1, 1984, establishes the standards to be met and will govern project execution...". The plan provides for specific measures designed to avoid or significantly lessen the identified environmental impacts.