

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 23
was approved as Minute item
No. 23 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 2
to 0 at its 6/30/88
meeting.

MINUTE ITEM

23

06/30/88
W 24085
D. Miller

AUTHORIZATION FOR STAFF TO PROCEED WITH REHABILITATION
OF THE AREA BURNED IN THE LAUDER FIRE IN THE
CULLIN'S FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT
MENDOCINO COUNTY

During consideration of Calendar Item 23, attached, Alan and Wanda Warden appeared to state their concerns regarding a cloud in the right-of-way through their property. The Wardens were also concerned about the use of chemicals involved in brush spraying.

Assistant Executive Officer Trout indicated staff is concerned with this issue. All future spraying will be done under the supervision of the Commission's foresters. Mr. Trout also indicated that staff counsel is working with counsel for the Wardens in an effort to resolve the clouded right-of-way issue.

Acting Chairman Tucker assured the Wardens that they would receive adequate notice of any future spraying.

Without objection, Calendar Item 23 was approved as presented by a vote of 2-0.

Attachment: Calendar Item 23.

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W 24085

D. Miller

AUTHORIZATION FOR STAFF TO PROCEED WITH
REHABILITATION OF THE AREA BURNED IN THE LAUDER FIRE
IN THE CULLINS FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT, MENDOCINO COUNTY

APPLICANT: State Lands Commission
1807 - 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

The Lauder fire burned approximately 800 acres of forested School lands in the Cullins Management Unit described as the W 1/2 Section 15, Lake County, and portions of Section 16, 21 and 22, T18N R11W MDB&M, Mendocino County, from September 24 to October 6, 1987 when the fire was controlled. To control the fire, approximately three-and-one-half miles of fuel breaks were constructed on school lands, which resulted in removal of all vegetation in strips approximately 200 feet wide, clearing a total of approximately 56 acres. The fire burned through dense stands of conifer saplings and small poles and dense hardwood thickets and also killed a small volume of scattered saw timber.

Additionally, one wet stream was buried, two dry stream courses were buried, and about a half dozen dry draws were buried or obliterated by equipment while trying to control the fire. During the fire control work, berms were created on the fill sides of the roads which have collected water resulting in additional erosion during the wet season.

Immediately after control of the fire, in October and November 1987, emergency erosion control work was done on fire lines and major stream crossings under Phase I of this rehabilitation work as presented at the October 1987 Commission meeting.

Phase II, consisting of hand tree planting of conifer seedlings was completed in April 1988 in the fuel breaks and in areas of hot burns on about 100 acres. This work was authorized by the Commission at its March 2, 1988 meeting.

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Phase III consists of rehabilitation and upgrading of existing roads to provide year-round access to the burn area. These roads also provide access to 17 million board feet of State-owned merchantable sawtimber in areas adjacent to the burn.

The road rehabilitation portion of the project will consist of rolling and dipping the roads using the natural terrain and pulling the berms and filling the ditches to reduce erosion. The ten-foot-wide road surface will be rocked and compacted. Road work on private lands where access issues are unresolved is specifically excluded from road work authorized by this calendar item. Authorization for this road work will be requested after access issues are resolved.

Phase IV of this project proposes site preparation on 700 acres to be phased over the next five years to remove thermally killed dense noncommercial conifer pole and sapling stands, along with smaller dead hardwoods, all of which will be piled by the contractor for burning at a later time by SLC staff. The site-preparation will be accomplished by a combination of hand crews and a crawler tractor with a brush rake attached. The hand crews will work the steeper slopes. During the site preparation, drainages will be rechannelled to their original courses. Site preparation and subsequent tree planting may be done by contract or with the California Conservation Corps, depending on availability of crews and funds.

Two existing water holes will be cleaned out with a backhoe and three water holes will be developed for wildlife, road dust abatement, and water for future fire fighting needs. One spring will be developed by hand for wildlife purposes.

Hand tree plantings will be done in spring following site preparation. Hand planting will have a beneficial effect on the burned area by artificially regenerating the fire-killed conifer stands.

Slash will be piled in the spring and summer and burned in the fall by School Lands staff.

Sprouting hardwood stumps will be hand sprayed with Garlon-4 the year following cutting or when needed. Garlon-4 has a cautionary label and is not a restricted herbicide. If necessary, sprouting manzanita brushfields previously pushed will be treated with 2-4 D the following year. 2-4 D is a restricted herbicide. The Agriculture Commission office at

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Lake and Mendocino counties stated that they have no problems with the proposed hand spray operation and will issue permits for the proposed use of 2-4 D.

The State Department of Food and Agriculture's Workers Health and Safety Unit stated that they would also issue a permit for the proposed hand-spray project using 2-4 D. All Federal, State, and County rules and regulations will be strictly adhered to, as will manufactures label directions. Herbicide application will be conducted to promote conifer growth, not as a site-preparation technique.

Cone collecting will be done during the Fall of 1988 to provide seedlings for subsequent planting. This project will be contracted out to professional cone collectors and tree climbers.

The scattered fire-killed merchantable conifers and hardwoods will be salvaged along with the site-preparation phase of the rehabilitation project. A Timber Harvest Plan will be filed with the Department of Forestry to cover removal of the fire-killed merchantable volume. The contractor will be given salvage rights for all fire-killed hardwoods and non commercial conifers. The larger sound black oaks will be left for wildlife habitat. Net salvageable volume is estimated to be 200 MBF.

The emergency erosion control work done under Phase I will be upgraded and extended where needed. All areas site-prepared will be treated for erosion control, such as water bars, ditches, placement of slash, etc. The treatment will be site-specific dependent on slopes, ground cover, etc.

This project was reviewed on the ground by personnel from the Department of Fish and Game. A cultural resources survey of the burn and adjacent State ownership has been completed. Mitigation will be provided for any significant findings on the project area.

The work proposed in this plan is subject to availability of funds. Site preparation and planting will be phased over a ten-year period, so that 70 to 100 acres can be site-prepared and planted per year.

AB 884:

N/A.

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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 Proposed Negative Declaration identified as EIR ND 437, State Clearinghouse No. 88032212. Such Proposed Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated for public review pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

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

EXHIBITS:

- A. Project Map.
- B. Vicinity Map.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION, EIR ND 437, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 88032212, 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 STAFF TO PROCEED WITH THE REHABILITATION OF THE AREA BURNED IN THE LAUDER FIRE AND ON ADJACENT SCHOOL LANDS, INCLUDING ROAD AND WATERCOURSE REHABILITATION ON STATE-OWNED PROPERTY, SALVAGE OF FIRE-KILLED MATERIAL AND SITE PREPARATION, TREE PLANTING, AND PLANTATION MAINTENANCE TO BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 31, 1999.

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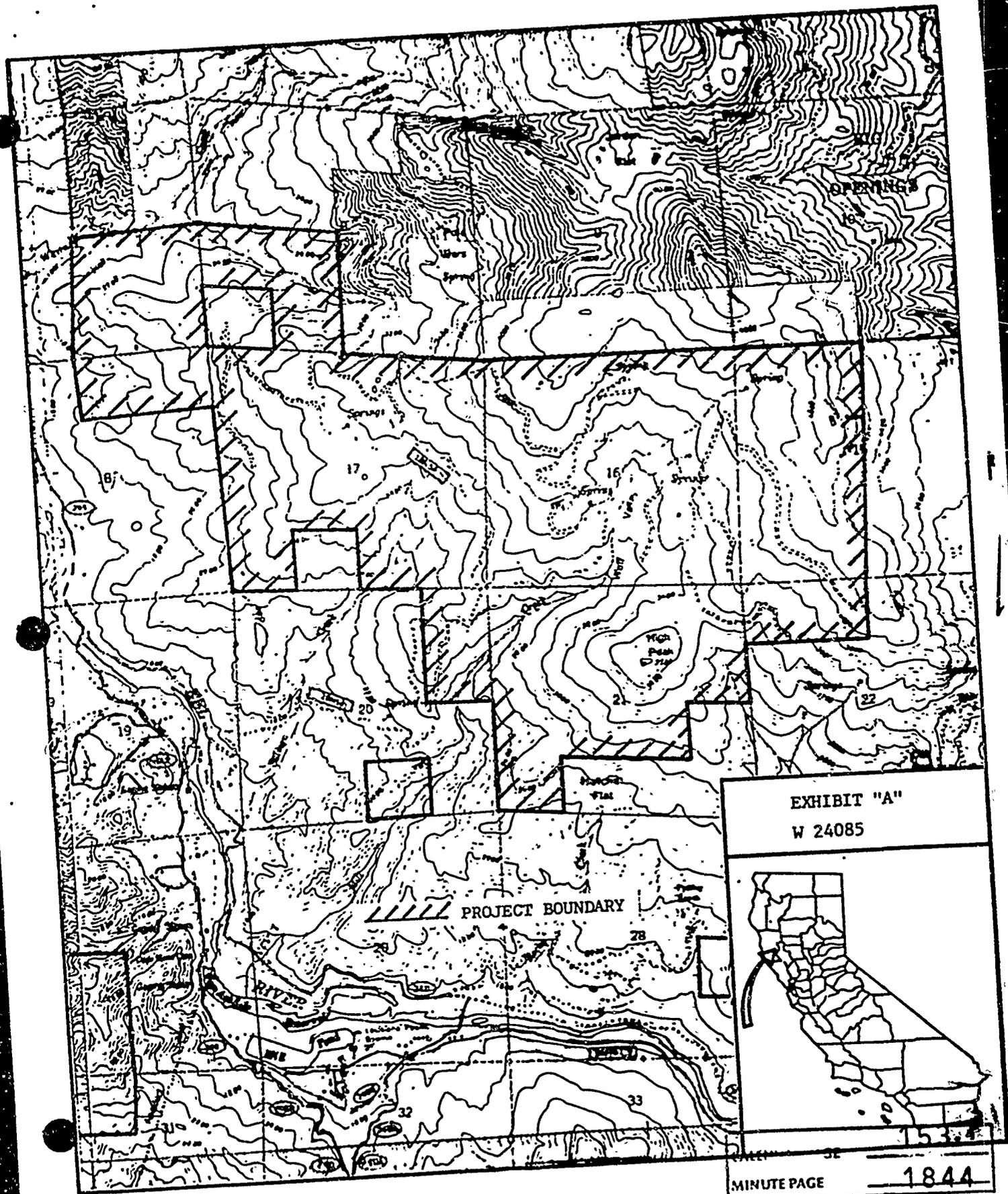


EXHIBIT "A"
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PROJECT BOUNDARY

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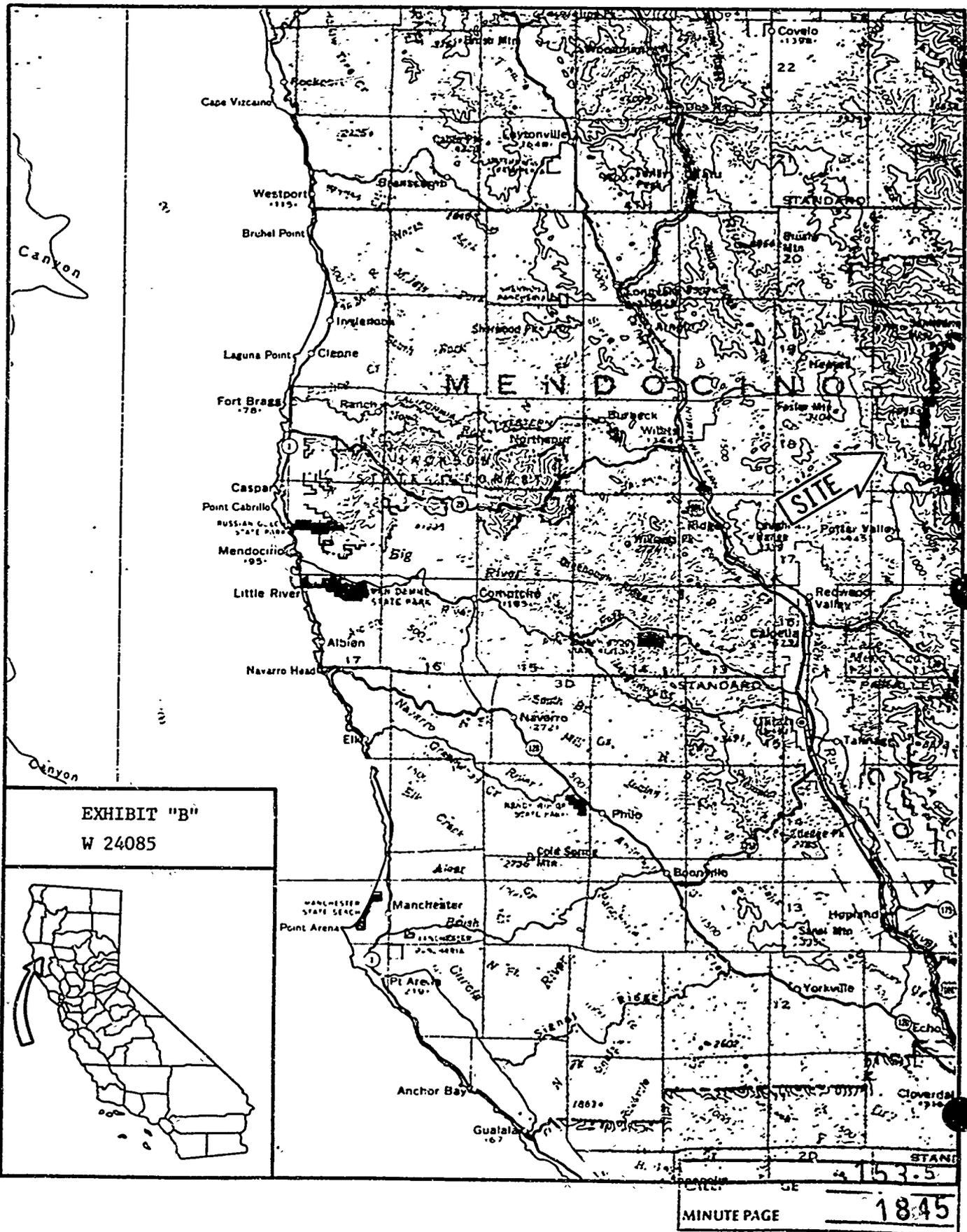


EXHIBIT "B"
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