

**MINUTE ITEM**

This Calendar Item No. 35  
was approved as Minute Item  
No. 35 by the State Lands  
Commission by a vote of 2  
to 0 at its 9-23-87  
meeting.

**CALENDAR ITEM**

A 80

35

09/23/87

WP 6395 PRC 5395  
Pelka

S 39

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

**APPLICANT:** Walter H. Wheeler  
P. O. Box 1755  
Yuma, Arizona 85364

**PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION:**

Approval of a prospecting permit for two years to prospect for gold and silver and other valuable minerals, other than oil, gas, geothermal resources, sand and gravel, on approximately 127 acres of land located in Imperial County.

**TYPE OF LAND AND LOCATION:**

State School Land - Portion of W 1/2 of W 1/2, Section 36, T13S R22E, SBB&M, Imperial County, 1.3 miles southwest of Picacho, more particularly described in Exhibit "A".

**PROPOSED PROJECT:**

The Applicant will take exploratory samples from the subsurface in two phases by excavating six sample pits, three per phase. The samples will be assayed for gold and silver to discover and delineate any possible gold and/or silver deposits. Pit dimensions will be approximately six feet wide, fifteen feet long and eighteen feet deep. Each pit shall be backfilled prior to proceeding with the next location.

Vehicle access is restricted to existing roads, jeep trails, and washes. No surface disturbance such as road construction, trenching, blasting, or clearing will be permitted.

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If commencial mining operations are proposed, appropriate environmental documentation will be prepared and certified prior to issuing a mineral extraction lease.

TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:

The primary term of a prospecting permit is two years. The Commission may, in its discretion, extend the term for one additional year.

CONSIDERATION: Filing fee of \$25, expense deposit of \$250, and acreage deposit of \$127.

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

Royalty payable under any preferential lease issued shall not be less than ten percent of the gross value of all mineral production from the leased lands, less any charges approved by the Commission made or incurred with respect to transporting or processing the State's royalty share of production. The determination of said royalty charges shall be at the discretion of the Commission and set forth in said lease.

PREREQUISITE ITEMS:

1. Required statutory filing fee, expense deposit and acreage deposit have been submitted by the Applicant.
2. Subject parcel is not known to contain a commercially valuable deposit of minerals.

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

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

AB 884: 10/10/87.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

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

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 35 (CONT'D)

as EIR ND 321, State Clearinghouse 82041850; such negative declaration was prepared and circulated in December 1982 for public review pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. A copy of this environmental document is attached as Exhibit "C".

In May of 1987, staff recirculated EIR ND 321 for an identical project application submitted by the Applicant. Based upon the recirculation of the Negative Declaration, and the comments received in response thereto, additional mitigation measures have been added to the permit. There is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15074(b)).

2. Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6895, the Applicant would have a preferential right to a lease for a maximum of 127 acres embraced within the permit. Said right shall be subject to all necessary environmental approvals. The permit will not affect the discretion of the Commission in granting or denying such environmental approvals; it is understood that the Commission may deny the issuance of a lease based upon environmental considerations pursuant to CEQA.
3. Permit shall provide for a performance bond or other security device of \$2,500 in favor of the State.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

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

EXHIBITS:

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

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 35 (CONT'D)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION EIR ND 321, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE 82041850, WAS RECIRCULATED FOR THIS PROJECT, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CEQA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN. THE PROJECT SHALL INCLUDE THIS PROSPECTING PERMIT AND ANY EXTENSION THE COMMISSION MAY GRANT FOR THE SAME PROJECT DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT. ANY EXTENSION SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR.
2. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS PROPOSED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT ARE NOT PRESENTLY KNOWN TO CONTAIN COMMERCIALY VALUABLE DEPOSITIS OF MINERALS.
4. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF THE PROSPECTING PERMIT TO WALTER H. WHEELER, FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, FOR ALL MINERALS, OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES, SAND AND GRAVEL ON A FRACTIONAL PORTION OF THE WEST HALF OF THE WEST HALF, SECTION 36, T13S, R22E, SBB&M, IMPERIAL COUNTY, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 127 ACRES; IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD FORM OF PERMIT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER THE PERMIT SHALL BE TWENTY PERCENT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER ANY PREFERENTIAL LEASE ISSUED UPON THE DISCOVERY OF COMMERCIAL VALUABLE DEPOSITS FOR ANY AND ALL MATERIALS EXTRACTED OR REMOVED FROM SAID PREMISES FOR SALE OR STOCKPILING SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE GROSS REVENUE, LESS SPECIFIC CHARGES, AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION, RELATED TO TRANSPORTING AND PROCESSING, AS SET FORTH IN SAID LEASE; THE DETERMINATION OF SAID ROYALTIES SHALL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSION.

EXHIBIT "A"

LAND DESCRIPTION

WP 6395.2

Those portions of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 in the W 1/2 of the NW 1/4 and the W 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 36, T13S, R22E, SBM, Imperial County, California.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED NOVEMBER 16, 1982, BY BOUNDARY AND TITLE UNIT, LEROY WEED, SUPERVISOR.

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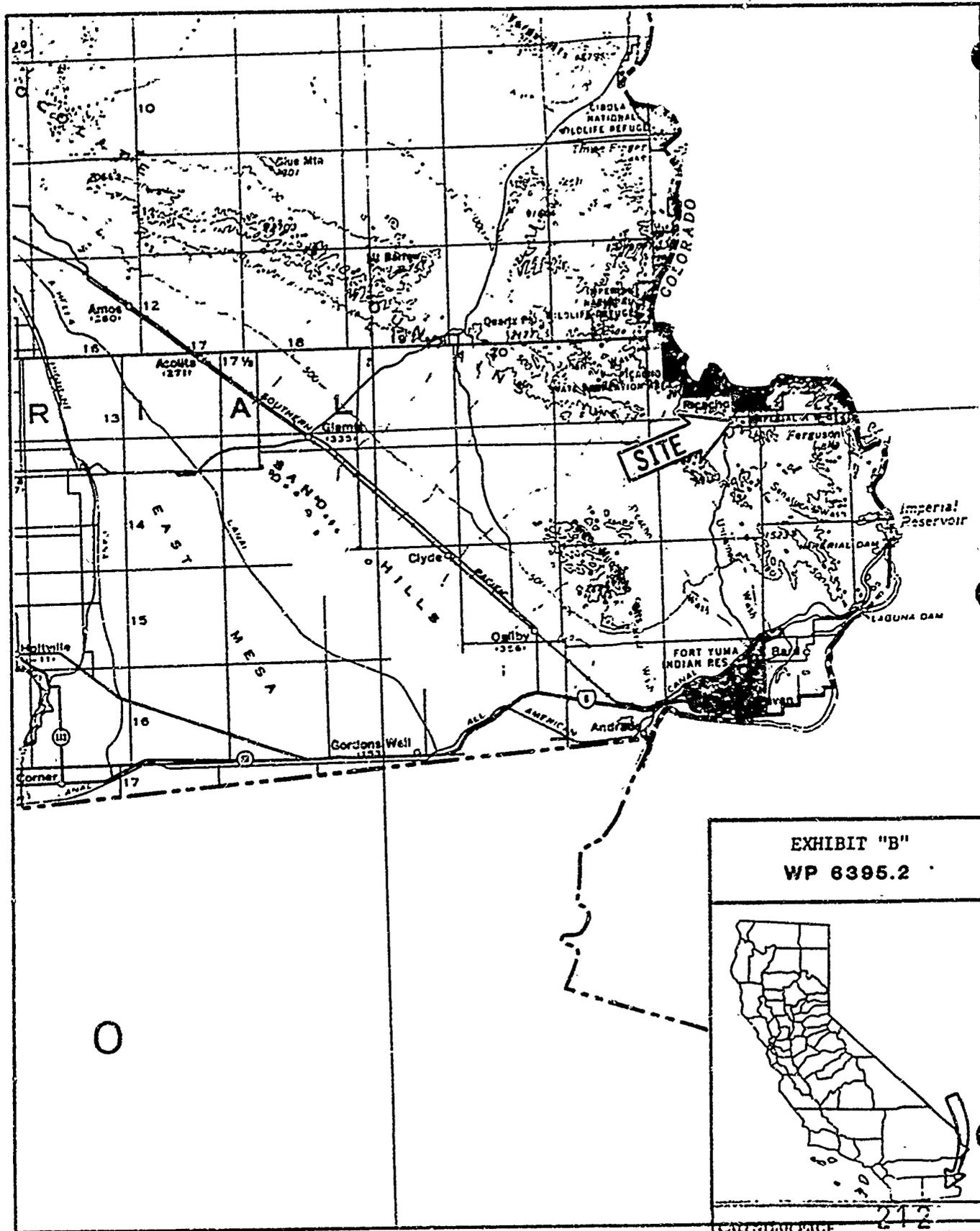


EXHIBIT "B"  
 WP 6395.2

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## EXHIBIT "C"

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR NO 321

File Ref.: W 40316

SCH#: 82041850

Project Title: Mineral Prospecting Permit,  
Walter H. Wheeler

Project Location: Portion of W<sub>1</sub> of W<sub>4</sub>, Section 36, T. 13 S., R. 22 E.,  
S.B.B. & M., Imperial County.

Project Description: Walter H. Wheeler will take exploratory samples from the subsurface in two phases, and assay them for gold and silver content to discover and delineate any possible gold and/or silver deposits.

This NEGATIVE DECLARATION is prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et seq. of the Public Resources Code), the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, of the California Administrative Code), and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section 2901 et seq., Title 2, of the 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.
- the attached mitigation measures will avoid potentially significant effects.

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

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Form 13.17	

COMMENTS RECEIVED AND RESPONSES TO INITIAL STUDY

1. Department of Parks and Recreation

Comments:

"There are several items which will need to be discussed in more detail in the Negative Declaration for prospecting permit W 40316. Since the project is adjacent to Picacho State Recreation Area, the general public may have occasion to be in the project area. Some sort of warning sign to alert the public to keep out of the project area will be needed. Because camping and other recreational activities occur throughout this area, even if the digs are only of a few days duration, on-site signs should be posted.

Also, a thorough investigation of the weather and climate patterns should be done, to determine the potential effects any flash flooding may have on the project site or adjacent areas. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, and the rate and amount of surface runoff should be included.

The use of backhoes and other equipment will produce fumes and odors and digging will generate dust. These items need to be mentioned and measures taken to minimize their effect.

Picacho State Recreation Area is a quiet, rural area, where the general public goes to enjoy the outdoors. The quality of this recreational experience may be diminished if the scenic vistas and relative quiet are disturbed. Therefore, the project site land alterations should be kept to a minimum and the machinery creating any noise should only be operated for one eight hour period per day, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m."

Response:

1. Paragraph eight of the prospecting permit provides for notifying the public by requiring the permittee to mark each corner of the permitted lands with a substantial monument and post a notice in a conspicuous location on the permitted land stating that the prospecting permit has been issued and describing the permitted lands.

1. Department of Parks and Recreation (Contd.)

Response: (Contd.)

2. Since the total activity involves a maximum of only 360 cubic yards of material and each excavation will be restored, as nearly as possible, to the natural ground contour, the staff does not foresee any significant impacts from flash flooding during the proposed exploration. Additionally, the nominal total surface disturbance of 0.012 acre should not have any significant impacts with respect to changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate or amount of surface runoff.
3. The prospecting permit (Paragraph 24b) binds the permittee to conduct all operations in such manner as to eliminate as nearly as possible all dust, noise, vibration, or noxious odors. Since the excavating, sampling and restoration at the six possible sites will be completed in approximately two days, there should not be any substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality or a permanent increase in the existing noise levels.

August 1, 1982

INITIAL STUDY  
INTRODUCTION

Walter H. Wheeler has applied to the State Lands Commission for a prospecting permit on State lands located south of Picacho State Recreation Area in eastern Imperial County. The proposed project consists of excavating six sample pits, three per phase, to discover and delineate any possible orebody. The permit, when issued, is for a two year period.

This Initial Study consists of an initial study checklist, information form responses, and maps.

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

August 1982

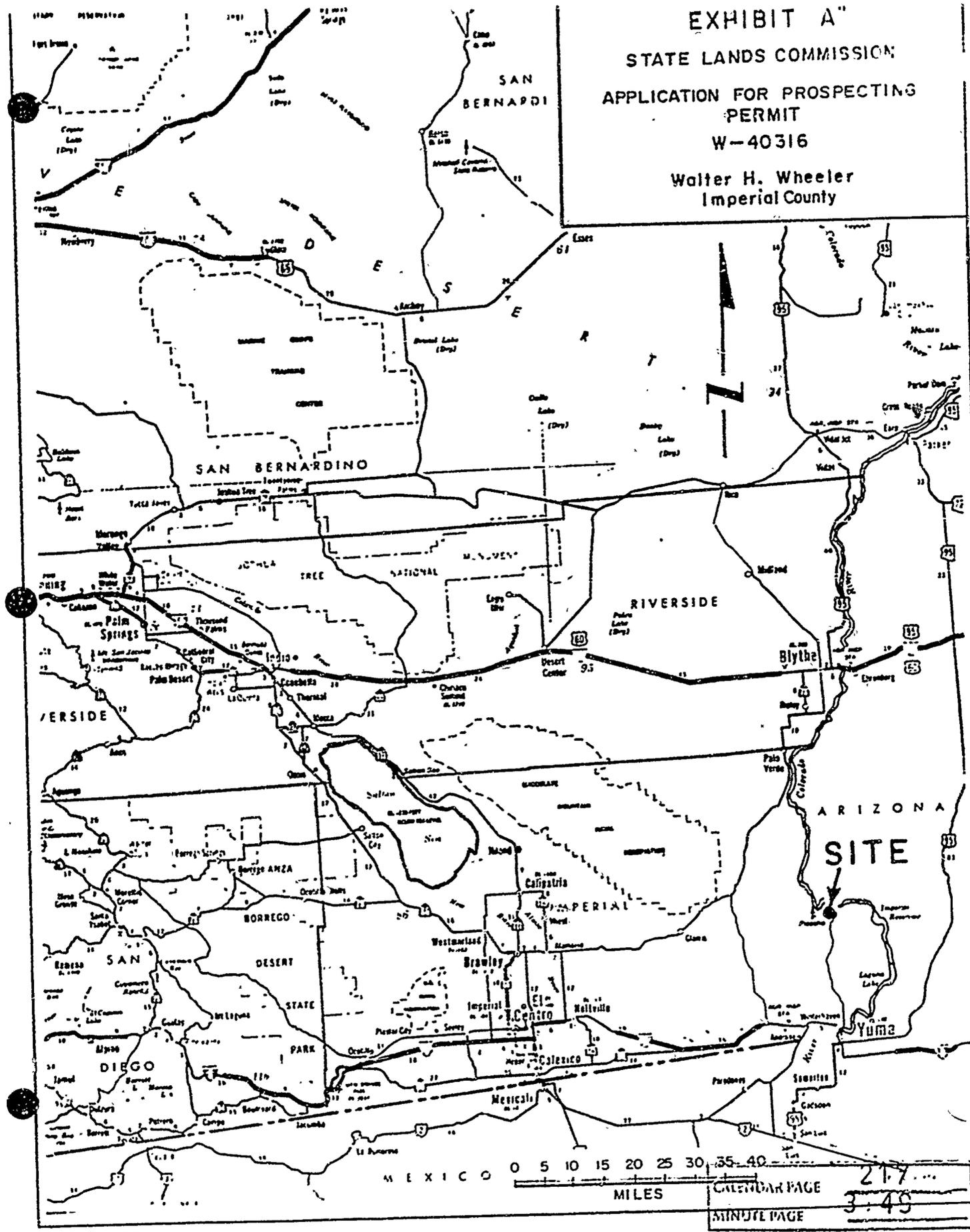
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EXHIBIT A"

STATE LANDS COMMISSION  
APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING  
PERMIT

W-40316

Walter H. Wheeler  
Imperial County



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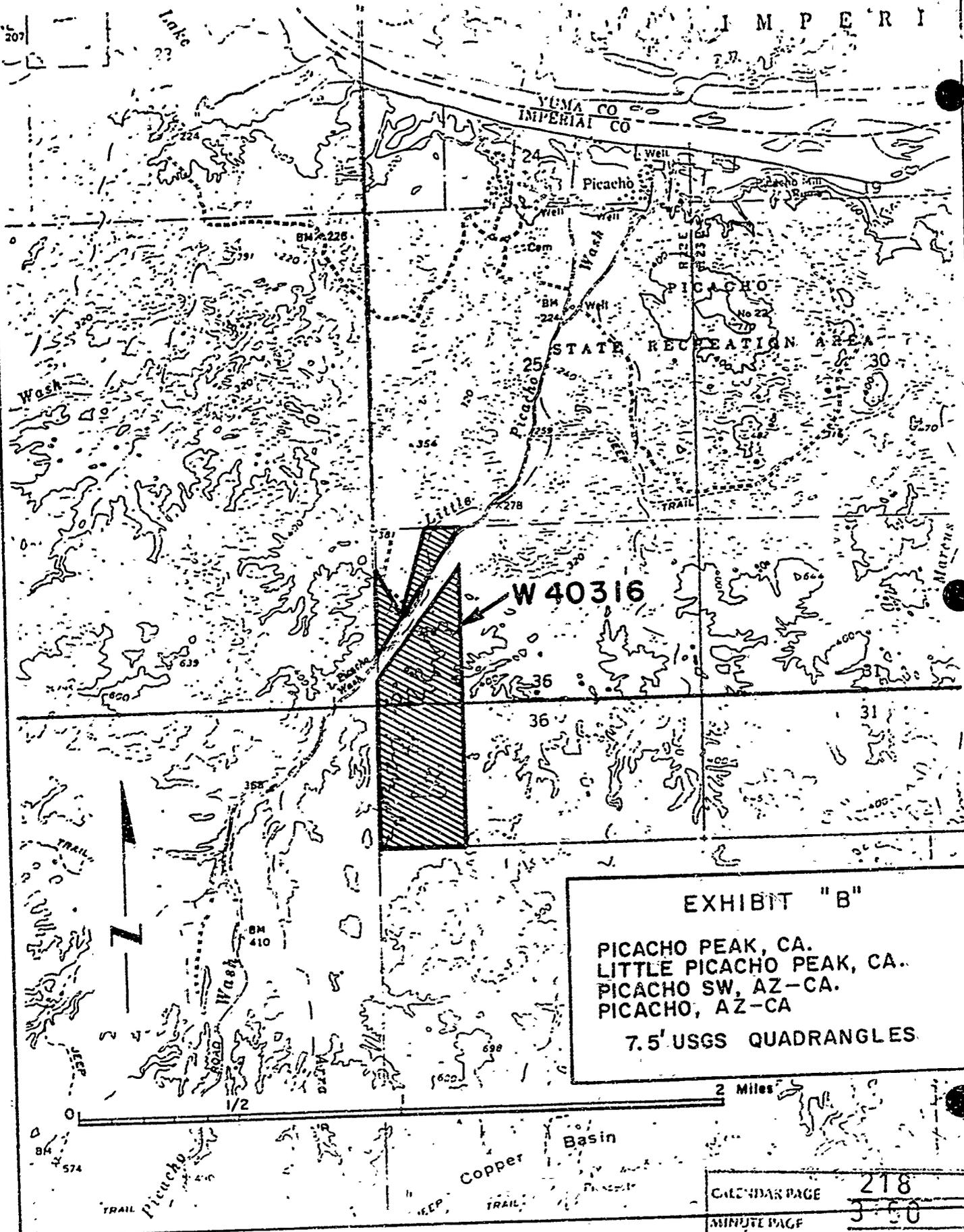
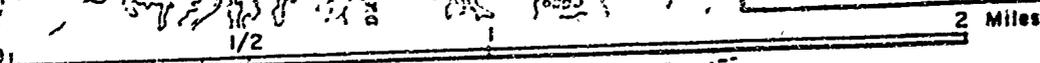


EXHIBIT "B"  
 PICACHO PEAK, CA.  
 LITTLE PICACHO PEAK, CA.  
 PICACHO SW, AZ-CA.  
 PICACHO, AZ-CA  
 7.5' USGS QUADRANGLES



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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST**

Form 13.20 (7/80)

File Ref. W 40316

**I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

A. Applicant: Walter H. Wheeler  
P. O. Box 1755  
Yuma, Arizona 85364

B. Checklist Date: 8 / 16 / 82

C. Contact Person: James B. Hart, State Lands Commission  
 Telephone: (213) 590-5201

D. Purpose: Prospect for valuable minerals.

E. Location: Portion of W $\frac{1}{2}$  of W $\frac{1}{2}$ , Section 36, T. 13 S., R. 22 E.,  
S.B.B.&M., Imperial County. See attached maps.

F. Description: Applicant will dig six test holes to approximately  
18 feet with a back hoe, take samples at the 6, 12,  
and 18 foot depths, and assay the samples for gold & silver  
content.

G. Persons Contacted: See detailed project description.

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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, mudslides, ground failure, or wind hazards? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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10. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?
- 2. The creation of objectionable odor?
- 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?

E. *Animal Life.* Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)?
- 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?

- J. *Risk of Upset*. Does the proposal result in
- |   | Yes                      | Maybe                    | No                                  |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan? . . . . .  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- K. *Population*. Will the proposal result in:
- |   |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- L. *Housing*. Will the proposal result in:
- |  |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Affecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- M. *Transportation/Circulation*. Will the proposal result in:
- |   |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement? . . . . .                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Affecting existing parking facilities, or create a demand for new parking? . . . . .         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems? . . . . .                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic? . . . . .                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians? . . . . .         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- 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? . . . . .                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Police protection? . . . . .                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Schools? . . . . .   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Parks and other recreational facilities? . . . . .           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Other governmental services? . . . . .                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- O. *Energy*. Will the proposal result in:
- |   |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy? . . . . .  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- P. *Utilities*. Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:
- |  |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Power or natural gas? . . . . .     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Communication systems? . . . . .    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Water? . . . . .                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Sewer or septic tanks? . . . . .    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Storm water drainage? . . . . .     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Solid waste and disposal? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- Q. *Human Health*. Will the proposal result in:
- |  |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards? . . . . .                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- R. *Aesthetics*. Will the proposal result in:
- |   |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The construction 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? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- S. *Recreation*. Will the proposal result in:
- |   |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**T Cultural Resources.**

Yes Maybe No

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

**U. Mandatory Findings of Significance.**

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

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

See attached Detailed Project Description, Discussion of Environmental Evaluation, and Form 69.3.

**IV. 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: 8 / 16 / 82

*James B. Hart*

JAMES B. HART

For the State Lands Commission

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## DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Walter H. Wheeler proposes to conduct a two-phased exploration plan in the permit area with the execution of Phase I dependent upon the achievement of success in Phase II. The two phases are described as follows:

### Phase I:

The applicant will prospect by digging sample holes 1, 2, and 3 (refer to sample location map) to a total depth of approximately 18 feet with a backhoe tractor. Samples will be obtained at the six, twelve, and eighteen foot depths, and assayed for gold and silver content.

Prospect holes 1, 2, and 3 will be excavated, sampled, and back filled in approximately one day. Each test hole will be restored before commencing an excavation at the next sample location.

### Phase II:

If the assay results of the samples obtained in Phase I indicate commercial potential, the applicant will excavate sample holes 4, 5, and 6. Samples acquired at the six, twelve, and eighteen foot depths will be assayed for gold and silver to delineate any possible ore body.

The excavation duration and reclamation of the Phase II test holes will be identical to that described in Phase I.

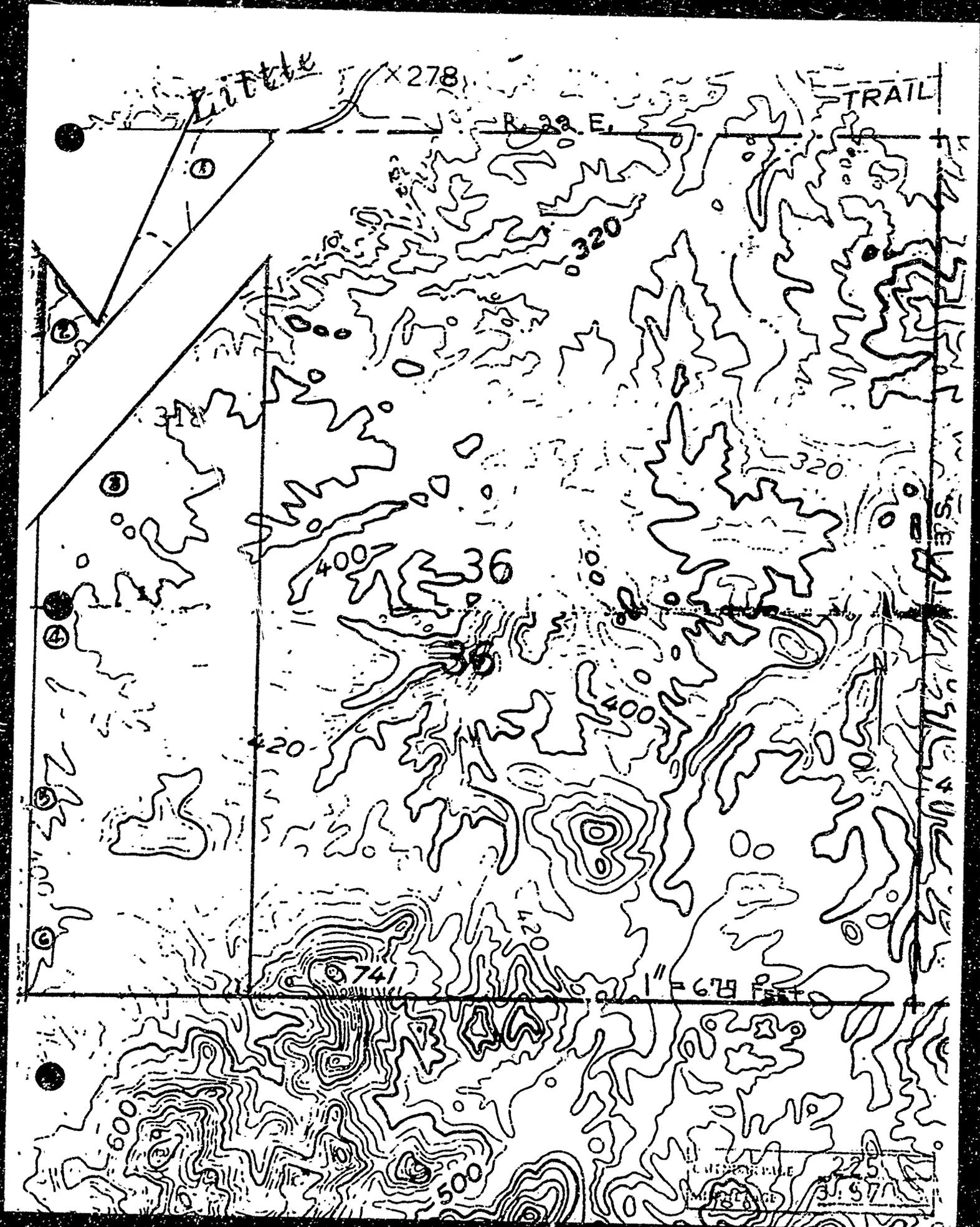
The maximum surface area disturbance per test hole will be approximately 90 square feet. Therefore, the total maximum surface area disturbance for Phases I and II will be about 540 square feet or 0.012 acre. The maximum excavated sample volume per hole will be 60 cubic yards. Therefore, the total maximum excavated sample volume for Phases I and II will be 360 cubic yards.

If a commercially valuable mineral deposit is discovered through prospecting efforts under authorization of a prospecting permit, a comprehensive environmental report will be required on the future impacts of mining the deposit.

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### III. Discussion of Environmental Evaluation

- A 2. Disruption, displacement, compaction, and overcovering of the rocky, sandy soil will occur in the immediate vicinity of the sampling sites. Each excavation will be restored to the natural ground contour, as nearly as possible, before proceeding to the next sample location. A minimal amount of disruption and compaction of the soil will occur when the sampling equipment is moved on and off a site.
- A 5. An increase in wind and water erosion of the disturbed soil at the sampling sites will take place during wind and rain storms.
- F 1. The use of the backhoe tractor and associated sampling activities of Phases I and II will temporarily increase the existing noise levels.



ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FORM  
(To be completed by applicant)

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name and address of developer or project sponsor: Walter H. Wheeler  
F. C. Box 1755 Yuma, Az. 85361
2. Address of project: None  
Assessor's Block and Lot number: None
3. Name, address, and telephone number of person to be contacted concerning this project: Walter H. Wheeler P. O. Box 1755 Yuma, Az. 85361 (602) 783-5361
4. Indicate number of the permit application for the project to which this form pertains: W C 110316
5. List and describe any other related permits and other public approvals required for this project, including those required by City, regional, state and federal agencies: Imperial County Planning Commission.
6. Existing zoning district: Not zoned  
Present use of site: Recreational
7. Proposed use of site (Project for which this form is filed): Prospecting and mining

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

8. Site size. 160 acres
9. Square footage. 6,969,600
10. Number of floors of construction.
11. Amount of off-street parking provided.
12. Attach plans.
13. Proposed scheduling. Start operating as soon as lease is signed
14. Associated projects. None
15. Anticipated incremental development. None
16. If residential, include the number of units, schedule of unit sizes, range of sale prices or rents, and type of household and household size expected.
17. If commercial, indicate the type, whether neighborhood or city oriented, square footage of sales area, and loading facilities.
18. If industrial, indicate type, estimated employment per shift, and loading facilities.
19. If institutional, indicate the major function, estimated employment per shift, estimated occupancy, loading facilities, and community benefits to be derived from the project.

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20 If the project involves a variance, conditional use or rezoning application, state this and indicate clearly why the application is required.

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

YES NO

- .....  No. 21. Change in existing features of any bays, tidelands, beaches, lakes or hills, or substantial alteration of ground contours.
- .....  No. 22. Change in scenic views or vistas from existing residential areas or public lands or roads.
- .....  No. 23. Change in pattern, scale or character of general area of project.
- .....  No. 24. Significant effect on plant or animal life.
- .....  No. 25. Significant amounts of solid waste or litter.
- .....  No. 26. Change in dust, ash, smoke, fumes or odors in vicinity.
- .....  No. 27. Change in ocean, bay, lake, stream or ground water quality or quantity, or alteration of existing drainage patterns.
- .....  No. 28. Change in existing noise or vibration levels in the vicinity.
- .....  No. 29. Site on filled land or on slope of 10 percent or more.
- .....  No. 30. Use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials, such as toxic substances, flammables or explosives.
- .....  No. 31. Change in demand for municipal services (police, fire, water, sewage, etc.)
- .....  No. 32. Increased fossil fuel consumption (electricity, oil, natural gas, etc.)
- .....  No. 33. Relationship to a larger project or series of projects.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

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

#### CERTIFICATION:

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

Date March 25, 1982

Walter H Wheeler

For

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34. The project area and the surrounding lands are an alluvial plane eroded by washes and intrusions.

The soil is stable, subject only to the erosion caused by infrequent, extremely heavy rain storms.

The area is very sparsely covered with relatively low growing bushes typical of the area.

In traveling through the area many times and flying over it several times, I have only seen two burros one time.

There are no special environmental resources known to me.

There are no existing structures.

35. The project area, as described in 34 above, is typical of the surrounding area.