MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C32
was approved as Minute Item
No. 32 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
0 at its 9/23/91
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A 37

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C 32

09/23/91
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Pelkofer

SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATORY PERMIT - INFORMATION COLLECTION

APPLICANT:

Dr. Ervan G. Garrison
Marine Archaeology & Maritime History Unit
SRD/NOAA N/ORM2
1825 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 714
Washington, D.C. 20235

AREA, LAND TYPE AND LOCATION:

Tide and submerged land in the Pacific Ocean, Channel side of Santa Cruz Island in California Channel Islands - Orizaba Cove and Prisoner's Harbor, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

LAND USE:

Survey and coring of two (2) offshore areas to locate drowned prehistoric village/camp sites.

TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:

Initial period:

One (1) year beginning on the date of execution of the permit by the State Lands Commission.

CONSIDERATION:

The public benefit.

BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Pursuant to 2. Cal. Code Regs. 2003(a) (4) (A).

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

A. P.R.C.: Civ. 6, Parts 1 and 2; Div. 13.

B. Cal. Code Regs.: Title 3. Div. 3; Title 14, Div. 6.

AB 884:

N/A

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OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. In December 1990 a visit was made by Dr. Ervan Garrison, Marine Archaeologist, Sanctuaries and Reserve Division (SRD), NOAA, to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Dives, made off Santa Cruz Island confirmed the presence of prehistoric archaeological materials eroding from shoreline sites. While these materials, shell beads, stone drills, and groundstone bowls, were clearly redeposited artifacts, the knowledge that sea levels were as much as 100 meters lower during late prehistoric times (ca. 18,000 BP), stood at minus 20 meters as late as 8000 BP, and at a minus 11 meters at 4000 years ago raises the possibility of earlier village sites along these now drowned shorelines. The establishment of their location(s) and subsequent study would yield invaluable data on the early maritime peoples and early Holocene fauna of the islands. This study will concentrate its efforts on the location of drowned village/camp sites in two locales on the channel side of Santa Cruz island - Orizaba Cove and Prisoner's Harbor and will use archaeogeophysical and geoarchaeological techniques.

2. The study will concentrate its efforts on the sites identified and use the following methods:

   (a) Strike line surveys offshore of the two selected locales using a sub-bottom profiler system navigating with differential GPS receivers;

   (b) Diver-operated CO2 coring of suspected buried landforms to collect sediment samples for analysis for anthropic soils and/or artifacts; and

   (c) Laboratory analysis of core samples using geochemical and geoarchaeological methods (Phospate analysis, pollen analysis, faunal analysis, pH and chronometric analyses).

3. The methodology for this study assumes a persistent relationship in site location and maritime resources throughout the Holocene. Central to this working hypothesis is the presumed functional relationship between prehistoric groups and the most available food resources - those of the marine environment. A tenable ancillary hypothesis is that specific variables such as available fresh water, ease of access to marine

resources, and availability of terrestrial resources were differentially distributed along the Santa Cruz shoreline but relatively constant as to general location over time. In other words, there are more locations than others for human habitation sites along the island's shore and the reason for settlement from one era to the next remained relatively the same throughout prehistory of Santa Cruz Island.

By observing archaeological site placement along the present shoreline they should be able to predict earlier site locations along the older shorelines providing they can adequately locate the earlier shoreline terraces and identify landforms and buried streams channels at their intersection with these shorelines.

4. The impact on the submerged environment should be minimal. No excavation of the seabed is proposed and each core section will remove less that 1/1000 of a cubic meter. It is unlikely that more than 100 samples will be taken; hence less than 1 cubic meter of seabed will be removed for study and analysis.

5. 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 categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 6, Information Collection, 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15106 and 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2905(e)(3).

   Authority: P.R.C. 21084 and 14. Cal. Code Regs. 15300 and 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2905.

6. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370, et seq. Bases upon the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the CEQA review process, it is the staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

EXHIBIT:

A. Location Maps

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 CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT PROJECT, CLASS 6, INFORMATION COLLECTION, 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15106, 2 CAL. CODE REGS. 2905(e)(3).

2. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ISSUE A ONE-YEAR SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATORY PERMIT - INFORMATION COLLECTION, COMMENCING ON THE DATE THE PERMIT IS EXECUTED BY THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, FOR THE SURVEY AND CORING OF TWO AREAS OFFSHORE OF SANTA CRUZ ISLAND TO LOCATE DROWNED PREHISTORIC VILLAGE/CAMP SITES.

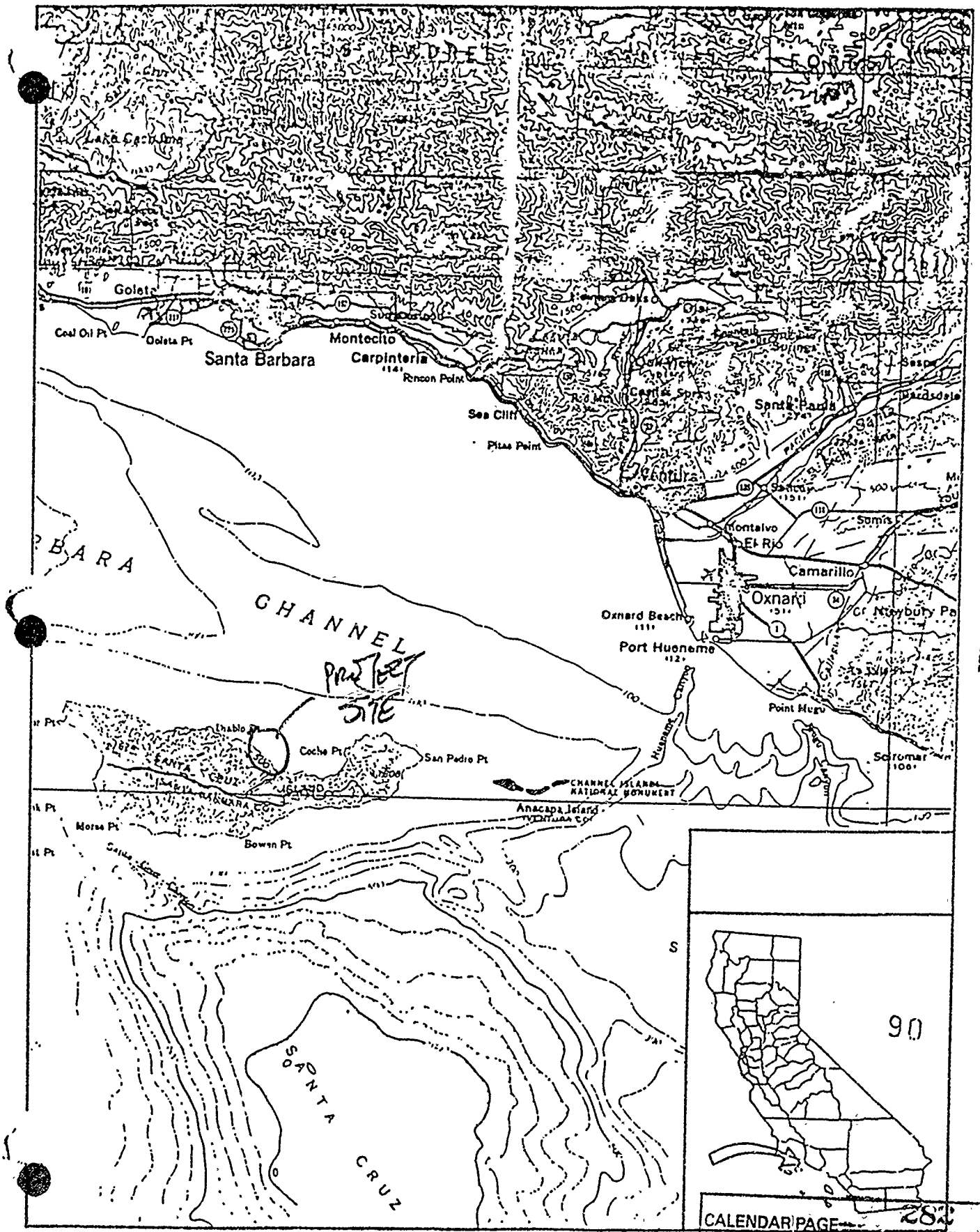

EXHIBIT "A"

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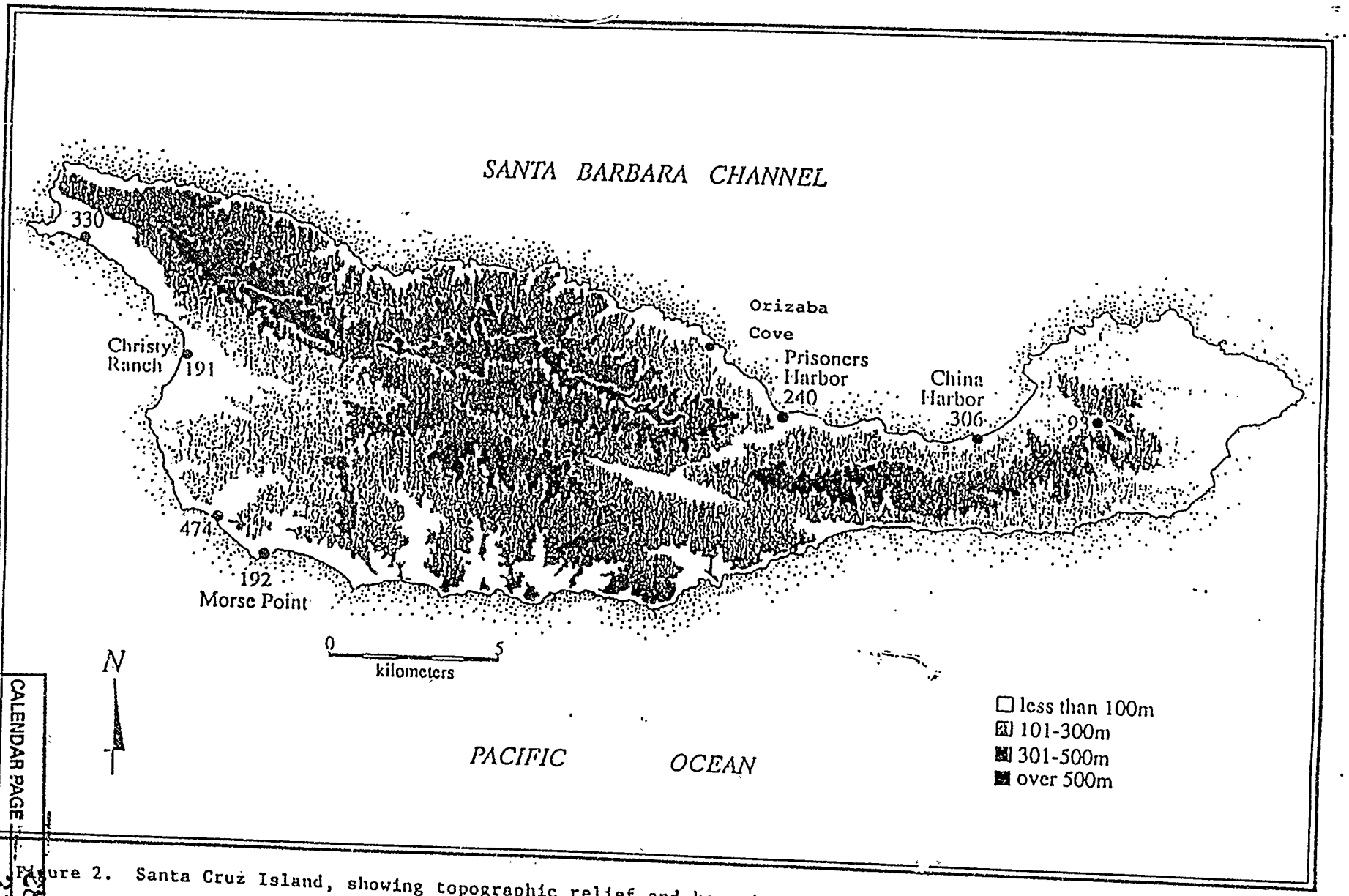

Figure 2. Santa Cruz Island, showing topographic relief and key sites.

EXHIBIT "A"

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