

MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. 04
was approved as Minute Item
No. 1 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
0 at its 09/11/89
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A 68

04

09/11/89
W503.1502
W 23357
AD 99
A. Scott
Hadly
Kaufmann

S 36

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION
J. R. NORTON COMPANY, ET AL v. STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ET AL
COVERING A PORTION OF THE HISTORIC BED
OF THE COLORADO RIVER NEAR BLYTHE, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

APPLICANT: John R. Norton, III
c/o John F. Daum, Esq.
O'Melvery and Myers
400 South Hope Street, Suite 1050
Los Angeles, California 90071-2899

BACKGROUND:

In the early 1920's efforts to control the Colorado River were made in the Palo Verde valley. These efforts involved the creation of a number of artificial cuts in attempts to cause the river to seek a more straightened course. The cuts were successful and some of the historic channel of the river was allowed to silt-up and became dry land. During the years after the rechannelization and even to the present day the historic bed of the river has been filled, leveled and used as farm land by many of the current and past owners of adjoining lands.

2. In exchange for the deposit of funds to the Land Bank Fund the State will quitclaim to the owners of record of the subject parcel all of its right, title and interest by virtue of its sovereignty and will terminate the public trust.
3. The agreement provides for an escrow and will become effective upon its recordation. A Stipulated Judgement, in accordance with the terms of this agreement, will be filed through the escrow as settlement of the pending litigation between Norton and the State.

Staff has appraised the area to be cleared of sovereign interest and has evaluated the law and evidence bearing on the title dispute and litigation, and it is the opinion of the staff that the sum of \$73,500 is equal to or greater than the value of the State's sovereign interest.

AB 884

N/A

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15061), the staff has determined that this activity is exempt from the requirements of the CEQA as a statutorily exempt project. The project is exempt because it involves settlements of title and boundary problems.

Authority: P.R.C. 21080.11.

2. A part of the action taken by the Commission in adopting the recommendations of the staff will be in the commission's capacity as trustee of the Kapiloff Land Bank Fund.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Settlement Area.
- B. Location Map.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 04 (CONT'D)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

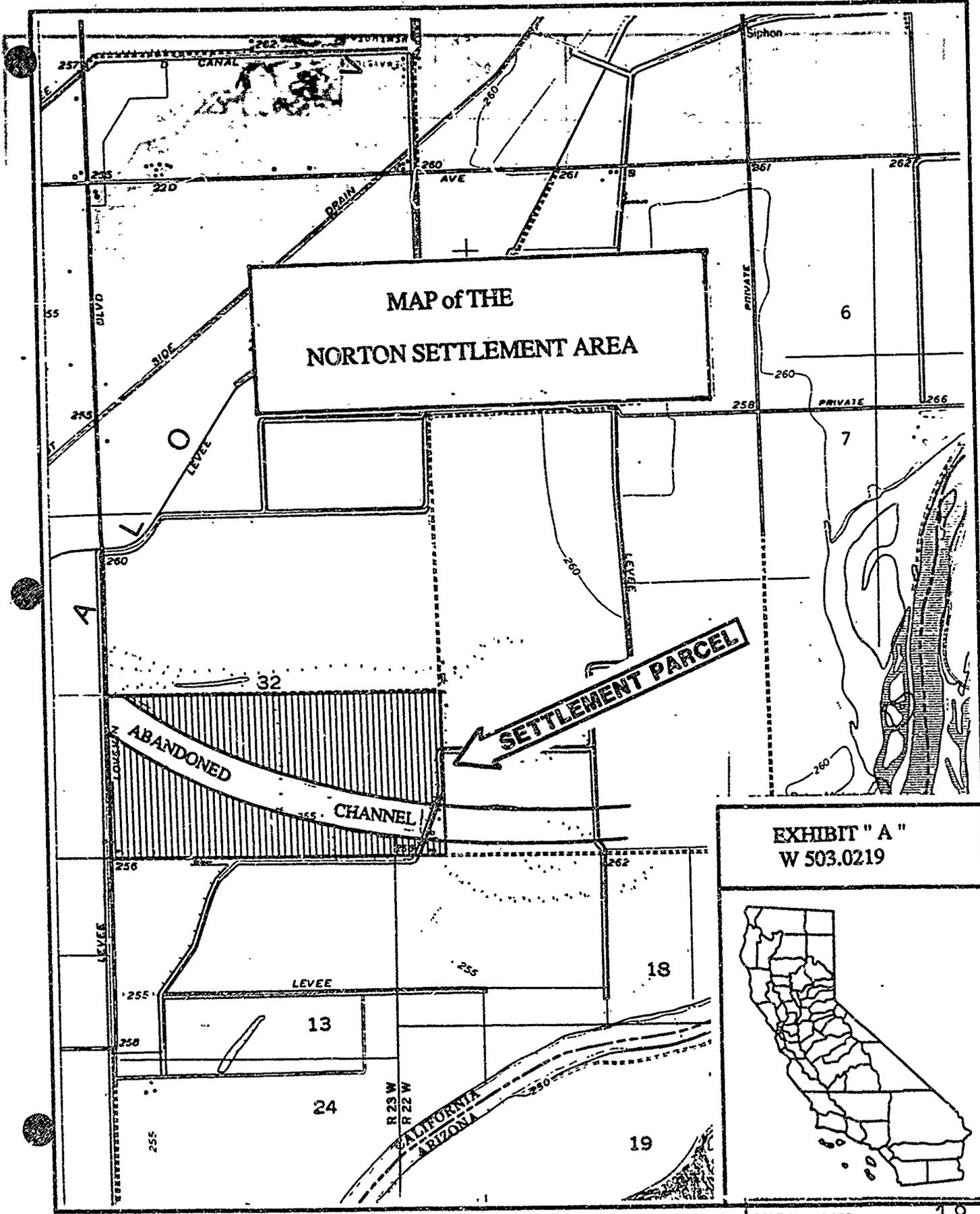
1. FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15061 AS A STATUTORILY EXEMPT PROJECT PURSUANT TO P.R.C. 21080.11, SETTLEMENT OF TITLE AND BOUNDARY PROBLEMS.
2. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION AND RECORDATION OF BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION OF A SETTLEMENT AND EXCHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOHN P. NORTON, III, ET AL. AND THE STATE IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM OF THAT AGREEMENT ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION.
3. FIND AND DECLARE UPON THE CLOSING OF ESCROW AS REQUIRED BY THE AGREEMENT THAT:
 - A. THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE.
 - B. THE MONEY TO BE RECEIVED BY THE STATE, FOR THE KAPILOFF LAND BANK FUND, IS OF A VALUE EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN THE VALUE OF THE INTEREST IN LAND BEING QUITCLAIMED BY THE STATE.
 - C. THE PARCEL TO BE QUITCLAIMED BY THE STATE HAS BEEN FILLED, RECLAIMED AND HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE PUBLIC CHANNELS AND IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE, USEFUL OR SUSCEPTIBLE OF BEING USED FOR NAVIGATION AND FISHING, IS NO LONGER, IN FACT, SUBMERGED LANDS, AND SHALL THEREFORE BE FREED OF THE PUBLIC TRUST FOR COMMERCE, NAVIGATION, AND FISHERIES.
4. AUTHORIZE THE STAFF OF THE COMMISSION AND THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO TAKE ALL FURTHER STEPS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THIS SETTLEMENT AND EXCHANGE AGREEMENT INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE EXECUTION, ACCEPTANCE AND RECORDATION OF ALL DOCUMENTS AND TO APPEAR ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION IN ANY LEGAL PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING THIS AGREEMENT.

MAP of THE
NORTON SETTLEMENT AREA

SETTLEMENT PARCEL

ABANDONED CHANNEL

EXHIBIT "A"
W 503.0219



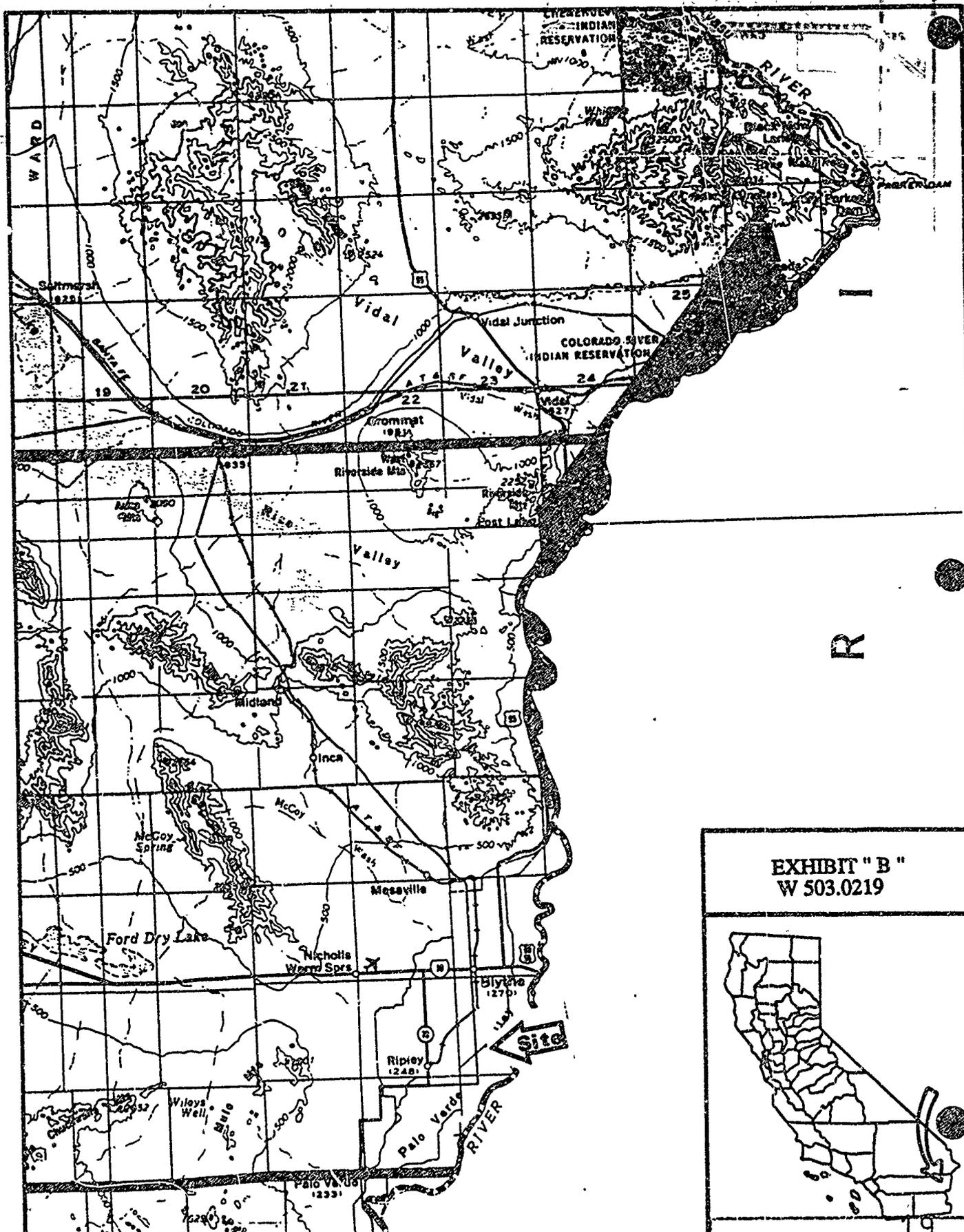


EXHIBIT " B "
W 503.0219

