MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C64
was approved as Minute Item
No. 64 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 9/23/92
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

C 64

A 80

S 37

09/23/92
PRC 7468
Kruger

APPROVE A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT OF A PROSPECTING PERMIT TO INCLUDE AN EXPLORATION DRILLING PROJECT FOR VALUABLE MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES, AND SAND AND GRAVEL ON 640 ACRES OF STATE SCHOOL LANDS, IMPERIAL COUNTY

APPLICANT:
American Girl Mining Joint Venture
P. O. Box 879
Winterhaven, California 92283

AGENT:
Terry V. Rodgers
American Girl Mining Joint Venture
P. O. Box 879
Winterhaven, California 92283

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:
Approximately 640 acres of vacant, State-owned school lands described as Section 36, T14S R20E, SBM, situated in the Cargo Muchacho Mountains of southeast Imperial County, about 15 miles north of Winterhaven, California.

LAND USE:
American Girl Mining Joint Venture (AGM) has been conducting CEQA-exempt mineral prospecting activities on the surface of the parcel. The permit was effective in December 1990 and extended in November 1991 for one year to complete the surface phase of prospecting.

PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:
Statutory filing fee of $25 has been paid. Staff costs for processing both the extension and amendment of the permit will be recovered pursuant to a Reimbursement Agreement executed by the Permittee.

CALENDAR PAGE 684
MINUTE PAGE 3315

PROPOSED PROJECT:
AGM has requested that the Commission approve both an extension and amendment of the subject permit. The permit was effective December 1, 1990, for a term of one year, to conduct surface sampling and mapping activities. In order to complete the activities, AGM requested a one-year extension which the Commission approved in November 1991. The permit now expires November 30, 1992. AGM is requesting another extension of one year to complete the proposed exploration drilling project. If this extension is approved, it will be the final extension allowable under law, and the expiration date will be November 30, 1993.

AGM has requested an amendment to the existing permit to include an exploration drilling project. The project will consist of drilling a maximum of 70 exploratory holes of 5-1/2" diameter to depths of about 400 feet. The drilling activities will be concentrated in areas of lower relief in the southwest quarter of the parcel. As an initial phase, approximately 15 exploratory holes (20% of the total) will be completed in areas of greatest interest. If results are positive, the project will continue, or if results are negative, the project will be terminated. Existing roads will be utilized for access and drillsites to the extent possible. Approximately two miles of new access road is needed to complete the project. Total surface disturbance for the project is estimated to be 4.3 acres for all 70 exploratory holes. Surface disturbance for the initial phase of drilling is about 1.3 acres. Drillholes will be properly abandoned and disturbed areas will be returned to original condition. Imperial County is lead agency for the project in accordance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), and the State Lands Commission is a responsible agency. Staff recommends a performance bond of $17,500 in favor of the State for the drilling project.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Section 6891.

B. Cal. Code Regs.: Title 2, Section 2000.

AB 884:
11/30/92

CALENDAR PAGE 685
MINUTE PAGE 3376

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6895, upon establishing to the satisfaction of the Commission that a commercially valuable mineral deposit has been discovered within the limits of the permit, the permittee would have a preferential right to a lease for a maximum of 640 acres embraced within the permit. This right shall be subject to all necessary environmental approvals. The amendment of this permit shall not affect the discretion of the Commission in granting or denying such a lease because of environmental or other conditions. Royalty payable under any preferential lease will not be less than 10 percent of the gross value of all mineral production from the leased lands, less any charges approved by the Commission for transporting or processing the State's royalty share of production.

2. The proposed activity involves land identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370, et seq., and is assigned the restricted category (Class A) because of potential desert big horn sheep habitat. Staff contacted the nominating agency, the Department of Fish and Game, for comments on the proposed project. It was determined that the project would be compatible, and there was no serious objection to the proposed exploration drilling project with respect to potential big horn sheep habitat.

3. The subject parcel is not within a BLM Wilderness Study Area nor within an area of proposed legislation for desert protection. According to State Department of Fish and Game maps, the parcel is not within crucial desert tortoise habitat. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maps indicate that the general area of Section 36 is designated Class 3 tortoise habitat, an area where the probability of encountering desert tortoises or tortoise sign is low.

4. Imperial County Planning Department prepared environmental document (SCH #92061029) for the proposed activity. Staff commented that the document should describe in more detail potential impact and mitigation of the project to sensitive species and that the

CALENDAR PAGE 686
MINUTE PAGE 3317

document should include a reclamation plan. Staff also commented that a monitoring program must be adopted by the lead agency providing adequate assurance of compliance with mitigation measures. In response to staff comments, resolutions approving both the Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan have been submitted by Imperial County along with the monitoring program for the project. The monitoring program will be coordinated by AGM and consist of mitigation, including a desert tortoise survey and other measures designed to minimize environmental impacts. The monitoring program will be audited by the County to insure compliance with mitigation measures as described in Exhibit "C".

The permit amendment document (Exhibit "D") agreed to by AGM contains language specifying that all reports on monitoring furnished to AGM by Imperial County staff shall promptly be forwarded to the State. Additionally, upon approval of the amendment by the Commission, staff shall notify the county of permittee's requirement to forward monitoring reports to the State.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6890, the permit amendment has been approved by the Office of the State Attorney General for compliance with applicable law.

EXHIBITS:

A. Land Description
B. Location Map
C. Negative Declaration
D. Permit Amendment

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION WAS PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT BY IMPERIAL COUNTY, THE LEAD AGENCY UNDER PROVISIONS OF SMARA, AND THAT SUCH DOCUMENT WAS DESIGNATED AS SCH NO. 92061029, AND CIRCULATED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CEQA, AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.

CALENDAR PAGE 687
MINUTE PAGE 3318

2. AUTHORIZE A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT OF MINERAL PROSPECTING PERMIT PRC 7468 AS DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "D" TO AMERICAN GIRL MINING JOINT VENTURE FOR VALUABLE MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES, AND SAND AND GRAVEL ON SECTION 36, T14S R20E, SBM, IMPERIAL COUNTY, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 640 ACRES. ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PERMIT REMAIN UNCHANGED AND IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

CALENDAR PAGE 688
MINUTE PAGE 3319

EXHIBIT "A"

PRC 7468.2

LAND DESCRIPTION

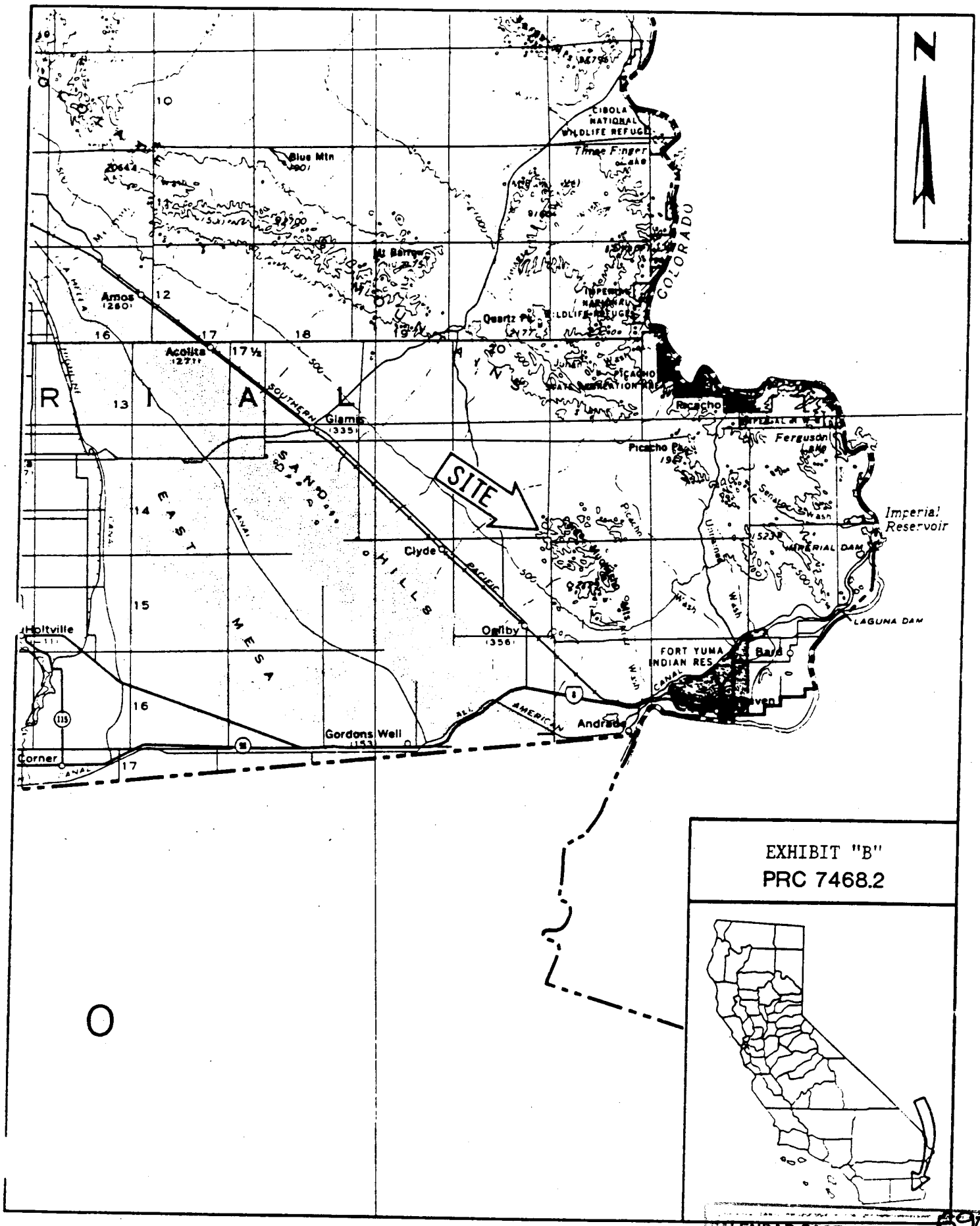
That State owned school land near Yuma, Imperial County, California, described as follows:

All of Section 36, T14S, R20E, SBM.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED SEPTEMBER 6, 1990 BY LLB.

CALENDAR PAGE 689
MINUTE PAGE 3320



CALENDAR PAGE 690
MINUTE PAGE 3321

EXHIBIT "C"

92061029

Project Title: Exploratory Drilling Program- American Girl Mining Joint Venture

Lead Agency: Imperial County Planning Department — **Contact Person:** Jesse Soriano

Street Address: 939 Main Street — **Phone:** (619)339-4236

City: El Centro, CA — **Zip:** 92243 — **County:** Imperial

Project Location

County: Imperial — **City/Nearest Community:** Winterhaven

Cross Streets: Dailby Road — **Total Acres:** 4.3 acres

Assessor's Parcel No.: 042-050-18-01 — **Section:** 36 — **Twp:** 14S — **Range:** 20E — **Base:** SBB&M

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ — **Waterways:** _____

Airports: _____ — **Railways:** _____ — **Schools:** _____

Document Type

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Early Cons ☒ Neg Dec ☐ Draft EIR ☐ Supplement/Subsequent ☐ EIR (Prior SCH No.) _____ ☐ Other _____

NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI

Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other _____

Local Action Type

☐ General Plan Update ☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ General Plan Element ☐ Community Plan ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Master Plan ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Site Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Prezone ☒ Use Permit ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, Parcel Map, Tract Map, etc.) ☐ Annexation ☐ Redevelopment ☐ Coastal Permit ☒ Other Reclamation Plan

Development Type

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☐ Office: Sq ft _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Commercial: Sq ft _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Industrial: Sq ft _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Educational _____
☐ Recreational _____

☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Transportation: Type _____
☒ Mining: Mineral gold
☐ Power: Type _____ Watts _____
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☐ Other _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document

☐ Aesthetic/Visual ☐ Agricultural Land ☐ Air Quality ☐ Archeological/Historical ☐ Coastal Zone ☐ Drainage/Absorption ☐ Economic/Jobs ☐ Fiscal ☐ Flood Plain/Flooding ☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☐ Geologic/Seismic ☒ Minerals ☐ Noise ☐ Population/Housing Balance ☐ Public Services/Facilities ☐ Recreation/Parks ☐ Schools/Universities ☐ Septic Systems ☐ Sewer Capacity ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☐ Solid Waste ☐ Toxic/Hazardous ☐ Traffic/Circulation ☐ Vegetation ☐ Water Quality ☒ Water Supply/Groundwater ☐ Wetland/Riparian ☒ Wildlife ☐ Growth Inducing ☐ Landuse ☐ Cumulative Effects ☐ Other _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Use

Desert Open Space/Recreation

Project Description

Exploratory drilling program to obtain subsurface samples and to determine if gold mineralization of economic grades and tonnage are present.

CLEARINGHOUSE CONTACT: TOM LOFTUS
(916) 445-0613

STATE REVIEW BEGAN: 6-10-92
DEPT REV TO AGENCY: 7-3
AGENCY REV TO SCH : 7-9
SCH COMPLIANCE : 7-10

PLEASE NOTE SCH NUMBER ON ALL COMMENTS

PLEASE FORWARD *LATE* COMMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE LEAD AGENCY ONLY

AQMD APCD: 10 (Resources: 6 / 13)

CMT SNT

- X Resources
- [redacted]
- X Conservation
- X Fish & Game 5
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- X Caltrans / 11
- [redacted]

CMT SNT

- State/Consumer Svcs
- [redacted]
- X Environment Affrs
- X ARB
- X CA Waste Mgmt Bd
- [redacted]
- X Reg. WQCB / 7
- Yth/Adlt Corrections
- [redacted]
- X NAHC
- [redacted]
- X State Lands Comm
- Tahoe Rel Plan

(* = sent by SCH)

CALENDAR PAGE 691
MINUTE PAGE 3322

Project Title: Exploratory Drilling Program- American Girl Mining ~~Joint Venture~~

Lead Agency: Imperial County Planning Department
Contact Person: Jesse Soriano
Street Address: 939 Main Street
Phone: (619)339-4236
City: El Centro, CA **Zip:** 92243 **County:** Imperial

Project Location

County: Imperial **City/Nearest Community:** Winterhaven
Cross Streets: Ogilby Road **Total Acres:** 4.3 acres
Assessor's Parcel No. 042-050-18-01 **Section:** 36 **Twp.** 14S **Range:** 20E **Base:** SBB&M
Within 2 Miles: **State Hwy #:** **Waterways:**
Airports: **Railways:** **Schools:**

Document Type

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Early Cons ☒ Neg Dec ☐ Draft EIR ☐ Supplement/Subsequent ☐ EIR (Prior SCH No.) ☐ Other
NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI
Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other

Local Action Type

☐ General Plan Update ☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ General Plan Element ☐ Community Plan
☐ Specific Plan ☐ Master Plan ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Site Plan
☐ Rezone ☐ Prezone ☒ Use Permit ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, Parcel Map, Tract Map, etc.)
☐ Annexation ☐ Redevelopment ☐ Coastal Permit ☒ Other Reclamation Plan

Development Type

☐ Residential: *Units* *Acres*
☐ Office: *Sq.ft.* *Acres* *Employees*
☐ Commercial: *Sq.ft.* *Acres* *Employees*
☐ Industrial: *Sq.ft.* *Acres* *Employees*
☐ Educational
☐ Recreational

☐ Water Facilities: *Type* *MGD*
☐ Transportation: *Type*
☒ Mining: *Mineral* gold
☐ Power: *Type* *Watts*
☐ Waste Treatment: *Type*
☐ Hazardous Waste: *Type*
☐ Other:

Project Issues Discussed in Document

☐ Aesthetic/Visual ☐ Agricultural Land ☐ Air Quality ☐ Archeological/Historical ☐ Coastal Zone ☐ Drainage/Absorption ☐ Economic/Jobs ☐ Fiscal
☐ Flood Plain/Flooding ☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☐ Geologic/Seismic ☒ Minerals ☐ Noise ☐ Population/Housing Balance ☐ Public Services/Facilities ☐ Recreation/Parks
☐ Schools/Universities ☐ Septic Systems ☐ Sewer Capacity ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☐ Solid Waste ☐ Toxic/Hazardous ☐ Traffic/Circulation ☐ Vegetation
☒ Water Quality ☒ Water Supply/Groundwater ☐ Wetland/Riparian ☒ Wildlife ☐ Growth Inducing ☐ Landuse ☐ Cumulative Effects ☐ Other

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Use

Desert Open Space/Recreation

Project Description

Exploratory drilling program to obtain subsurface samples and to determine if gold mineralization of economic grades and tonnage are present.

NOTE: Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. from a Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill it in.

Revised October 1992

CALENDAR PAGE
MINUTE PAGE

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

KEY
S = Document sent by lead agency
X = Document sent by SCH
✓ = Suggested distribution

___Resources Agency
___Boating & Waterways
___Coastal Commission
___Coastal Conservancy
___Colorado River Board
✓ Conservation
✓ Fish & Game
___Forestry
✓ Office of Historic Preservation
✓ Parks & Recreation
✓ Reclamation
___S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
✓ Water Resources (DWR)

Business, Transportation & Housing
___Aeronautics
___California Highway Patrol
✓ CALTRANS District # 11
___Department of Transportation Planning (headquarters)
___Housing & Community Development

___Food & Agriculture

Health & Welfare
___Health Services _____

State & Consumer Services
___General Services
___OLA (Schools)

Environmental Affairs
___Air Resources Board
✓ APCD/AQMD
___California Waste Management Board
___SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
___SWRCB: Delta Unit
___SWRCB: Water Quality
___SWRCB: Water Rights
✓ Regional WQCB # 7 (_____)

Youth & Adult Corrections
___Corrections

Independent Commissions & Offices
___Energy Commission
___Native American Heritage Commission
___Public Utilities Commission
___Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
___State Lands Commission
___Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

___Other _____

Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date June 12, 1992 Ending Date July 12, 1992

Signature _____ Date June 4, 1992

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):
Consulting Firm: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____
Phone: (___) _____

Applicant: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: (___) _____

For SCH Use Only:
Date Received at SCH _____
Date Review Starts _____
Date to Agencies _____
Date to SCH _____
Clearance Date _____
Notes:

CALENDAR PAGE 693
MINUTE PAGE 3324

Revised October 1989

PROJECT REPORT

TO THE E.E.C. - Initial Study I.S.# 3301-92

DATE May 29, 1992 TIME: 9:00 am AGENDA NO:

APPLICANTS NAME American Girl Mining Joint Venture SUPERVISOR D 5

OWNERS NAME State Lands Commission

PROJECT TYPE CUP #1041-92 & Rec Plan #151-92-Expl Drilling Program

PROJECT ADDRESS N/A

GEN LOCATION Cargo Mucacho Mountains

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Portion T14S, R20E, unsurveyed 1440 acres more or less

ASSESS PAR NO. 0420501801 PARCEL SIZE 1440 acres

EXISTING ZONE "S" Open Space ADJ. ZONING "S" Open Space

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENT INCONSISTENT x MAY BE/ FINDINGS

COMMENTS FROM:

PUBLIC WORKS

E.H.S. / HEALTH Letter in file dated 5/12/92

A.G. / A.P.C.D.

FIRE / O.E.S.

COUNSEL

OTHER

PROTEST REC. YES NO x NUMBER

E.E.C. DECISION DATE May 29, 1992 I.S. NUMBER 3301-92

NEG. DEC. E.I.R. OTHER N.A.

COMMISSION DEC. APPROVED DENIED DATE

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

J. G. HEUBERGER
PLANNING DIRECTOR

FILE I.D. AmerGirl

IMPERIAL COUNTY
Planning Department

CALENDAR PAGE 694
MINUTE PAGE 3325

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

APPLICANT:

American Girl Mining Joint Venture (AGMJV) has submitted a conditional use permit application and reclamation plan for an exploratory drilling program in the Cargo Muchacho Mountains.

INTRODUCTION:

AGMJV initially conducted a geologic mapping and rock chip sampling of the area (Phase I). The results have been completed and based on the data, AGMJV proposes a phase II exploration drilling program to obtain subsurface samples and to determine if gold mineralization of economic grades and tonnage are present. AGMJV proposes to drill 70 reverse circulation drill holes, with depths varying from 200 to 400 feet. The majority of the drill holes will be as angle holes inclined up to 45° from vertical. A total of 21,000 feet of drilling is proposed.

Planned drilling activities will be in the southwestern portion of the section, adjacent to an area of mining claims controlled by AGMJV. Existing roads will be utilized as much as possible however, approximately 12,000 feet of new access roads will be required to accomplish the program. New surface disturbance will total approximately 4.3 acrs. The majority of road building is in low relief areas of unconsolidated alluvial gravels, which are amendable to effective reclamation. If drill results are negative, the disturbed areas will be reclaimed. The project is expected to start in July and estimated to last about six months.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

The parcel is managed by the State Lands Commission and is kown as a PORTION OF TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST, 1440 ACRES MORE OR LESS, PARCEL NO. 042-050-18-01.

CONSISTENCY REVIEW:

Surface mining operations, including drilling programs are allowed in any zone upon the approval of a conditional use permit and reclamation plan by the Planning Commission (Sections 83422 and 83452). The proposed area for the drilling program is zoned "S" Open Space.

The proposal is an area that has a long history of mining activities. Disturbances from past mining activities are still visible in many areas.

CALENDAR PAGE 695
MINUTE PAGE 3326

INTRODUCTION -

American Girl Mining Joint Venture has completed its Phase I geologic mapping and rock chip sampling activities in State Section 36, Township 14 South, Range 21 East SBM. The location of the section is indicated in Figures 1 and 2.

In accordance with the stipulations in prospecting permit PRC 7468.2, the work consisted of geologic mapping, prospecting and obtaining surface samples for assay. Sampling was by conventional hand sampling methods and resulted in no new surface disturbance to the section. As part of the general surface evaluation, a ground magnetics/very low frequency survey (VLF-EM) was also conducted over portions of the section. This survey involved one individual traversing the area and taking magnetics and electromagnetic readings at regular intervals. As with the geologic mapping and sampling program, there was no new surface disturbance. A copy of all data has been forwarded to the State Lands Commission.

Analysis of Phase I results have been completed and based on these data, American Girl Mining Joint Venture proposes a Phase II exploration drilling program to obtain subsurface samples and determine if gold mineralization of economic grades and tonnage are present. The proposed program would be as an amendment to the existing prospecting permit (PRC 7468.2). American Girl proposes to drill 70 reverse circulation drill holes, with depths varying from 200 to 400 feet. The majority of drill holes will be vertical; however, approximately up to ten of the drill holes will be as angle holes inclined up to 45° from vertical. A total of approximately 21,000 feet of drilling is proposed.

Planned drilling activities will be in the southwestern portion of the section, adjacent to an area of mining claims controlled by American Girl Mining Joint Venture. Although existing roads will be utilized as much as possible for both drill access and drill sites, approximately 12,000 feet of new access road will be required to accomplish the program. New surface disturbance will total approximately 4.3 acres. The majority of road building is in low relief areas of unconsolidated alluvial gravels, readily amenable to effective reclamation. If drill results are negative, the area will be reclaimed.

CALENDAR PAGE 696
PAGE 3227

PROPOSED DRILLING PROGRAM -

Planned activities in the Section 36 area include:

1). Drilling 70 reverse circulation drill holes at depths of 200 to 400 feet. Hole diameter will be 5½ inch. Total drill footage will be approximately 21,000 feet. Drill hole locations are indicated on Plate 1. An Ingersoll - Rand TH-100 or equivalent drill rig will be used for the drilling (see Figure 3). Support vehicles will be a service truck for drill pipe and two four wheel drive pickups for the drill crew and on-site geologist. The drill rig requires a level pad 50 feet by 20 feet for drilling vertical holes and 75 feet by 20 feet for angle holes. All activities will be confined to the drill pad. Drilled samples are carried to the surface by compressed air and no fluids will be introduced into the drill hole. Consequently, it will not be necessary to excavate mudpits and no potentially hazardous materials will be generated or disposed of on site. Approximately 25 lbs. of rock material will be displaced for each linear foot drilled. Drill cuttings will be sampled on site with a one quarter fraction removed from the property for precious metal analysis at a commercial laboratory. After completion of drilling, remaining cuttings will be used to backfill the drill hole. An impervious clay plug will be placed in all holes to a depth of 50 feet below the bedrock surface.

In order to minimize surface disturbance it is planned to phase the drilling program. As an initial step, approximately 20% of the total drill holes (15 drill holes) will be completed in areas of greatest interest (see Plate 1). If results are positive, additional drill sites will be prepared and drilling will be completed as deemed necessary. Conversely, if results are negative, drilling will end after the initial phase and the area will be reclaimed. The location of the initial phase of drilling is indicated on Plate 1. This drilling would result in approximately 3,000 feet of new road construction totalling approximately 1.3 acres of disturbance. The time constraints of both the prospecting permit and the drill permitting require that an adequate number of drill holes be permitted at this time to effectively delineate a possible discovery. A phased approach to permitting drill holes would not be practical.

2) Of the total proposed drill holes, 10 will be located on existing roads and will require no new disturbance. The remaining drill holes will require the construction of approximately 12,000 feet of drill access road. Road width will be approximately 14 feet. Due to the

CALENDAR PAGE 697
MINUTE PAGE 3328

relatively flat topography in the area, the majority of road building consists of minor leveling and clearing of large rocks from the access routes. This construction will be accomplished by a rubber-tired motor grader. Seventeen of the drill sites are in more rugged terrain and will require a greater degree of disturbance. A D-8 or equivalent dozer will be necessary to construct access roads to these sites. In areas of steeper terrain, road grades will be maintained at 10% to 15% and road cuts will locally exceed three feet.

As part of the phased approach to drilling, access roads will initially be prepared for only the first phase of drilling. This will involve approximately 3,000 feet of initial road construction. Additional road construction and drilling will be incremental and contingent on favorable assay results from the initial drilling.

Drill pads will be located along the drill access roads and will require a slight widening of the road (from 14 to 20 feet) to accommodate the drill and ancillary equipment.

The maximum new surface disturbance under this amendment is approximately 4.3 acres. The majority of disturbance is in areas of alluvial cover and is easily reclaimable. Reclamation activities are outlined in the Reclamation Plan submitted to Imperial County, California.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES -

Point source dust emissions will be created by road building, traffic on access roads and by the reverse circulation drilling (at the collar and at the top of the cyclone). Crews will be protected with dust masks and safety glasses. The impact of dust emission will be to the area immediately surrounding drilling and construction activities.

American Girl Mining is presently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement as part of mine permitting activities for the Oro Cruz project. This project involves planned gold mining in the Tumco valley, locate approximately 1.5 miles southeast of Section 36. As part of the permitting process, biological and soil resource inventories have been conducted in the northwestern Cargo Muchacho Mountains by P.M. DeDycker and Associates of Lakewood, Colorado. Although the focus of the environmental studies was the main Tumco valley, regional surveys were conducted in areas further north, including Section 36. A preliminary report in the

CALENDAR PAGE 698
MINUTE PAGE 3329

environmental resource inventory is included as an appendix to this report. Salient features relative to Section 36 are outlined below.

The Cargo Muchacho Mountains is part of the historic range of bighorn sheep, although no sheep are believed to presently inhabit the range (Rocky Thomson, California Fish and Game, pers. comm.) This is consistent with several surveys in the mountain range (Weaver and Mensh for California Fish and Game, 1989; Bamberg and Hanne, 1991).

Although it is considered unlikely, if any sheep or other large mammals are sighted in areas of road construction or drilling, activities will cease until the animals have cleared the area.

As is typical of this portion of California, the Section 36 area is sparsely vegetated, with vegetation largely confined to drainages. All efforts will be made to minimize disturbance to vegetation during the course of the proposed drill program. Work crew will be instructed to limit all activities to new access roads and prepared drill sites. The access roads will be laid out to avoid major vegetation and, if necessary, drill sights can be moved slightly to avoid vegetation. In specific cases where this is not possible, cacti and ocotillo will be removed and transplanted in an appropriate site.

CULTURAL RESOURCES -

The Section 36 area has been the site of past prospecting activities; however, there is no known evidence of any historic or prehistoric habitation.

TIMING -

The initial phase of drilling will begin shortly after approval is obtained. Concurrent with the submittal of this prospecting permit amendment, a reclamation plan and conditional use permit application will be filed with Imperial County, California.

DPL/pgp

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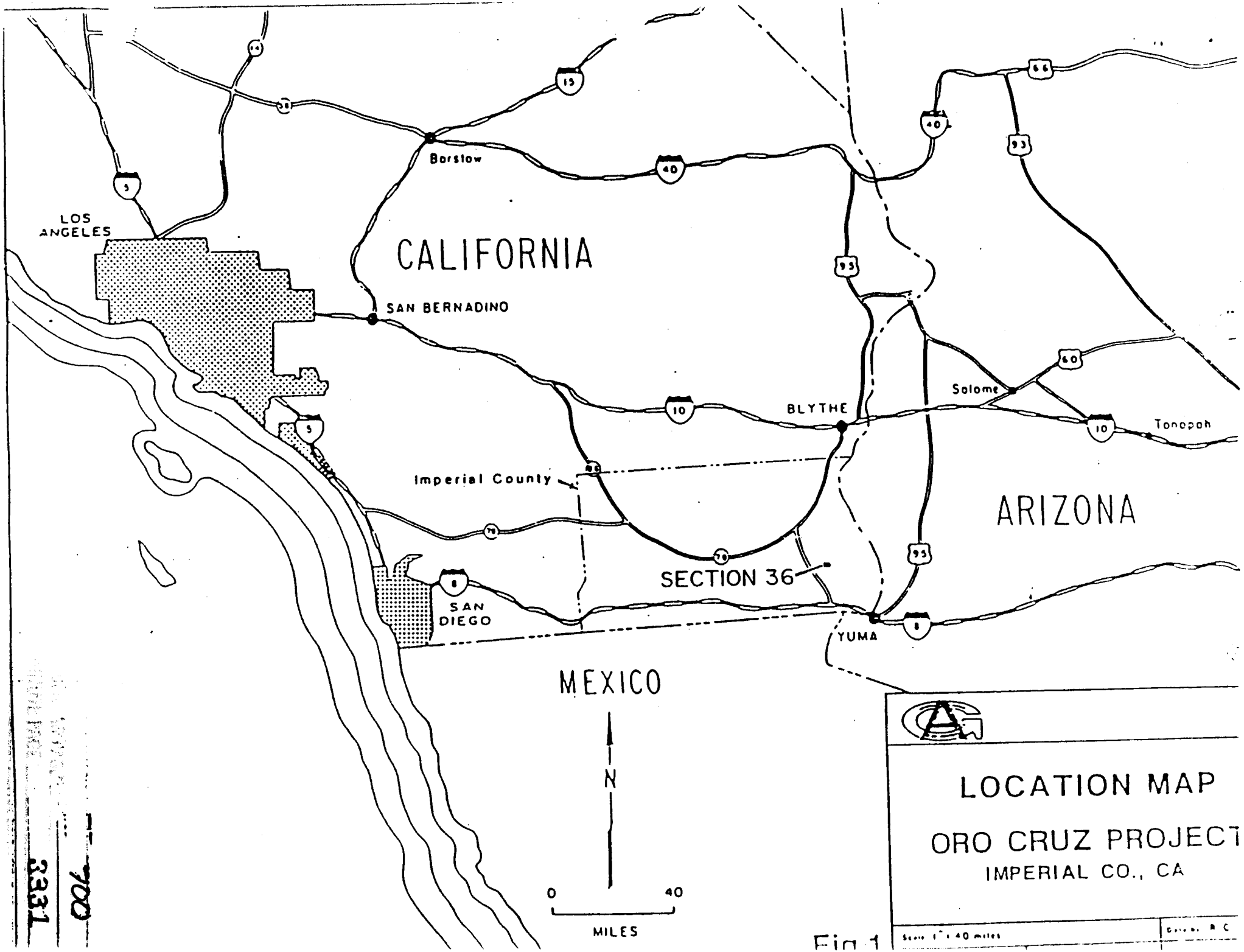
3330



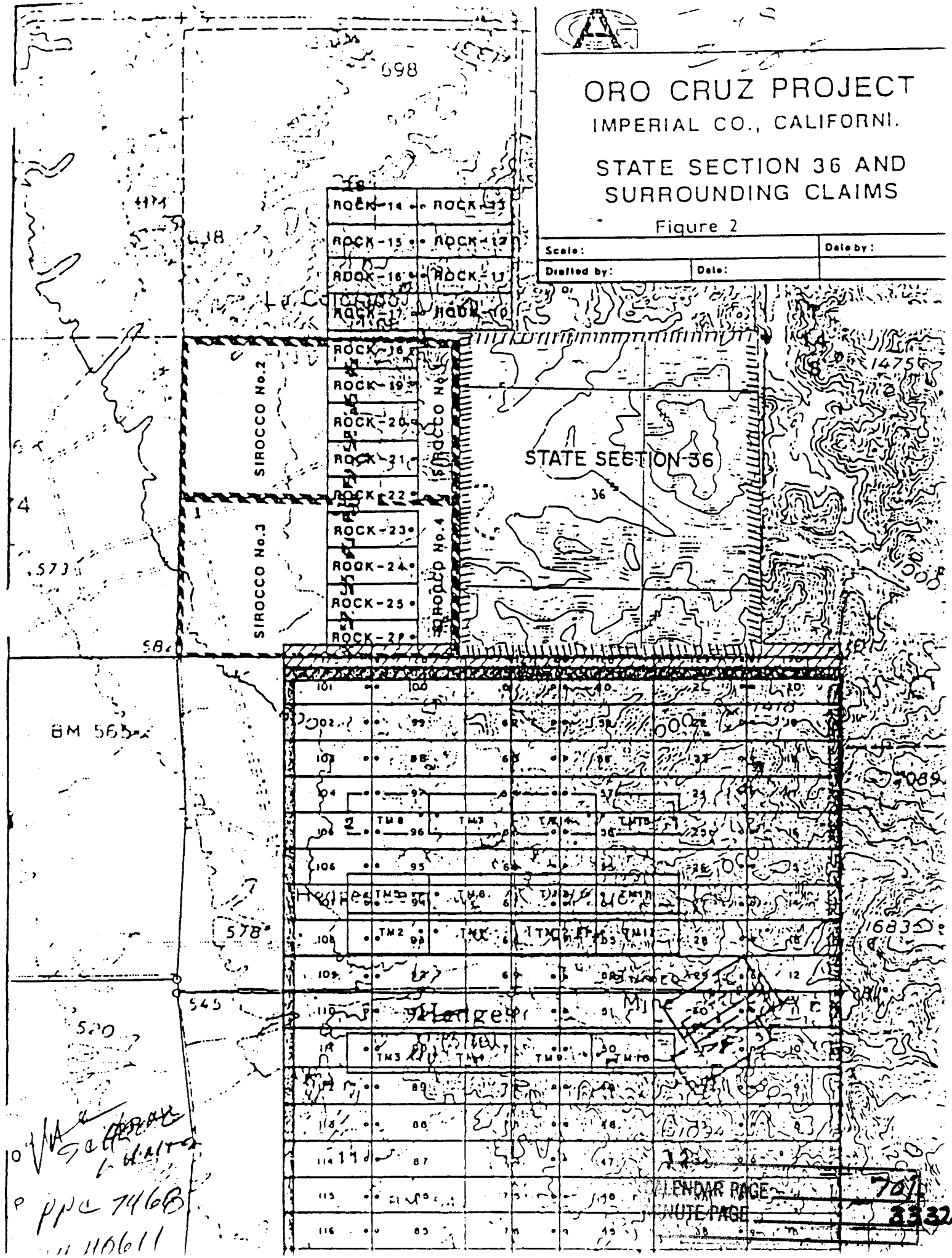
LOCATION MAP

ORO CRUZ PROJECT

IMPERIAL CO., CA

Fig 1

3331


ORO CRUZ PROJECT
IMPERIAL CO., CALIFORNI.
STATE SECTION 36 AND SURROUNDING CLAIMS
Figure 2
Scale:
Date by:
Drafted by:
Date:
ROCK-14
ROCK-15
ROCK-16
ROCK-17
ROCK-18
ROCK-19
ROCK-20
ROCK-21
ROCK-22
ROCK-23
ROCK-24
ROCK-25
SIROCCO No.2
SIROCCO No.3
SIROCCO No.4
STATE SECTION 36
BM 565
TM2
TM3
TM8
TM9
TM10
CALENDAR PAGE
MINUTE PAGE
8332

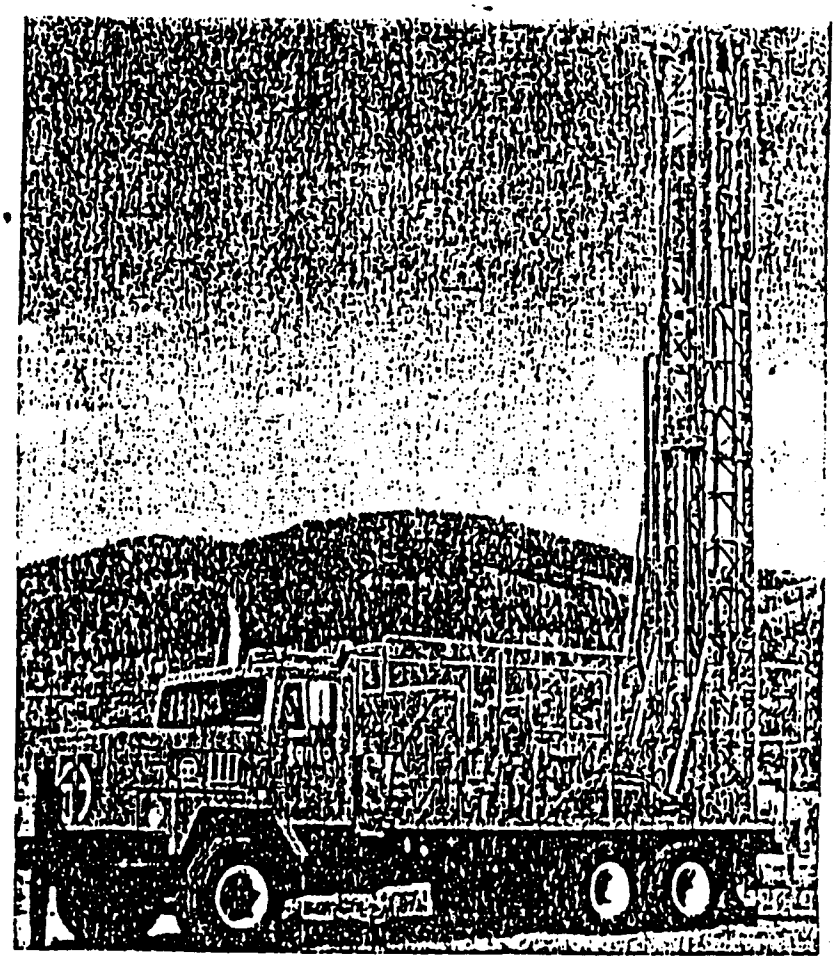


Figure 3 - Reverse circulation drill rig similar in design as that to be used in proposed drill program.

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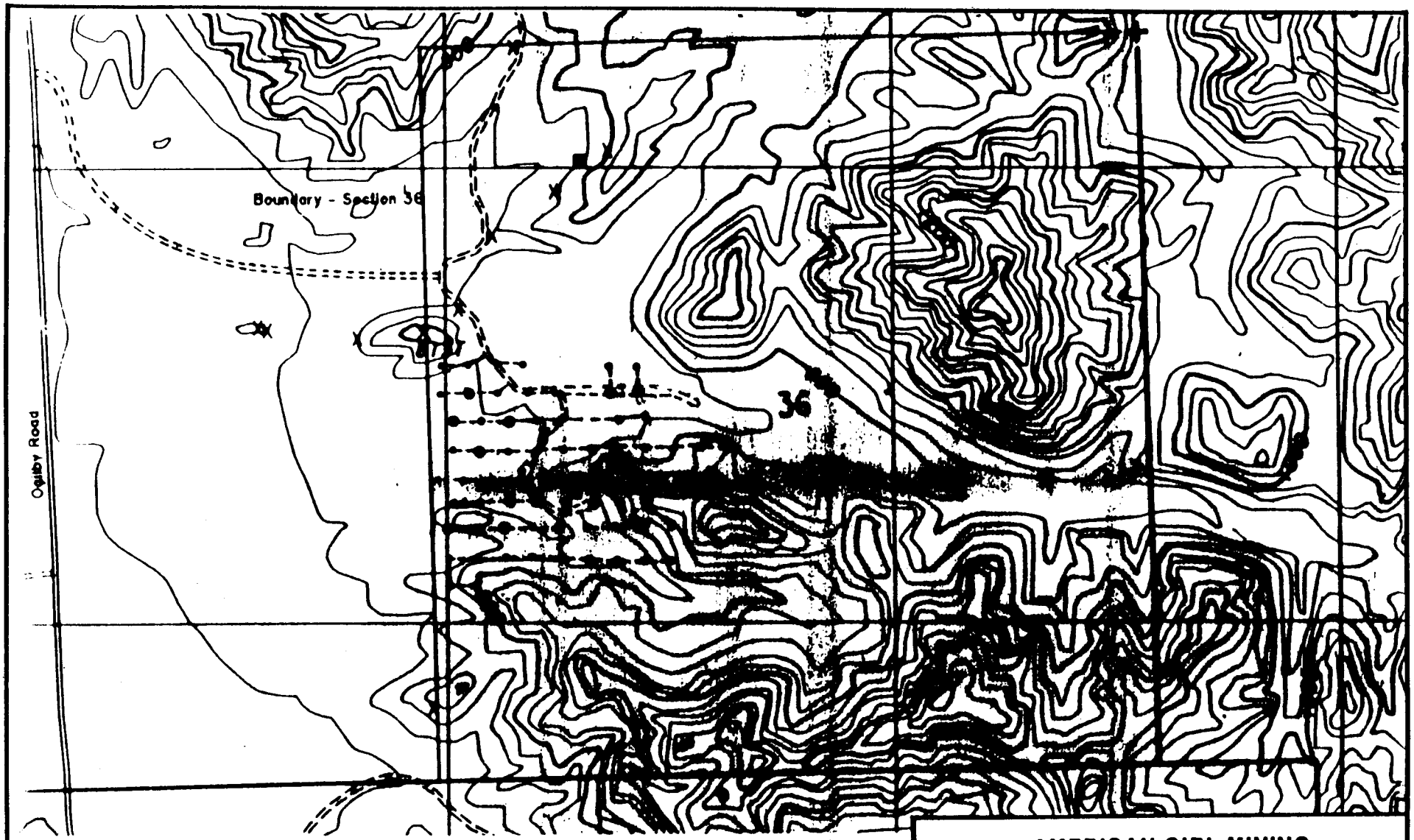

- Proposed drill hole - initial phase
- Proposed drill hole - followup phase
- Existing access road
- Proposed drill access road

0' 500' 1000'

Scale

N

AMERICAN GIRL MINING
Joint Venture

SECTION 36 (PRC 7468.2)

PLANNED DR LING

Fig 1

CALENDAR PAGE
MINUTE PAGE
203
33361

APPENDIX

BIOLOGICAL AND RESOURCE INVENTORY REPORT

Prepared by:
P.M. De Dycker & Associates
Lakewood, Colorado

CALENDAR PAGE — 704
ATTRIBUTE PAGE — 3335

BIOLOGICAL AND SOILS RESOURCE INVENTORY REPORT
ORO CRUZ PROJECT
TUMCO WASH
CARGO MUCHACHO MOUNTAINS

Prepared for:
American Girl Mining Joint Venture
Winterhaven, California

Prepared by:
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P. M. De Dycker & Associates
Lakewood, Colorado

May 1991

CALENDAR PAGE 705
MINUTE PAGE 3336

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The study area of the Oro Cruz project site is located in the Tumco Wash and surrounding washes and flats on the west central portion of the Cargo Muchacho Mountains in eastern Imperial County about 50 miles east of El Centro, California. See Figure 1 for the boundaries of the study area for the Oro Cruz Project. The proposed gold mine is an American Girl Mining Joint Venture (AGMJV) project and would involve open pits and a haul road to the American Girl Mine site, or possibly an onsite heap leaching operation. This is a historic mining district that has not been mined in the last 80 years, but portions of which were almost completely disturbed by past mining activities in the Tumco Wash portion. The site has had some natural revegetation, but most of the mining activities of towns, milling, tailings disposal, adits, mine waste dumps, roads and prospecting are still visible.

The Tumco Wash area is an historic mining district with remains of mills and tailings, underground mining and wastes, one small open pit mining and glory holes. The historic mining town of Hedges was located in the wash with accompanying roads, water systems, town wastes, and two cemeteries. Water for the former mining was piped from the Colorado River, and reservoirs are still present onsite.

This site is in a region of the Colorado Desert portion of southern California with a hot desert climate and low rainfall. Only one significant rainfall has occurred in the Tumco wash in the last two years, although some precipitation has occurred this spring. The west facing Tumco Wash and related topography was created by erosional patterns in a structural valley and has a broad bottom and a small drainage area. Elevations on site are at about 600 feet in the wash and 1200 feet on the low ridges.

Information in this report is based on several site surveys and visits. An initial biological assessment of the site was conducted by consultants for Texas Gulf in June 1989, and bat inventories in August and December 1989. Initial surveys by Sam Bamberg for P.M. De Dycker and Associates for soils and biological resources were conducted in March 1990, and detailed surveys were conducted in May/June and December 1990, and in February and March 1991. A tortoise clearance survey for the mid portion of the Tumco Wash was completed in August 1990, for an exploration drilling program to define ore reserves. The surveys were specific for floristics and vegetation types, animal species and habitats, and soil resources. Complete species lists, using both scientific and common names, are included at the end of this report. All species are referred to in the text by their common names.

This report provides details and data of field surveys that will contribute information and documentation for preparation of environmental assessments and permit applications for submission to Imperial County, the BLM and other regulatory agencies. The data from the field work provided details for inventorying the present condition of some of the natural resources on the project site, specifically soils, vegetation, and wildlife. All of the studies and inventories scoped in this plan are designed to meet permitting and regulatory requirements of the agencies responsible for mining in Imperial County. These studies also provide an understanding of present environmental conditions to determine mitigation measures and prepare closure and reclamation plans.

The work plan for studies was based on the consultants' experience at other sites nearby, including the American Girl and Padre Madre Mine, Mesquite Mine. Additional information came from on onsite meetings with AGMJV personnel, specialists at agencies in Imperial County and the BLM office in El Centro, and discussions with the California Fish and Game. The preparers of this report have done the work for reclamation at the Padre-Madre Mine and the American Girl Mine. This work includes studies of vegetation, soils and wildlife and an on-going

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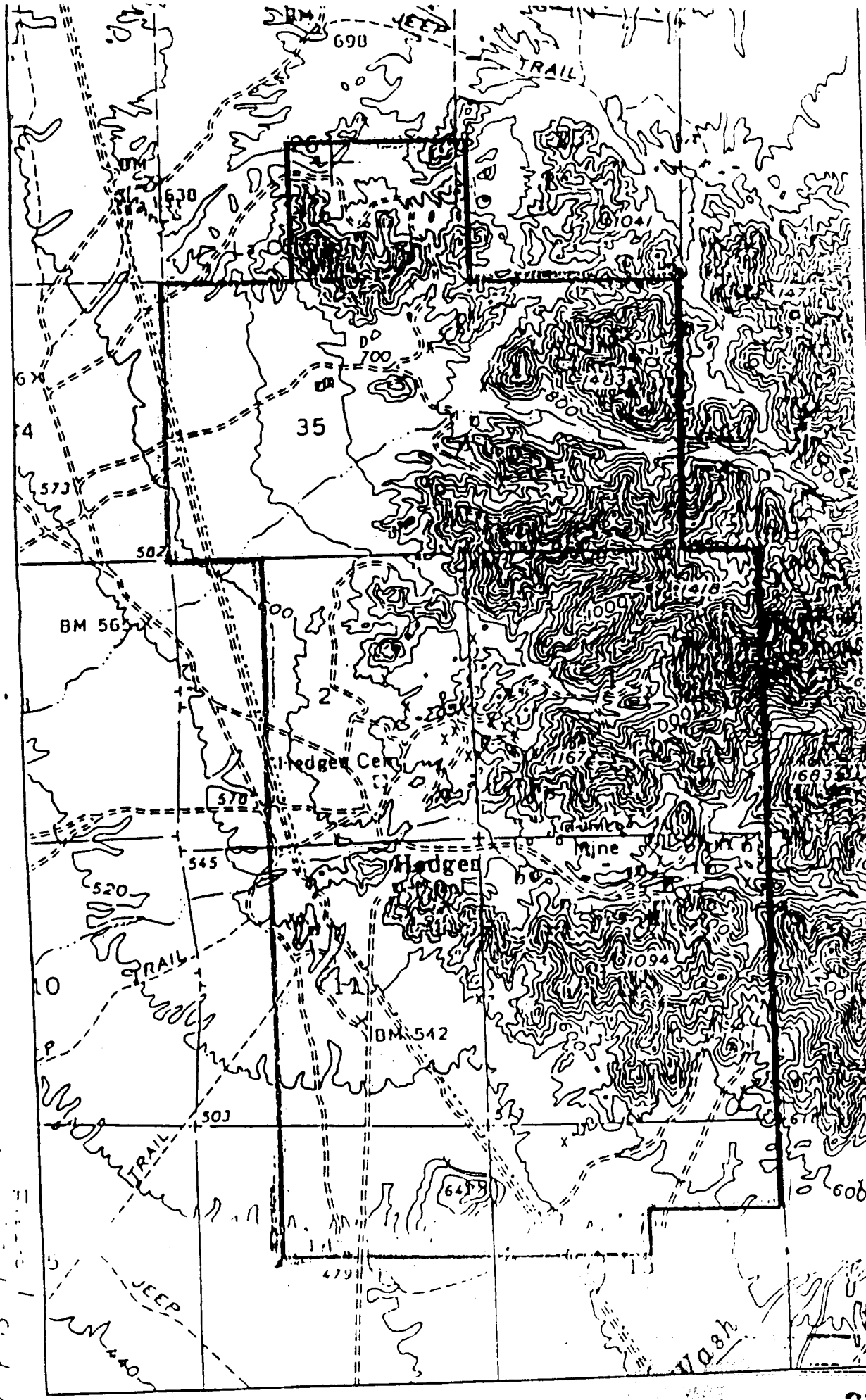

Figure 1
Boundaries of the Study Area Project

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revegetation program.

Specific surveys were conducted for general biological resources in an expanded area of the study area during February 1991. These included Section 35, 36 and 16 in the northern portion of the study area including mines and adits, the upper and eastern most portion of the Tumco wash for desert tortoise or sensitive habitats, and Section 16 in the upper American Girl Wash including the Guadalupe mine. Results of these studies are included in this report. Results of the bat survey studies of Dr. ~~Pat~~ Brown through December 1990 are summarized from her reports, and bat use surveys in the expanded area in the study area in February are also included.

2.0 VEGETATION

Vegetation on the project site was surveyed for general types, present conditions and species present. This information will be used to characterize the study area and to provide data for revegetation.

2.1 General Description

The vegetation on the Oro Cruz Mine site is low desert scrub typical of the severe temperate desert areas. Vegetative cover is extremely low and variable, and species diversity is minimal. The low rainfall (annual average of 2.5 inches) and the high daytime temperature (up to 115 degrees fahrenheit) of the project area imposes special requirements on the plant life. The existing vegetation is highly adapted to the desert heat and droughts and, on the high ground, consists mostly of scattered creosote bush with occasional ocotillo, inciensic, fagonia, and beavertail cactus. The wash areas collect rain run-off and provide a break in the desert pavement and therefore have a wider variety of plants including large shrubs and small trees, and a greater ground cover.

2.2 Methodology

The main purpose of the vegetation surveys was to describe the current conditions in the Tumco Wash and its surroundings. A walking and driving reconnaissance of the major portions of the Tumco Wash and its surrounding environs was performed to determine vegetation types and patterns. Several vegetation surveys were conducted to determined plant species in the different habitats agreed upon during the reconnaissance. Portions of the entire project site were surveyed for general plant species present and relative abundance, and these surveys checked with aerial photographs for distribution. There was some quantitative sampling of the vegetation types using transects to characterize present conditions of composition and cover. Plant vegetation surveys were of two types: linear plots in long transects on alluvial fans and desert pavement areas; and non-dimensional relief surveys for estimating ground cover by species.

Linear plot sampling or transects to analyze for tree, shrub and other perennial species composition and cover in two areas in the alluvial flats west of the mountains were conducted to quantitatively ascertain vegetative cover. The two areas sampled crossed a couple of smaller washes. Ten or eleven 100 by 10 foot linear quadrats in sequential transects were conducted for each survey. Plant tree and shrub specimens rooting within the transects were recorded with an estimate of their size to the nearest half foot, grasses and forbs were also noted if of a significant size or ground cover.

Those areas disturbed by previous mining and now naturally revegetated were surveyed for species which colonized successfully. The revegetating plant species were recorded and related to the type of disturbance, and to those substrate, topographic and moisture conditions that promoted the growth and plant establishment.

708
3339

Floristics List
The flora of the study area was compiled from observations for species lists, conducting vegetation surveys, and specimens collected for verification.

Mapping
The vegetation was typed and mapped during the reconnaissance and surveys of Oro Cruz area. The study site was mapped using topographic maps and aerial photographs verified with walking and driving surveys for ground truth. Two principal vegetation types were present; (1) creosote shrub scrub on uplands, toeslopes, alluvial fans, desert pavement and shallow washes, and (2) mixed shrub/tree in deeper washes. The map of the vegetation types is presented in Figure 2 (in back pocket). The maps in this report are draft and provisional pending delineation of the proposed Permit Area, and more recent and complete base topographic mapping. Many of the washes have narrow bands of vegetation either in canyons or eroded into the outwash alluvial toe slopes and fans. The vegetation on the slopes, gravel pavement, and alluvial fans varied in cover although the species present are fairly constant.

2.3 Survey Results

Floristics
The floristics of this area is typical for the Colorado Desert portion of California and contains no unusual species or habitats, and is composed almost entirely of native species with few weeds or introduced species. Species observed or collected are listed in Table 1. The dominant life forms are widely spaced shrubs that are largely dormant during dry periods, with annual and perennial forbs growing seasonally and where conditions permit. Small trees and large shrubs dominate the washes. There is no permanent surface water or springs in the study area and no wetlands. The flora does not have a large number of plant species assemblage due to the extreme dryness and lack of diverse habitats. The single plant species of concern is the fairy duster which occurs in shallow, side canyon, and toeslope washes on the western portion of the mountains and along the highway. The distribution, number and condition, and reproductive success of the fairy duster was observed.

Vegetation Types
This area in the California Desert has been classified into one general vegetation type, the creosote bush scrub (Munz 1968). Two distinctive vegetation subtypes were determined in the area. These were (1) a shrub scrub on the open, drier flat alluvial fans and mountain slope regions and (2) a mixed shrub/tree in the washes developed in drainages. On these first areas, the desert pavement has developed on extensive areas and the vegetative ground cover is almost non-existent. The second, wash vegetation type, reflects the higher moisture availability which results during rain event run-offs. The vegetation in the washes has higher variability and ground cover.

On the open, drier flat alluvial fans and mountain slope regions the shrub/scrub vegetation type consists of low shrubs which are widely spaced. The major species of shrubs are creosote bush, burrobush, inciensio, fagonia, hibiscus and ocotillo. This type of vegetation on the site has similar species but varies in their distribution and abundance by location within the site. For typing into the reclamation plan, four topographic divisions of shrub/scrub vegetation types have been identified, these are (1) rock outcrop/thin soil, (2) mountain and toe slopes, (3) alluvial fans and flats, and (4) desert pavement. Visual percent cover estimates were preformed on the first two types and 100 foot transects were run on the last two types.

The rock outcrop/thin soil areas occur on the upper to mid ranges of the mountain slopes. Vegetation grows in the cracks of and between the rocks. The density of the vegetation is very low and is clumped around the available thin soil deposits and cracks in the rocks. The rocks have been highly baked by the sun and arid climate and are covered with desert

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TABLE 1
LIST OF PLANT SPECIES

Common Name	Scientific Name
Trees and Tall Shrubs	
ironwood	*Olneya tesota*
mesquite	*Prosopis juliflora*
mistletoe (parasitic on trees)	*Phoradendron californicum*
palo verde	*Cercidium floridum*
smoke tree	*Dalea spinosa*
tamarisk	*Tamarix pentandra*
Shrubs	
bcxthorn	*Lycium andersonii*
burrobush	*Ambrosia dumosa*
catsclaw	*Acacia greggii*
cattle spinach	*Atriplex polycarpa*
creosote bush	*Larrea divaricata*
desert ratany	*Krameria grayi*
desert lavender	*Hyptis emoryi*
ditaxis	*Ditaxis lanceolata*
fairy duster	*Calliandra eriophylla*
happlopappus	*Happlopappus acradenius*
inciensio	*Encelia farinosa*
indigo bush	*Dalea schottii*
joint-fir	*Ephedra trifurca*
milkweed	*Asclepias subulata*
ocotillo	*Fouquieria splendens*
piggy cedar	*Peucephyllum schottii*
sandpaper plant	*Petalonyx thurberi*
sweetbush	*Bebbia juncea*
tobacco	*Nicotiana trigonophylla*
wire lettuce	*Stephanomeria pauciflora*
Grasses	
California three-awn	*Aristida californica*
galleta	*Hilaria jamesii*
big galleta	*Hilaria rigida*
grama grass	*Bouteloua barbata*
six-week fescue	*Festuca octoflora*
three-awn	*Aristida adscensionis*
tufted grass	*Schismus arabicus*
Herbaceous Perennials and Annuals	
barked evening primrose	*Oenothera decorticans*
California poppy	*Eschscholtzia minutiflora*
chaenactis	*Chaenactis stevioides*
cheesebush	*Hymenoclea salsola*
club evening primrose	*Oenothera clavaeformis*
desert star	*Monoptilon bellioides*
desert sunflower	*Geraea canescens*
desert marigold	*Baileya pauciradiata*
eriogonum	*Eriogonum sp.*
fagonia	*Fagonia californica*
forget-me-not	*Cryptantha sp.*
four o'clock	*Mirabilis froebelii*

770
3341

ground cherry	*Physalis crassifolia*
orange globemallow	*Sphaeralcea emoryi*
Parry's indigo	*Dalea parryi*
peppergrass	*Lepidium lasiocarpum*
phacelia	*Phacelia crenulata*
plantain	*Plantago insularis*
psathyrotes	*Psathyrotes ramossissima*
rambling milkweed	*Sarcostemma hirtellum*
rose mallow	*Hibiscus denudatus*
soft indigo	*Dalea mollis*
spanish needles	*Palafoxia linearis*
spiny chorizanthe	*Chorizanthe rigida*
spurge	*Euphorbia eriantha*
triangle evening primrose	*Oenothera deltoides*
trixis	*Trixis californica*
western jimson weed	*Datura meteloides*
western ragweed	*Ambrosia psilostachya*

Cactus

barrel cactus	*Echinocactus acanthodes*
beavertail cactus	*Opuntia basilaris*
buckhorn cholla	*Opuntia acanthocarpa*
golden cholla	*Opuntia echinocarpa*
nipple or fishhook cactus	*Mammillaria tetrancistra*

777
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varnish. An estimated 0 to 2 percent of the ground is covered by vegetation.

Colluvial soils material is available between the rock outcrops on the mountain slopes and on the toe slopes. The vegetation here is denser and has a higher diversity of plant species. The plants also tend to be more evenly spaced than in the rock outcrop areas. Vegetative ground cover is estimated at 1 to 3 percent.

The alluvial fans and flats start in the toe slopes and continue out onto the flat regions beyond the mountain range. The soil is a coarse sand and rock of more recent deposit. Plant density is the highest in these areas with a higher diversity. Spacing of the plants is clumped and dependent on soil type and water availability. Two surveys for vegetative cover were conducted in the alluvial outwash fans in the major wash to the north of Tumco Wash (see Tables 2 and 3). The measured ground cover for the alluvial outwash and the dissecting shallow washes are 3.3 and 1.8 percent. The estimated ground cover for the alluvial outwash alone is 1 to 3 percent.

The desert pavement is found on the mountain slopes and alluvial flats and on the old undisturbed surfaces. These flat sand and rock surfaces weather in-place by the sun and arid climate and form an impenetrable surface with high salt content. Vegetation is extremely scarce, water and seeds generally cannot penetrate the surface. A type of lichen/algal crust forms on the underneath side of the quart rocks which light can penetrate and were moisture can collect. The two vegetative surveys for desert pavement were conducted in the Tumco wash area and the results are presented in Tables 4 and 5. The measured ground cover for the desert pavement and the dissecting shallow washes is 1.4 and 0.7 percent. Ten of the total 22 plots were entirely bare ground. The estimated ground cover for the desert pavement is 0 to 0.5 percent.

The wash vegetation type occurs in the washes which are created by the major water runoff from the steep mountain slopes during significant precipitation events. Flooding and washing of the alluvial/colluvial material disturbs the old, weathered surfaces and allows for better penetration of water and seed and a higher survival rate than on the shrub/scrub vegetation type. This results in a greater variety of plant species and a higher abundance of plants. The major species include those found in the shrub/scrub vegetation type plus other varieties. Four location topographic divisions of wash vegetation types have been identified, these are (1) broad major washes, (2) canyon and side washes, (3) alluvial shallow washes, and (4) desert pavement shallow washes. Visual percent cover estimates were preformed on the first two types and 100 foot transects were run on the last two types.

The broad major washes form in the valleys between the mountains and continue out onto the alluvial flats. These washes can be vary from 10 to 20 feet deep and 50 to 100 feet wide. The bottoms and sides of the washes are sandy and support trees and plants, occasional islands of dense vegetation form in the middle of the sandy bottoms. Vegetation in the major washes is the most abundant and diverse anywhere on the Oro Cruz site. Trees found in the major washes include ironwood, mesquite, palo verde, smoke tree, and tamarisk. Plant cover varies from 0 percent in sandy bottom areas to 60 percent on some sides and island vegetative clumps.

The canyon and side wash vegetation is similar to that in the major washes but less diverse and abundant. The washes are narrower and not as deep or broad. There are fewer and smaller trees. Galleta, milkweed, piggy cedar, fairy duster and desert lavender can be found. Sides of the washes support populations of barrel cactus. Vegetative cover is irregular on the bottoms and sides from 6 to 15 percent.

712
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Plant name	diameter of shrubs in feet	Total #	Cover sq. ft.	Cover percent
Plot 1				
burrobush	0.5	1	0.2	
ironwood	1	1	0.8	
total		2	1.0	0.1
Plot 2				
sweetbush	1	1	0.8	0.1
burrobush	3 3 3 2	4	24.2	2.4
creosote bush	8 5	2	49.9	5.0
fagonia	0.5	1	0.2	0.0
total		8	75.1	7.5
Plot 3				
ocotillo	0.5 0.25	2	0.2	0.0
beavertail	0.5	1	0.2	0.0
burrobush	1	1	0.8	0.1
total		4	1.2	0.1
Plot 4				
ocotillo	1.5	1	1.8	0.2
beavertail	0.75	1	0.4	0.0
burrobush	2	1	3.1	0.3
creosote bush	5	1	19.5	2.0
total		4	24.8	2.5
Plot 5				
creosote bush	6	1	28.1	2.8
total		1	28.1	2.8
Plot 6				
ocotillo	8	1	49.9	
beavertail	1.5	1	1.8	0.2
sweetbush	1 0.5	2	0.8	0.1
burrobush	0.5 2 3 2.5 2.5 1 1	7	21.7	2.2
creosote bush	6	1	28.1	2.8
fishhook cactus	0.25	1	0.0	0.0
total		13	102.3	10.2
Plot 7				
boxthorn	3.5	1	9.6	1.0
skeletonweed	1.5	1	1.8	0.2
burrobush	3 3.5 3 2	4	26.7	2.7
total		6	38.0	3.8
Plot 8				
burrobush	2	1	3.1	0.3
creosote bush	4	1	12.5	1.2
total		2	15.6	1.6
Plot 9				
burrobush	1.5 1 1.5 0.5	4	1.8	0.2
total		4	1.8	0.2
Plot 10				
burrobush	3.5 0.5	2	9.8	1.0
creosote bush	6	1	28.1	2.8
total		3	37.8	

Average percent cover for Survey 3 is 3.3%

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3344

Table 3. Vegetative Cover Plot Survey 4 for Oro C[illegible] Mine Project, February 1991

Plant name	diameter of shrubs in feet	Total #	Cover sq. ft.	Cover percent
Plot 1				
burrobush	1 2	2	0.8	0.1
total		2	0.8	0.1
Plot 2				
burrobush	3.5 0.5 0.5	3	9.9	1.0
creosote bush	2.5 4	2	4.9	0.5
total		5	14.8	1.5
Plot 3				
ironwood	10	1	78.0	7.8
rose mallow	3	1	7.0	0.7
total		2	85.1	8.5
Plot 4				
beavertail cactus	1	2	0.8	0.1
total		2	0.8	0.1
Plot 5				
ocotillo	4	2	12.5	1.2
total		2	12.5	1.2
Plot 6				
cresote bush	4 1.5	2	12.5	1.2
total		2	12.5	1.2
Plot 7				
cresote bush	3.5	2	9.6	1.0
total		2	9.6	1.0
Plot 8				
ocotillo	1	1	0.8	0.1
boxthorn	3	1	7.0	0.7
fairy duster	2	1	3.1	0.3
burrobush	0.5 1	2	1.0	0.1
creosote bush	4	1	12.5	1.2
ditaxis	1 1	2	1.6	0.2
total		8	25.9	2.6
Plot 9				
ocotillo	1	1	0.8	0.1
creosote bush	3	1	7.0	0.7
golden cholla	1.5	1	1.8	0.2
total		3	9.6	1.0
Plot 10				
ocotillo	2.5 4	2	4.9	0.5
ironwood	1	1	0.8	0.1
total		3	5.7	0.6
Plot 11				
burrobush	1.5 2.5 1	3	7.4	0.7
creosote bush	3.5	1	9.6	1.0
buckhorn cholla	1	1	0.8	0.1
total		5	17.8	1.8

Average percent cover for Survey 4 is 1.8%

EXHIBIT 714
3345

Plant name	diameter of shrubs in feet	Total #	Cover sq. ft.	Cover percent
Plot 1				
ocotillo	8	1	49.9	F
rose mallow	2.5	1	4.9	C.
fairy duster	3	1	7.0	0.7
burrobush	3 3 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1	10	32.0	3.2
creosote bush	5	1	19.5	2.0
fagonia	0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5	4	0.8	0.1
total		18	114.1	11.4
Plot 2				
rose mallow	0.5	1	0.2	0.0
fagonia	0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5	6	1.2	0.1
total		7	1.4	0.1
Plot 3				
rose mallow	1 1 1 1 0.5	5	3.3	0.3
burrobush	1.5 1.5 1.5 1 1 1 1 1	8	9.2	0.9
fagonia	0.5 0.5	2	0.4	0.0
total		15	12.9	1.3
Plot 4				
	0	0	0.0	0.0
total		0	0.0	0.0
Plot 5				
burrobush	0.5 0.5	2	0.4	0.0
total		2	0.4	0.0
Plot 6				
	0	0	0.0	0
total		0	0.0	0.
Plot 7				
	0	0	0.0	0.0
total		0	0.0	0.0
Plot 8				
burrobush	3 2.5 0.5	3	12.1	1.2
rose mallow	2 2 1 2	4	10.1	1.0
total		7	22.2	2.2
Plot 9				
	0	0	0.0	0.0
total		0	0.0	0.0
Plot 10				
rose mallow	2 1	2	3.9	0.4
fagonia	1	1	0.8	0.1
total		3	4.7	0.5
Plot 11				
rose mallow	2	1	3.1	0.3
total		1	3.1	0.3

Average percent cover for Survey 1 is 1.4%

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3346

Plant name	diameter of shrubs in feet	Total #	Cover sq. ft.	Cover percent
Plot 1				
	0	0	0.0	0.0
total		0	0.0	0.0
Plot 2				
ocotillo	1	1	0.8	0.1
burrobush	2	2	3.1	0.3
total		3	3.9	0.4
Plot 3				
	0	0	0.0	0.0
total		0	0.0	0.0
Plot 4				
	0	0	0.0	0.0
total		0	0.0	0.0
Plot 5				
burrobush	1.5 2 2 1 1 1.5 1.5 1.5	8	14.8	1.5
rose mallow	1 1 1 1 1	5	3.9	0.4
total		13	18.7	1.9
Plot 6				
	0	0	0.0	0.0
total		0	0.0	0.0
Plot 7				
	0	0	0.0	0.0
total		0	0.0	0.0
Plot 8				
	0	0	0.0	0.0
total		0	0.0	0.0
PLOT 9				
burrobush	0.5 0.5	2	0.4	0.0
rose mallow	1	1	0.8	0.1
total		3	1.2	0.1
PLOT 10				
burrobush	2 1 1 2	4	7.8	0.8
rose mallow	1.5 1.5 1.5 2	4	8.4	0.8
total		8	16.2	1.6
PLOT 11				
burrobush	1 1 1 1	4	3.1	0.3
cresote bush	6	1	28.1	2.8
fagonia	1	1	0.8	0.1
beavertail cactus	1	1	0.8	0.1
total		7	32.8	3.3

Average percent cover for Survey 2 is 0.7%

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TABLE 6
List of Wildlife at the Oro Cruz Mine Site

Scientific Name	Common Name
Mammals	
badger	*Taxidea taxus*
big brown bat	*Eptesicus fuscus*
black-tailed jackrabbit	*Lepus californicus*
bobcat	*Lynx rufus*
California leaf-nosed bat	*Macrotus californicus*
California myotis	*Myotis californicus*
canyon deermouse	*Peromyscus crinitus*
cave myotis - possible	*Myotis velifer*
coyote	*Canis latrans*
desert deermouse	*Peromyscus erimicus*
desert kangaroo rat	*Dipodomys deserti*
desert kit fox	*Vulpes macrotis*
desert woodrat	*Neotoma lepida*
desert pocket mouse	*Perognathus penicillatus*
gray fox	*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*
little pocket mouse	*Perognathus longimembris*
long-tailed deermouse	*Peromyscus maniculatus*
long-tailed pocket mouse	*Perognathus formosus*
Merriam's kangaroo rat	*Dipodomys merriami*
Mexican free-tailed bat	*Tadarida brasiliensis*
mule deer	*Odocoileus hemionus*
pallid bat	*Antrozous pallidus*
ring-tailed cat	*Bassariscus astutus*
round-tailed ground squirrel	*Spermophilus tereticaudus*
southern grasshopper mouse	*Onychomys torridus*
spiny pocket mouse	*Chaetodipus spinatus*
spotted bat - possible	*Euderma maculatum*
Townsend's long-eared bat	*Plecotus townsendii*
western pipistrelle bat	*Pipistrellus hesperus*
white-tailed antelope ground squirrel	*Ammospermophilus leucurus*
white-throated woodrat	*Neotoma albigula*
Birds	
Anna's hummingbird	*Calypte anna*
ash-throated flycatcher	*Myiarchus cinerascens*
barn owl	*Tyto alba*
black-tailed gnatcatcher	*Polioptila melanura*
black-throated sparrow	*Amphispiza bilineata*
Brewer's sparrow	*Spizella breweri*
common raven	*Corvus corax*
Gambel's quail	*Callipepla gambelii*
ladderbacked woodpecker	*Picoides scalaris*
loggerhead shrike	*Lanius ludovicianus*
mourning dove	*Zenaida macroura*
phainopepla	*Phainopepla nitens*
prairie falcon	*Falco mexicanus*
red-shafted flicker	*Colaptes chrysoides*
red-tailed hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*
rock wren	*Salpinetes obsoletus*
Say's phoebe	*Sayornis saya*
turkey vulture	*Cathartes aura*
verdin	*Auriparus flaviceps*
white-throated swift	*Aeronautes saxatalis*
white-winged dove	*Zenaida asiatica*

CALENDAR PAGE 717
EXHIBIT PAGE 3348

Reptiles

brush lizard	*Urosaurus graciosus*
collared lizard	*Crotaphytus collaris*
desert horned lizard	*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*
desert iguana	*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*
desert collared lizard	*Crotophytus insularis*
desert tortoise	*Gopherus agassizii*
side-blotched lizard	*Uta stansburiana*
sidewinder	*Crotalus cerates*
speckled rattlesnake	*Crotalus mitchelli*
western whiptail	*Cnemidophorus tigris*
western diamondback rattlesnake	*Crotalus atrox*
western chuckwalla	*Sauromalus obesus*
yellow-backed spiny lizard	*Sceloporus magister uniformis*
zebra-tailed lizard	*Callisaurus draconoides*

Amphibians

red-spotted toad - possible (reported by Dr. Pat Brown)	*Bufo punctatus*

718
3349

Several species of carnivores have been sighted in the Cargo Muchachos, these are the kit fox, gray fox, bobcat, and coyote. Badger and ringtailed cat use of the area is intermittent. Mountain lion signs have not been observed and are not expected. The ringtail is a rarely encountered member of the racoon family that inhabits a variety of remote habitats. Scat from this animal was found in the mine adits and occasionally along trails. These animals are widespread and u all of the aboveground habitats. Trails and scat were observed mostly alo roads, trails and along washes.

Small mammals on site included rodents, bats and the black-tailed jackrabbit. Rodent species included woodrats, kangaroo rats, deer mice, pocket mice, and ground squirrels. Habitat use by the small mammals is dependent on the species and the use of food and cover. The California leaf-nosed bat is a inhabitant of the mine adits and is a species of special concern in California, its occurrence onsite is further discussed in the section on threatened and endangered species and in Appendix B.

Birds

Birds are not abundant at the Oro Cruz site on a permanent basis. An exception to this are the gnatcatcher and the flycatcher which inhabit the site during the hot, dry season. These birds feed on the relatively abundant insects and obtain sufficient moisture from their food. Raptors include prairie falcon, red-tailed hawk, loggerhead shrike, and barn owl. Other large birds are the turkey vulture and common raven. Small birds include black-throated and Brewer's sparrows, mourning and white-winged doves, Say's phoebe, rock wren, white-throated swift, Anna's hummingbird, verdin, and phainopepla.

The flyway for migratory waterfowl may pass over the Cargo Muchacho Mountains but is widespread in this portion of southern California and mainly concentrated along the major waterways. Occasional groups and individuals pass over the project area but generally will not land because of the lack of surface water (LaPre, 1989).

LeConte's thrasher is a desert bird and is of concern. However, the thrasher has never been observed and is not expected on-site. The Tumco Wash habitat is outside its normal range and locality.

Reptiles

Reptiles are the most abundant of the animals types in the Tumco Wash. These cold-blooded animals are adapted to the heat and lack of moisture. Most of the reptile species are active during the spring of the year. The many species of snakes that could be found in this area are mainly nocturnal. The most common species are the collared lizard, brush lizard, side-blotched lizard, western whiptail, and western diamondback rattlesnake.

The distribution of one species of amphibian, the red-spotted toad, encompasses the site but due to the coarse, porous soils ponds which form after rains generally do not last long enough for the toads to breed. The desert tortoise is a T&E species and discussed in that section in this report. The fringed toad lizard (*Uma inornata*), a threatened species, occurs to the west in Algodones Dunes, but does not occur on the site due to lack of habitat.

3.4 Threatened and Endangered Species

During the wildlife surveys both the threatened and endangered species, or species of special concern, the desert tortoise and the California leaf-nosed bat were found on the site. Surveys to determine the specific habitats and numbers of these species were conducted.

Desert Tortoise

Use of the one and one half mile triangular transects to determine desert tortoise population presence and density was employed by the Terra Madre Consultants

719
3350

in 1989 and RA Consultants in the rest of the surveys periods in 1990 and 1991. It was determined that the desert tortoise is present on the Oro Cruz site at the lowest density level. Further use of the triangular transect method during the February 1991 survey (and in future surveys) was discontinued because of the very low density of the tortoises. Instead, determination of the presence of any tortoise in specific areas was accomplished by looking for tortoise signs within these areas. Surveys using this method were employed in March 1990 to check and verify some tortoise distributions and habitat in the study area. The specific areas were and will be determined by need, if an area will be disturbed by future haul roads or other mining activities, or by probability, if the area is potential tortoise habitat.

The general distribution of the desert tortoise based on actual observations during the present surveys and those from the previous studies for the American Girl and Padre Madre mines is given in Figure 3. As can be seen from this map the preferred habitat for the desert tortoise in the Cargo Muchacho Mountains in on the toe slopes of the mountain slopes along alluvial slopes in the upper portions of the major washes. Specific surveys for desert tortoise were conducted in all portions of the Tumco Wash during surveys for the exploration and again for the upper portions of Tumco Wash. No signs of tortoises have been observed either in this wash or any side slope, probably due to past historic mining disturbances. The proposed road corridor to the American Girl Project site was surveyed and tortoise sign were observed along this route south of the Tumco Wash in the next drainage. Clearance surveys will be required before construction of this haul road.

No sign of desert tortoise were seen in Section 16 in the upper American Girl Wash. The specific habitat surveys for tortoise in March 1990 located two live tortoises on the toe slopes of the ridges outside and south of the Tumco Wash, and sign on one other area. Similar surveys in suitable habitat in the Tumco Wash and the immediate northern drainage had negative results with no tortoise or sign observed. This confirmed earlier surveys in this Tumco Wash area.

The Oro Cruz site is on the extreme edge of the known tortoise habitat. The desert tortoise is best surveyed in the area during the April, May and early June period, if rains come, a second activity period in August may occur. They are generally most active above ground in spring when the succulent annual plants on which they feed are abundant. Generally, the specific areas on the Oro Cruz site where the tortoise signs have been found are topographically related, rather than to the vegetation type or abundance. The tortoise appears to prefer the gentler toe-slopes of the Cargo Muchacho range. The flatter alluvial areas in the toe-slope regions provide good drinking depression sites but not burrowing locations. The upper regions of the mountains cannot easily be accessed by the tortoise unless a gentler slope or a haul road is available. No positive or probable sign of tortoise has been found on the outwash or flat alluvial surfaces away from the toe-slopes to the west of the Cargo Muchacho Mountains.

California Leaf-nosed Bat

Specific surveys for bats inhabiting the mines in the study area were conducted by Dr. Patricia Brown and associates. See Appendix B for detailed reports by Dr. Brown on the results of these surveys. The information provided here is a summary of her reports. Special attention has been given to the California leaf-nosed bat (*Macrotus californicus*) which is a California Department of Fish and Game Species of Special Concern, and a US Fish and Wildlife Category 2 Candidate Species for threatened and endangered status. Surveys methods consisted of entering shafts and adits and noting any sightings or signs of wildlife present. Bats were captured with hand or mist nets, identified and *Macrotus* banded in some cases. Two activities were conducted at dusk when bats emerge: bats were counted for numbers leaving a roost, or mist nets were placed over the entrance to capture bats for identification and banding. An ultrasonic bat detector was also used monitor species of bats which emit distinctive signals, and a night vision scope was used to count and monitor bats exiting a mine. Surveys have been

720
3351

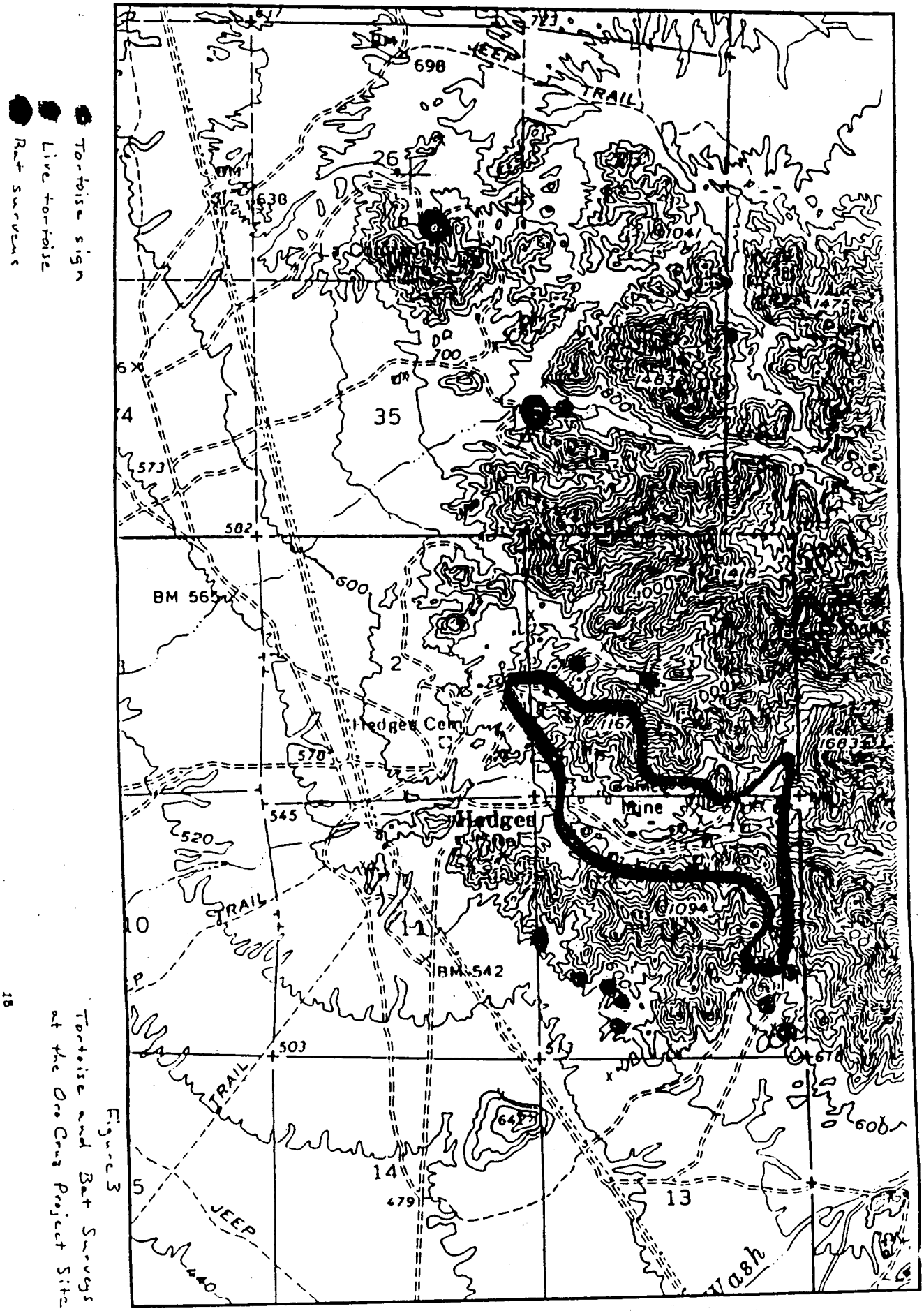

Figure 3
Tortoise and Bat Surveys
at the Ore Cruz Project Site

CALENDAR PAGE 721
MINUTE PAGE 3352

conducted since 1977 in this area with specific surveys for the present study during (1) August 8 to 13, 1989, (2) July 7 and 8, 1990, and (3) December 8 to 14, 1990. In the December 1990 surveys, mines along the western half of the Cargo Muchacho Mountains were also entered to determine bat dispersal and winter use of alternate habitats. Evening use surveys for bats in mines and adits in Sections 36 and 26 in the northern study area, and in Section 16 were conducted in February and March 1991. The areas of bat surveys are identified on Figure 3.

In the surveys of mines and adits in the Tumco Wash, bats were observed in 26 of the 65 mine workings. *Macrotus* were observed in 9 of the workings with over 100 mother and juvenile bats occupying two large rooms near the entrance of the Golden Queen mine along the upper northcentral area of the wash. Two other workings contained confirmed or possible maternity roosts for *Macrotus*. Other species of bats which were captured which were lactating females indicating maternity roosts were California myotis (*Myotis californicus*), big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*), pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus*) and western pipistrelle (*Pisistrellus hesperus*). Other species of bats observed or captured were Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), and possibly Townsend's long-eared bat (*Plecotus townsendii*). The spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*) was probably heard flying over the wash late at night based on a unique echolocation call.

Surveys in other mines on the western side of the Cargo Muchacho Mountains showed several locations which contained *Macrotus*. The mines in the American Girl Wash to the south of the Tumco containing *Macrotus* include the American Boy Mine, Guadalupe Mine and Pasadena group of mines. There were about 650 *Macrotus* observed exiting the Cargo Mine to the south in the range during the December 1990 survey. The Cargo Mine is a large mine that is mainly inaccessible to humans. Bats that have been banded in the Tumco Wash moved to other mines within this area and to mines in the American Girl Wash when disturbed. Little information exists on the use of alternate roosts by *Macrotus* or on the distance traveled on nightly foraging bouts. No bats were observed in the shallow mines in the northern part of the study area. Three *Macrotus* were observed entering the Guadalupe mine in Section 16 during the February 1991 survey.

4.0 SOILS

Soils on the Oro Cruz study area were surveyed for general site characteristics and past disturbances to determine soil resources for reclamation.

4.1 General Description

The soils on the project site have developed under desert conditions of low moisture, high temperatures and little or no chemical weathering. Desert soils generally are composed of coarse sands, gravel and cobbles and have poorly developed profiles. Soils vary from a thin residual veneer of in place rock materials on mountain ridges and slopes, to deep coarse, alluvial material in washes and outwash fans. Soils are a product of the weathering process in this arid climate and are generally shallow with little profile development. Old piedmont surfaces such as desert pavement have developed a characteristic type of rock surface underlain by vesicular and saline subsoils that is peculiar to this desert region. This site previously had the soil surfaces disturbed by mining, further complicating the characterization of soil types. Areas disturbed by previous mining include roads, mine rock waste dumps, mine openings/adits, tailings disposal, townsite building, mills and milling operations. Tailings were allowed to flow out from the mills into large unconfined sheets and cover large areas in the Tumco Wash and out onto the alluvial fans to the west. In places on the southcentral Tumco Wash, tailing are blown into shallow sand dunes to south and west of the lower mill tailings site.

Soil have developed from weathered host granitic and shistose rock substrates and consist of extremely gravelly sands or gravelly loams with up to 90% coarse

722
3353

fragments. Soils in the study area are fairly stable and are of two general type based on substrates and topographic position. The two type are: residual soil material weathered in place on slopes and ridges; and deeper alluvial soils transported by water and gravity on toe slopes, washes and outwash fans. Ro outcrops on peaks and ridges and on knobs throughout the study area. Cobbles a. rock fragments are common on the surface of the ground and in place form a weathered desert pavement on stable bajadas. Many of these surfaces have not been eroded or disturbed for thousands of years. In contrast, soils in wide active washes are frequently moved and sorted by periodic heavy rains and floods. Many rocks are stained black or dark brown as a desert varnish by manganese and iron oxides.

Soils on the study area have not been mapped by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service nor are any surveys planned in the near future. The area to the east in eastern Imperial County and adjacent Yuma County in Arizona have a completed and published soil survey (SCS 1980) in an area with similar soils and climate. This soil survey provided the basis for the information in this present report for soil types and characteristics. Two previous studies on the soil resources in the adjacent American Girl Wash and the Padre Madre area for previous mining projects were also conducted, and some information from reports and the EA/EIR (BLM 1988) for these projects were also used in preparation of this section.

4.2 Methodology

The study area was surveyed for an inventory of soils present and their conditions and characteristics to determine the availability and suitability for salvage and reclamation. Portions of the study area were traversed on foot based on maps and aerial photographs for observations of the soil types and general distribution. Soil surveys were conducted in March and May of 1990, and again in February and March 1991, to determine current soil conditions and resources. Types and conditions of soils were noted, and soil profiles examined in road cuts and pits. Conditions in previously disturbed areas such as rock disposal areas and the large areas of tailings were also observed.

The major soil types on the site were determined from SCS information (SCS 1980, and from studies on adjacent areas recently conducted (BLM 1988). The study site was mapped using recent aerial photographs based on ground truth in the walking surveys. The soil map units were then preliminarily delineated on topographic maps available at the time of this report. These maps will need to be updated when additional topographic maps are prepared. The soils mapping and description can be augmented by data obtained from excavated test pits during the geotechnical site investigations.

4.3 Survey Results

There were six soil types or classifications determined on the study site. These soil types are summarized in Table 7. These soil types are, in decreasing order of depth, rock and slope: Rock outcrop, Laprosa, Carrizo, Torriorthent-Torrifluvent Complex, Ligurta, and Cristobal. Extensive disturbance from mining has created an additional type of soil unit that is not a soil series.

The soils on the landscape comprise complexes or mosaics of these types, and these are grouped into five soil mapping units. These mapping units are given in Table 8. Four of the mapping units are natural groupings of one or more soil series: the fifth is the variable disturbed substrate material left after mining activities.

The map unit descriptions are described in the following section. Each unit is described for location and topographic position, soil series in the unit, depths, and textural characteristics affecting use and limitations of the soils for reclamation. The soil mapping units are adapted from the information in the SCS survey in this region (SCS 1980). These soils are mapped in Figure 4 (in back

723
3354

TABLE 7
TAXONOMIC CLASSIFICATION OF NATURALLY OCCURRING STUDY AREA SOIL

TAXONOMIC UNIT	CLASSIFICATION	TOPOGRAPHIC POSITION
Rock outcrop	Exposed granite or schist	Mountain tops and ridges
Laprosa	Loamy-skeletal, mixed hyperthermic Typic	Hills and mountain slopes
Carrizo	Sandy-skeletal, mixed hyperthermic Typic	Recent alluvial fans and washes
Ligurta	Fine-loamy, mixed, hyperthermic Typic Haplargids	Old alluvial fans piedmonts
Cristobal	Loamy-skeletal, mixed hyperthermic Typic Haplargids	Old alluvial fans and terraces
Torriorthent-Torrifluvent Complex		Dissected alluvial fans and terrace escarpments

Source: SCS 1980

724
3355

TABLE 8
SOIL TYPES OCCURRING IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA

MAP UNIT NO.	SOIL SERIES	TEXTURES	PERCENT SLOPE
1	Laprosa-rock outcrop complex	Extremely gravelly loam; exposed bedrock	15 to 75
2	Ligurta-Cristobal complex	Gravelly clay loam	2 to 6
3	Carrizo	Very gravelly sand	2 to 15
4	Torriorthents-Torrifluvents complex	Sandy loam	1 to 40
5	Mines/waste/tailings	Variable	Variable

Source: SCS 1980

725
3356

pocket). This map is provisional and will need to be updated.

Laprosa-Rock Outcrop complex - This complex is developed on higher peaks, ridges and slopes throughout the site and is the most common on the site. Slope is from 15 to 75%, rock outcrops are frequent and depths to bedrock are less than 40 inches. The texture is a very gravelly loam with a high percentage of pebbles and cobbles. There are severe limitations for salvage and use of these soils for reclamation, and include non-existent to shallow depths, large percentage of rock fragments and difficulty in removal due to steep slopes and small extent of deeper soil units.

Carrizo - These soils form in mixed alluvium of major washes and recently deposited alluvial outwash fans. Soil depths are greater than 60 inches, and may be sorted by flooding in the washes or fans. The texture is a very gravelly sand and is well drained. These soils can be salvaged and used for reclamation, however the sandy texture of these soils are limiting for plant growth and form a draughty substrate if placed over porous soils or rock fragments.

Licurta-Cristobal complex - This soil complex forms on old, weathered piedmont alluvial fans and terraces along the washes and foothills. The surfaces of these soils are stable and consist of small varnished rock fragments underlain by a saline vesicular subsoil. Soil depths are usually greater than 60 inches. These soils have limitations for reclamation due to the strongly saline subsoil and the gravelly or clayey textures.

Torriorthents-Torrifluvents complex - These are deep well-drained soils in eroded mixed alluvial materials that are unconsolidated. They are variable in texture and consists of sandy to clay stratified layer with 30 to 50% rock fragments. These soils have some weathering and may be used for reclamation. Limitations are that the dissected and discontinuous nature of these soils make salvage of these soils difficult.

Disturbed mined surfaces - These materials are variable substrates that consist of disturbed mixed in place soils, mine wastes dumps, graded road surfaces, debris and foundations from the town and mill buildings, and tailings material deposited in place and wind-blown dunes. These materials are generally not suitable for salvage for reclamation, although some natural revegetation has occurred.

4.4 Soil Handling and Salvage Potential

Desert soils generally have poorly developed profiles, and old piedmont surfaces such as desert pavement do not contain salvageable surface soil materials for reclamation. Much of the area of the planned mine development is already highly disturbed and not suitable for salvage and use in reclamation.

Soils will be determined for present conditions and suitability for use in a reclamation program at the time of construction and operations. Transported alluvial substrates in the washes are generally the best source of weathered materials for reclamation, and the amount and depth of this material will be field determined. Because of a general lack of topsoil, this program will be conducted at a minimal level. Revegetation testing programs are presently being conducted at the mines in the American Girl Wash and the Padre Madre Area. The results of these testing programs will be used to direct soil handling and salvage in the Tumco Wash.

726
3357

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727
3358

APPENDIX A
WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION SURVEYS

728
3359

Tortoise Surveys

Triangular 1.5 mile transects

#1 - 6/1/90
Start 200 yards east of Golden Queen, N SW then E to start
No sign

#2 - 6/1/90
Start at end of road NW Quadrant
1 drinking depression - good
1 shallow burrow - possible
1 drinking depression - probable
1 drinking depression - possible

#3 - 6/2/90
Mid area to north of Golden Queen
No sign

#4 - 6/5/90
No sign

#5 - 2/17/91
Mid Sec 35 in alluvial flat (N to foothills,SE along foothills,SW to road)
No sign

#6 - 2/17/91
Mid Sec 35 in alluvial flat (SE - W - NNE)
No sign

#7 - 2/17/91
Mid Sec 35 in alluvial flat (W - SE - NE)
No sign

Non-dimensional surveys of possible habitat or future disturbance

#1 - 2/16/91 - Sec. 36 up main wash east from mine shaft
den with 1 scat - in bank, not active

#2 - 2/17/91 - Future haul road between Amer. Girl & Oro Cruz
scat - mine adit (old-no new sign)
scat - along old 4WD road near summit
scat - along old 4WD road
drinking depression - old
scat - pass in foothills

#3 - 2/19/91 - Foothills SW of Tumco Wash outside drainage
scat on pallet among gentle sloped rock outcrop
scat on pallet among gentle sloped rock outcrop

#4 - 2/19/91 - Foothills N of survey #3
No sign

#5 - 2/19/91 - Upper east end of Tumco Wash to divide
No sign

#6 - 3/30/91 - Foothills S of Tumco Wash in next drainage
2 live tortoise
3 pallets, 2 with scat
1 burrow with scat, active

#7 - 3/30/91 - Foothills in mid section of Tumco Wash to south
No sign

729
3360

#8 - 3/30/91 - Foothills in mid section of Tumco Wash to North
No sign

#9 - 3/30/91 - Foothills in Section 26 northwest of mine adit
No sign

Bat Surveys

#1 - La Coronda Mine adit in Section 36
No sign

#2 - Adit and shaft on western edge of Section 36
No sign

#2 - Guadalupe Mine adit
3 *Macrotus* (estimated number) - entered adit for brief period at dusk possibly to eat catch

General Animal Surveys

5/30/90
1 side-blotched lizard
2 antelope ground squirrel
fox tracks and scat
possible ?burro? tracks or small horse
Insects - flies, bees, very few ants
flycatchers
gnatcatchers

6/1/90
1 side-blotched lizard
1 desert iguana
1 zebra-tailed lizard

6/3/90
Lower wide flats
nothing

Upper wash
fox hole and scat
3 gnatcatcher
flycatcher, ash throated
packrat sign
antelope ground squirrel
jcakrabbit scat
fox
deer pellet - 1 group
2 whiptail lizard
1 side-blotched lizard
dragonflies

6/5/90
1 rabbit
coyote (fox?) tracks and scat

2/16/91
North end of Sec. 35,36
hummingbird
3 groups - deer pellets - this year's
deer tracks

730
3361

Coronado Mine - main entrance
2 piles bat guano

Sec. 36 Main portion
barrow area -
numerous deer scat & tracks

up main wash from mine shaft.-
inactive tortoise den
2 gnatcatchers
coyote tracks
numerous deer scat, tracks, bedding sites, urine spots

2/17/91
Wash area
fox scat
hummingbird
side-blotched lizard
packrat scat

Pass over foothills along path from Tumco Wash SE to American Girl
tortoise scat - within last year

Old 4WD road - mtn slope
tortoise scat
tortoise scat

731
3362

6/1/90
Wash veg.
palo verde - a few seed pods
ironwood - also in seed
acacia - one flowering, also fruiting but non-viable
sweetbush
enciensio
boxthorn
creosote bush
burrobush
milkweed vine
joint fir

Pit veg.
sandpaper plant
desert globemallow
tobacco
enciensio
desert lavender
eriogonum
festuca
ditaxis

6/3/90
Wash veg.
palo verde
ironwood
catsclaw
enciensio
sweetbush
boxthorn
creosote bush
desert lavender
hibiscus
happlopappus
galleta
mesquite
ditaxis
desert ratany
burrobush
ocotillo (sides)

Upper wash
joint fir
barrel cactus
beavertail

Shallow wash - along Blythe-Ogilby Road
fairy duster
burrobush
ironwood
hibiscus
sweetbush
creosote bush
ditaxis
enciensio
beavertail (side)
desert ratany
ocotillo
galleta
eriogonum

732
3363

barrel cactus

6/4/90
Mid wash
at site of old tailings dumps W and N of four tanks, town of Hedges, irregular stratified tailings, fine sandy loam.
creosote bush at <1% cover
no other plants

Wash veg.
Narrow area of Tumco Wash east of Old Mill, 2-3% slope, previously disturbed but revegetated, torriorthent alluvial wash
creosote bush at 1.5% cover
ironwood (widely spaced)
enciensio
burrobush
desert lavender
cattle spinach

Rock outcrop
rocky slope, 5-15% slope, shallow residual soils, total cover -2%
creosote bush at about 1%
enciensio at <1%
ocotillo - trace
fagonia - 0.25%
burrobush - trace

6/5/90
Upper wash
Broad areas:
palo verde - 20% cover
ironwood - 12%
desert lavender - 10%
enciensio - 5%
creosote bush - 2%
acacia - 2%
sweetbush - 3%
ocotillo - 1%
burrobush
barrel cactus

Narrow areas:
desert ratany
desert globemallow
fagonia
boxthorn
galleta
happlopappus
hibiscus
three-awn
joint fir
milkweed
ditaxis
barked evening primrose

733
3364

CERTIFICATE OF FEE EXEMPTION

DE MINIMIS IMPACT FINDING

PROJECT TITLE/LOCATION:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

FINDINGS OF EXEMPTION:

Certification:

I hereby certify that the lead agency has made the above findings of fact and that [based upon the initial study and hearing record] the project will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on wildlife resources, as defined in Section 711.2 of the Fish and Game Code.

Jurg Heuberger
Planning Director
Planning/Building Department
Imperial County

Date

734
3365

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

("INITIAL STUDY" CHECKLIST)

		YES	MAYBE	NO
1.	**Earth: Will the proposal result in:**			
a.	Change in topography or ground surface relief features?		X	
b.	Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures?		X	
c.	The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X	
d.	Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards?			X
e.	Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or overcrowding of the soil?	X		
f.	Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?		X	
g.	Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel or a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake?			X
2.	**Air: Will the proposal result in:**			
a.	Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?			X
b.	The creation of objectionable odors?			X
c.	Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?			X
3.	**Water: Will the proposal result in:**			
a.	Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters?			X
b.	Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?		X	X
c.	Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?			X
d.	Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff?		X	
e.	Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters?		X	X
f.	Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?			X
g.	Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X
h.	Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?			X
i.	Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves?			X
4.	**Plant Life: Will the proposal result in:**			
a.	Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X	
b.	Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare, or endangered species of plants?		X	
c.	Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?			X
d.	Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop?			X
e.	Alteration to the type of crops grown on adjacent land?			X

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		Y	M	N
f.	Limiting or eliminating certain agricultural operations or cultural practices on adjoining land?			X
4.	**Animal Life: Will the proposal result in:**			
a.	Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)?		X	X
b.	Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?		X	
c.	Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?			X
d.	Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat?		X	
5.	**Noise: Will the proposal result in:**			
a.	Increases in existing noise levels?	X		
b.	Exposure of people to severe noise levels?			X
7.	**Light & Glare: Will the proposal produce new light or glare?**			X
8	**Land Use: Will the proposal result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?**			X
9.	**Natural Resources: Will the proposal result in an increase in the rate or use of any natural resources?**			X
10.	**Risk of Upset: Will the proposal involve:**			
a.	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?		X	
b.	Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?			X
11.	**Population: Will the proposal alter the location, distribution, density or growth rate of the human population of an area?**			X
12.	**Housing: Will the proposal affect existing housing or create a demand for additional housing?**			X
13.	**Transportation/Circulation: Will the proposal result in:**			
a.	Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?			X
b.	Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?			X
c.	Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?			X
d.	Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?			X
e.	Alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic?			X
f	Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians?			X

	YES	MAYBE	NO
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:			
a. Fire protection?	—	—	X
b. Police protection?	—	—	X
c. Schools?	—	—	X
d. Parks or other recreational facilities?	—	—	X
e. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	—	—	X
f. Other governmental services?	X	—	X
Energy: Will the proposal result in:			
a. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	—	—	X
b. Substantial increase in demand on existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy?	—	—	X
Utilities: Will the proposal result in a need for new systems or substantial alterations to any of the following?			
a. Power or natural gas?	—	—	X
b. Communications systems?	—	—	X
c. Water?	—	—	X
d. Sewer or septic tanks?	—	—	X
e. Storm water drainage?	—	—	X
f. Solid waste and disposal?	—	—	X
Human Health: Will the proposal result in:			
a. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?	—	—	X
b. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?	—	X	X
Aesthetics: Will the proposal result in the obstruction 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?	—	—	X
Recreation: Will the proposal result in an impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?	—	—	X
Cultural Resources: Will the proposal result in:			
a. Alteration of or destruction of a significant archaeological, prehistorical or historical site, structure, object or building?	—	X	—
b. An alteration of, or destruction of, a significant paleontological site?	—	X	—
c. Physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	—	—	X
d. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	—	—	X

	YES	MAYBE	NO

1. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(To be completed by the EEC at the hearing)

		YES	MAYBE	NO
a.	DOES THE PROJECT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DEGRADE THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, SUBSTANTIALLY 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?	☐	☐	☒
b.	DOES THE PROJECT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE SHORT-TERM, TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF LONG-TERM, ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS? (A SHORT-TERM IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT IS ONE WHICH OCCURS IN A RELATIVELY BRIEF DEFINITIVE PERIOD OF TIME WHILE LONG-TERM IMPACTS WILL ENDURE WELL INTO THE FUTURE).	☐	☐	☒
c.	DOES THE PROJECT HAVE IMPACTS WHICH ARE INDIVIDUALLY LIMITED, BUT CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE? (A PROJECT MAY IMPACT TWO OR MORE SEPARATE RESOURCES WHERE THE IMPACT ON EACH RESOURCE IS RELATIVELY SMALL, BUT WHERE THE EFFECT OF THE TOTAL OF THOSE IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT IS SIGNIFICANT).	☐	☐	☒
d.	DOES THE PROJECT HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH WILL CAUSE SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS ON HUMAN BEINGS, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY?	☐	☐	☒

(DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION, i.e. explanations of answers marked "yes" or "maybe" on major projects is attached hereto: not all projects require explanation.)

E.E.C. DETERMINATION

(To be determined by the Environmental Evaluation Committee on the basis of the results found in the Initial Study.)

After Review of the Initial Study, the Environmental Evaluation Committee has:

found that the activity is within the scope of a previously-approved CEQA document, and that no new environmental document is required.	◯
found the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.	⊗
found 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 the attached sheet have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.	◯
found the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	◯

DATE: 5/29/92

Richard Calanilla for
JURG HEUBERGER
EEC Chairman

VOTE:

Y	N		
___	___	Public Works	
✓	___	EHS	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
___	___	DES	
✓	___	APCD	DE MINIMIS IMPACT FINDING: ☒ ☐
✓	___	Planning	

DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

American Girl Mining Joint Venture

Exploratory Drilling Program

1. Earth:

a. Maybe. The proposal may result in changes to the existing topography by the construction of drill pads and access roads.

b. Maybe. The proposal may result in unstable earth conditions during the blading of new access roads.

c. Maybe. The proposal may result in the destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features during the construction of access roads and drill pads.

d. No. It is not expected that the project will expose people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes.

e. Yes. The proposal will result in disruptions, displacements, compaction, and overcrowding of the soil caused by the construction of roads and drill pads and by the operation of vehicles and equipment.

f. Maybe. The project may cause in an increase in wind or water erosion of soils during drill pad and access road construction.

g. No. It is not expected the project will result in any changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, depositing or erosion which may modify the channel or a river or a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake.

2. Air:

a. No. The proposal may result in air emissions specifically dust and smoke but not expected to be substantial. Project will require permit from APCD.

b. No. The proposal will not create objectionable odors.

c. No. The proposal will not result in the alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature, or any change in climate either locally or regionally.

3. Water:

a. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in the alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters. Although on occasions, drilling will reach groundwater, withdrawals are minor.

b. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations.

c. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters.

d. Maybe. The proposal may result in changes in absorption rates due to soils being compacted by equipment and vehicles.

e. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in alterations to the course or flow of flood waters. Any proposal to impact a dry streambed requires permit from the Dept. Fish & Game.

f. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in change in the amount of surface water in any water body.

g. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity.

h. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies.

i. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves.

4. Plant Life:

a. Maybe. The proposal may result in changes to the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants. A certain number of species maybe inadvertently destroyed during the construction of roads and drill pads.

b. Maybe. The proposal may result in the reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare, or endangered species of plants. As noted above a number of plants will be destroyed during construction of roads and drill pads.

c. No. The proposal will not result in the introduction of new species of plants into an area.

d. No. The proposal will not result in the reduction in acreage of agricultural farmland.

e. No. The proposal will not result in the alteration to the type of crops grown on adjacent land.

f. No. The proposal will not result in limiting or eliminating certain agricultural operations on adjacent farmlands.

5. Animal Life:

a. Maybe. The proposal may result in changes to the number of any species of animals within the project area. Some species of wildlife may be taken during the construction roads and drill pads.

b. Maybe. The proposal may result in the reduction of the numbers of unique, rare or endangered species of animals within the project area. Road and drill pad construction, vehicle movement may result in loss of some wildlife.

c. No. The proposal will not result in the introduction of new species of animals into an area.

d. Maybe. The proposal may result in the deterioration of wildlife habitat. Road and drill pad construction may destroy some wildlife habitat.

6. Noise:

a. Yes. The proposal will result in increases in existing noise levels during the project' operational phase; the actual drilling will generate noise and so will other trucks and equipment.

b. No. The proposal will not result in the exposure of people to severe noise levels except for employees who will wear noise protection devices.

7. Light and Glare:

a. No. The proposal will not produce new light or glare.

8. Land Use:

No. The property will not result in a substantial alteration of the planned use of the area. The area has been historically mined for many years.

9. Natural Resources:

No. It is not expected the proposal will result in an increase in the rate or use of natural resources.

10. Risk or Upset:

a. Maybe. The proposal may involve a risk of an explosion caused by a fuel accident.

b. No. It is not expected the proposal will interfere with an emergency or an emergency response plan.

11. Population:

a. No. The proposal will not alter the location or density of the human population of the area because the area is not permanently habitated by people.

12. Housing:

a. No. The proposal will not create a demand for additional housing in the area.

13. Transportation/Circulation:

a. No. The proposal will not result in generation of substantial additional vehicular movement. It is expected the proposal will generate additional traffic, however, it will not be substantial.

b. No. The proposal will not result in the demand for new parking.

c. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in a substantial impact upon existing transportation systems.

d. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods.

e. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in alterations to waterborne, train or air traffic.

f. No. The proposal will not result in increases in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians.

14. Public Services:

a. No. The proposal will not require fire protection.

b. No. The proposal will not require police protection.

c. No. The proposal will not have an effect upon schools.

d. No. The proposal will not result in need for new

parks.

e. No. The proposal will not result in need for increase in the maintenance of public facilities, including roads.

f. No. The proposal will require other government services ie. monitoring, APCD permit, CRWQCB permit, state review.

15. Energy:

a. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in substantial increase in demand for energy.

b. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in substantial increase in demand on existing sources of energy, or require development of new sources of energy.

16. Utilities:

a. No. The proposal will not result in need for new systems of power and/or natural gas.

b. No. The proposal will not result in need for new or altered communication systems.

c. No. The proposal will not result in need for new water system.

d. No. The proposal will not result in need for new septic tank and leach lines or sever.

e. No. The proposal will not result in need for new storm water drainage system.

f. No. The proposal will result in the generation of additional solid waste and disposal. All waste generated by the project will be removed from the site and disposed in an appropriate waste disposal facility.

17. Human Health:

a. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in creation of any health hazard.

b. Maybe. The proposal may result in exposure of people to potential health hazards if drilling is done during the intensively hot summer months.

18. Aesthetics:

a. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in obstruction of any scenic vista or creation of aesthetically offensive site.

19. Recreation:

a. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in impact to recreational opportunities.

20. Cultural Resources:

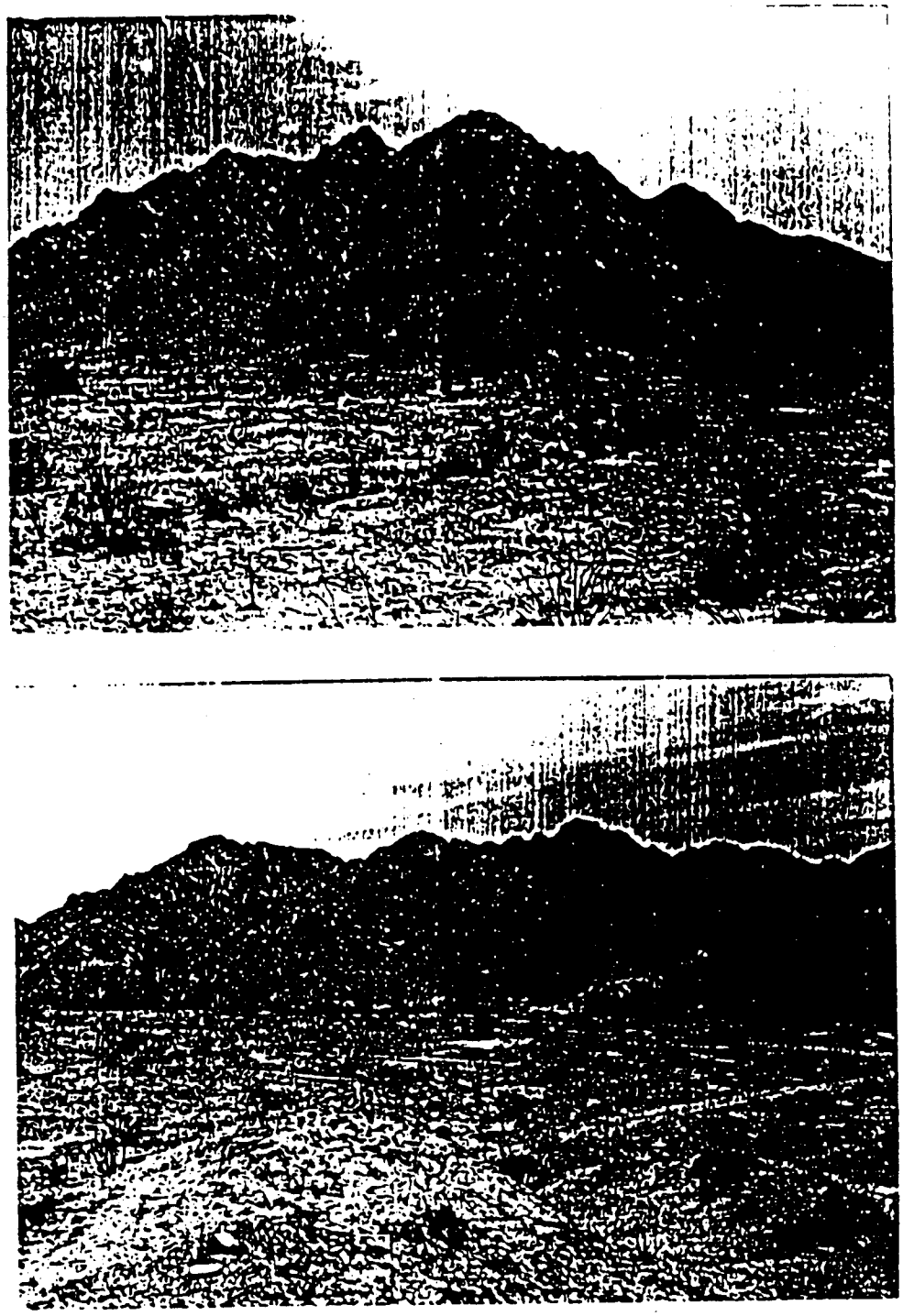
a. Maybe. It is unknown if the proposal will result in destruction of archaeological, prehistorical or historical site, structure, object or building.

b. Maybe. It is unknown if the proposal will result in alteration of or destruction of a significant paleontological site.

c. No. It is not expected the proposal will result in physical change which could affect unique cultural values.

d. No. It is not expected the proposal will restrict religious or sacred uses.

JFS/p85/EECD1SC



Photographs showing typical terrain and vegetation cover of Section 36, T.14S., R.20E., SBM

APPLICATION - CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

APPLICANT MUST COMPLETE ALL NUMBERED (block) SPACES – please type or print –

1. PROPERTY OWNERS NAME: State of California c/o State Lands Commission				PHONE: (213) 590-5218
2. MAILING ADDRESS: 245 W. Broadway, Suite 425	CITY: Long Beach	STATE: CA	ZIP CODE: 90802-4471	
3. APPLICANTS NAME (if not property owner): American Girl Mining Joint Venture			PHONE: (619) 572-5700	
4. APPLICANTS MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 879	CITY: Winterhaven	STATE: CA	ZIP CODE: 92283	
5. ENGINEERS NAME: See attached documents	CA. LIC. NO.		PHONE	
6. MAILING ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	

7. PROPERTY (site) ADDRESS: 18 miles northwest of Yuma, AZ	
8. ASSESSORS PARCEL NO.: 042-050-1801	SIZE OF PARCEL (in acres or sq. ft.): 640 acres
LEGAL DESCRIPTION (use separate sheet if necessary): Section 36, Township 14 South, Range 21 East, San Bernardino Base and Meridian	
9.	

PLEASE PROVIDE CLEAR & CONCISE INFORMATION

DESCRIBE PROPOSED PROJECT (specific use of property): The proposed project will consist of exploration drilling for minerals, Seventy, 5½" rotary drill holes will be drilled to depths of 400 feet. To accomplish the drilling approximately 12,000 feet of new drill access roads will be required.
10.
11. DESCRIBE CURRENT USE OF PROPERTY: Open space
12. DESCRIBE PROPOSED SEWER SYSTEM: None
13. DESCRIBE PROPOSED WATER SYSTEM: None
14. DESCRIBE PROPOSED FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM: None
15. IS THE PROPOSED USE A BUSINESS ? No — If yes, how many employees will be at this site ?

REQUIRED SUPPORT DOCUMENTS:

A. DETAILED SITE PLAN (see back side)

B. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FORM

C. FEE _____

D OTHER _____

16. **I / WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE AND ANY ATTACHED INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT.**

PROPERTY OWNERS SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

APPLICANTS SIGNATURE [signature] DATE 3-26-92

APPLICATION RECEIVED BY		DATE	REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL BY OTHER DEPT.s required
APPLICATION DEEMED COMPLETE BY [signature]		DATE 4-29-92	☑ P.W. ☑ E.H.S. ☑ A.P.C.D. ☑ O.E.S. ☑ BM, IVCM, F&G, DF&G (See List)
APPLICATION REJECTED BY		DATE	
TENTATIVE HEARING BY		DATE	
FINAL ACTION	APPROVED / DENIED	DATE	

FEE $1,070.00

C.U.P.# _____

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Environmental Information by applicant

APPLICANT MUST COMPLETE ALL NUMBERED SPACES — TYPE OR PRINT ONLY

1. PROJECT TYPE
- ☐ MINOR SUBDIVISION
- ☐ MAJOR SUBDIVISION
- ☐ ZONE CHANGE
- ☒ CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT
- ☐ GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT
- ☐ OTHER _____

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION: DESCRIBE PROPOSED PROJECT IN DETAIL - GIVE AS MUCH INFORMATION AND DETAILS AS POSSIBLE (attach additional material as necessary)

An exploration program is proposed on the state section. A total of 70, 5½" drill holes are planned at depths to 400 feet. To accomplish the drilling, approximately 12,000 feet of 14 foot wide access roads will be required and drill sites will have to be leveled. The total new surface disturbance will be approximately 4.3 acres.

3 PROJECT SITE: DESCRIBE THE SITE AS IT EXISTS - DISCUSS TOPOGRAPHY, SOIL STABILITY, PLANTS & ANIMALS, ACCESS, WATER SUPPLY, IMPROVEMENTS, ETC. (*ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS OF SITE*)

The area is typical vegetated desert of Imperial County. The area is alluvial covered and occurs near the mouth of the major canyon in the northwest Cargo Muchacho Mountains. Access is gained by traversing an unimproved gravel road about one mile west of Ogilby Road. The area has been the site of past mining and mineral exploration actities. Approximately 1 mile of existing road occurs on the property and will be used for immediate access to areas of drilling.

4. SURROUNDING AREA: DESCRIBE THE PROPERTIES AROUND THE PROPOSED PROJECT SITE - INDICATE LAND USE, DENSITY, ETC.

Mining is the predominant land in the area. The project site is approximately three miles northwest of American Girl Mining Joint Venture's (AGMJV) mining operation and one mile north of AGMJV's Oro Cruz exploration project. The Nearest residents are at Gold Rock Ranch, approximately two miles to the southwest.

5. DEVELOPMENT DATA

RESIDENTIAL	☐ YES ☒ NO	if yes, how many units _____
COMMERCIAL	☐ YES ☒ NO	if yes, state type _____
INDUSTRIAL	☐ YES ☒ NO	if yes, state type _____
INSTITUTIONAL	☐ YES ☒ NO	if yes, state major function _____

WILL THIS PROJECT BE DEVELOPED IN PHASES	☐ YES	☒ NO
WILL EXPLOSIVE OR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS BE INVOLVED	☐ YES	☒ NO
IS THIS PROJECT IN A FLOOD ZONE per F E M A MAP	☐ YES	☒ NO
IS THIS PROJECT IN A HEIGHT RESTRICTED ZONE	☐ YES	☒ NO

6 ASSESSORS PARCEL NO(s)	SIZE OF PROPERTY
042-050-1801	640 acres
7 ENGINEERS NAME	**PHONE**
See attached documents	
8 APPLICANTS NAME	**PHONE**
American Girl Mining Joint Venture	(619) 572-5700

746
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please answer each question!

	YES	NO
9. Will any of the following items be affected by the approval and subsequent development of the proposed project?		X
a) Will there be a change in existing features of:		
(1) Beaches		X
(2) Lakes		X
(3) Hills		X
(4) Significant ground contours		X
b) Will there be a change in scenic views or vistas from:		
(1) Existing residential areas		X
(2) Public lands		X
(3) Roads		X
c) Will the project cause a change in existing developments in:		
(1) Pattern		X
(2) Scale		X
(3) Character		X
d) Will the project have an effect or change, in the areas:		
(1) Dust	X	
(2) Ash		X
(3) Smoke		X
(4) Fumes		X
(5) Odors		X
e) Will this project change water quality, quantity or alter:		
(1) Lakes		X
(2) Streams		X
(3) Ground waters		X
(4) Surface drainage patterns		X
f) Will this project have an effect on:		
(1) Any existing plants or wildlife		X
(2) The introduction of new plants or wildlife		X
g) Will this project generate significant amounts of traffic		X
h) Will this project change the noise or vibration levels of the	X	
i) Will the project change the demand for public services such as:		
(1) Police protection		X
(2) Fire protection		X
(3) Water supply		X
(4) Sewer service		X
(5) Street/Road improvements/maintenance		X
(6) Educational facilities, i.e., Schools		X
(7) Health care facilities, ambulance service		X
(8) Other _____		
j) Will the project require substantially more electrical service?		X
k) Is this project part of a larger project(s)?		X
l) Will this project use or generate hazardous materials such as:		
(1) Toxic materials		X
(2) Toxic waste		X
(3) Flammables		X
(4) Explosives		X

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MAR 10 1992
IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Please provide a written explanation of any questions answered with a "YES."
Use separate attachment. Thank you !!

The project will consist of an exploration program of limited duration. Environmental effects will be both minimal and short lived. See attached project description.

CERTIFICATION: I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ALL ANSWERS AND INFORMATION ABOVE AND IN ANY ATTACHMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Joseph A. Sawyer
PRINT YOUR NAME

SIGNATURE

03/06/92
DATE

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AMERICAN GIRL MINING
JOINT VENTURE

July 13, 1992

Jesse Soriano
Imperial County Planning Department
939 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Subject: Comments by Mary Griggs, State Lands Commission, regarding amendment to State Prospecting Permit PRC 7468.2

Dear Jesse,

Having reviewed the comments by Mary Griggs, American Girl Mining Joint Venture (AGMJV) offers the following comments:

Project Description - After talking with Eric Kruger, State Lands Commission in Long Beach, it appears that our project map was not forwarded to the Sacramento office of Dr. Griggs. We feel the map adequately describes areas of existing disturbance as well as additional disturbance which will result from the proposed program.

Prior to any disturbance, all drill sites and access roads will be cleared by an independent consulting biologist who will have authority to alter access routes to minimize impacts to vegetation and wildlife. Therefore, access routes may be altered somewhat from those indicated on the map.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation - To supplement the 1991 Biological and Soils Resource Inventory Report for the Oro Cruz project, AGMJV proposes to conduct an additional biological survey, by an independent consulting biologist, prior to initiating the project. The survey will be site-specific to the proposed area of disturbance and will concentrate on defining sensitive plant and animal species in the area. While on-site, the biologist will actively participate in flagging access routes for drilling in order to minimize disturbance and long term environmental impacts to the area.

In order to limit potential hazards to any desert tortoises in the area, AGMJV proposes to adopt certain mitigation measures outlined in U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service " *Biological Opinion for Small Mining and Exploration Operations in the California Desert*" (3809 6840 CA - 063.50 (CA - 932.5)) (1-6-92-F-28). The mitigation measures are similar to those adapted by the Bureau of Land Management for exploration programs conducted in areas of Desert Tortoise habitat on ferderal lands. A summary of specific mitigation measures is as follows:

748
3379

P.O. BOX 879 • WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA 92283 • TELE.: (619) 572-5700 • FAX (619) 572-5709

1. AGMJV shall designate a field contact representative who will be responsible for overseeing compliance with protective stipulations for the Desert Tortoise.

2. An employee education program will be conducted prior to beginning the program. The program will cover such topics as the distribution of desert tortoise, it's legal protection and project protective mitigation measures. This program is currently in effect at AGMJV.

3. Only biologists authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service shall handle desert tortoises. AGMJV and contract personnel will be expressly prohibited from harassing or in any way disturbing any desert tortoise.

4. A qualified biologist will be on-site during road construction activities. The biologist shall have authority to halt any activity that might result in harm to the Desert Tortoise.

5. The area of disturbance shall be confined to the smallest practical area. Special habitat features of the desert tortoise will be avoided.

6. Where practical, access roads will be not bladed for exploratory work. A qualified biologist shall select and flag the access routes.

7. To prevent desert tortoises from falling in, test holes shall be either fenced or covered as much of the time as possible and at all times when not attended.

8. A temporary fence shall be erected around the drill site. The fence shall be 1/2 inch-mesh hardware cloth supported by steel t-posts. The fencing shall be 18 inches high.

9. Upon locating a dead or injured desert tortoise AGMJV shall notify the state and the appropriate US Fish & Wildlife field office.

10. Vehicle speeds within the project site shall not exceed 20 miles per hour.

11. All workers shall inspect for desert tortoise under vehicles prior to moving it.

12. No dogs will be allowed in the work area. Likewise camping and firearms will be prohibited. These prohibitions will apply to AGMJV and contract personnel. It should be noted that the area is used for outdoor recreation (camping, off-roading, etc.) by the general public and AGMJV has no authority to restrict these activities outright.

13. All trash and food items shall be promptly contained within closed, raven-proof containers. No structures which could serve as raven nesting or perching sites will be constructed or placed on site.

Due to the temporary nature of the exploration activities and the preventive measures taken to minimize impact to any desert tortoise, AGMJV does not feel that it is appropriate to require compensation for habitat loss.

Reclamation Plan - Modifications have been made to the Reclamation Plan to address concerns regarding treatment of topsoil and revegetation of disturbed sites.

I hope these comments adequately addresses the concerns of Dr. Griggs. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Dennis P. Laybourn
Senior Exploration Geologist

cc: Mary Griggs

STATE OF CALIFORNIA PETE WILSON, *Governor*

STATE LANDS COMMISSION
MINERAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION
245 WEST BROADWAY, SUITE 425
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802
TELEPHONE: (310) 590-5201
FACSIMILE: (310) 590-5295
CALIFORNIA RELAY SERVICE
TDD/TT: (800) 735-2929
VOICE: (800) 735-2922

File Ref: PRC 7468.2

August 10, 1992

Imperial County
Planning Department
Attn.: Jesse Soriano,
Planner III
939 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Subject: **Environmental Certification of SCH# 92061029.**

Gentlemen:

In order that American Girl Mining's exploration drilling project on State lands in the Cargo Muchacho Mountains be considered by the Commission at its meeting tentatively scheduled for September 23, 1992, documents prepared by staff in this office must contain the following information to be furnished by the County:

1. Date of approval action of the project by the County.
2. CEQA findings for the project by the County.
3. Adoption of a Negative Declaration.
4. Notice of Determination.
5. A monitoring program for the project area in coordination with Imperial County and American Girl Mining.

Thank you in advance for timely consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

ERIC L. KRUGER
Associate Mineral
Resources Engineer

ELK/hn

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT

IMPERIAL COUNTY

PLANNING / BUILDING INSPECTION / PLANNING COMMISSION / A.L.U.C. / L.A.F.Co.

Jurg Heuberger – Director

August 17, 1992

State Lands Commission
Mineral Resources Management
245 West Broadway, Suite 425
Long Beach, California 90802
Attention: Eric Kruger

Re: American Girl Mining Exploratory Drilling Program
(Ref: CUP 1041-92; Reclamation Plan 151-92)

Dear Mr. Kruger:

Enclosed please find the information requested for the American Girl Mining exploratory drilling project on State lands:

- Planning Commission Report;
- Planning Commission resolutions including project conditions;
- Notice of Determination;
- Findings; and,
- Monitoring program.

We expect that these documents will satisfy the Commission's requirements. If you have any questions, please call 339-4236.

Sincerely,

Jurg Heuberger
Planning Director

Jesse Soriano

By: Jesse Soriano
Planner III

Encls.

cc: Dennis Laybourn, AGMJV
10.104/10.105/File

752
3383

939 MAIN STREET EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA 92243-2856 (COURTHOUSE) (619) 339-4236
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER FAX NO. (619) 353-8338

PROJECT REPORT

TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE: July 22, 1992 TIME: 9:00 am AGENDA NO: 12

APPLICANTS NAME: American Girl Mining Joint Venture SUPERVISOR D. 5

OWNERS NAME: State Lands Commission

PROJECT TYPE: Conditional Use Permit #1041-92-Expl Drilling Program

PROJECT ADDRESS: N/A

GEN. LOCATION: Cargo Mucacho Mountains

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Portion T14S, R20E, unsurveyed 1440 acres more or less

ASSESS. PAR NO. 0420501801 PARCEL SIZE 1440 acres

EXISTING ZONE "S" Open Space ADJ. ZONING "S" Open Space

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENT INCONSISTENT x MAY BE/FINDINGS

COMMENTS FROM:

PUBLIC WORKS	None in file
E.H.S./HEALTH	Letter in file dated 5/12/92
A.G./A.P.C.D.	None in file
FIRE/O.E.S.	None in file
COUNSEL	None in file
OTHER	See Attachments

PROTEST REC. YES NO x NUMBER

E.E.C. DECISION DATE May 29, 1992 I.S. NUMBER 3301-92

x NEG. DEC. E.I.R. OTHER N.A.

COMMISSION DEC. APPROVED DENIED DATE July 22,1992

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that you conduct a public hearing and that you hear all the opponents and proponents of the proposed project. It is further recommended that you apprrove Conditional Use Permit #1041-92 and that you take the following action:

1. Certify the Negative Declaration on the basis of the Initial Study and any comments received shows no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

2. Recognize the De Minimus findings as recommended by the Environmental Evaluation Committee, that the project will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on fish and wildlife resources, as defined in Section 711.2 of the Fish and Game Codes.

3. Make the attached findings.

4. Approve Conditional Use Permit #1041-92 subject to the attached conditions.

JIMMIE HEUBERGER

FILE I.D. AmG1CUP

IMPERIAL COUNTY Planning Department

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3384

RESOLUTION APPROVING
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT #1041-92,
AS SUBMITTED BY AMERICAN GIRL MINING JOINT VENTURE

WHEREAS, there was submitted to the Imperial County Planning Commission an application for Conditional Use Permit #1041-92, as submitted by American Girl Mining Joint Venture, proposing an Exploratory Drilling Program, on a Portion Township 14 South, Range 20 East, unsurveyed 1440 acres more or less, Assessor's Parcel Number 042-050-18-01, (Cargo Mucacho Mountains), (Supervisorial District #5), and

WHEREAS, there was a public hearing scheduled pursuant to the Imperial County Codified Ordinances in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, El Centro, California on July 22, 1992, at 9:00 a.m., AND,

WHEREAS, it was the findings of the Commission that the project should be approved subject to the following amended conditions:

GENERAL CONDITIONS:
G-1 Permits/Licenses

The operator shall comply with all County, State and Federal laws, rules, regulations and/or standards as they may pertain to this project, whether specified herein or not. It is the responsibility of the operator to know all applicable regulations.

G-2 Compliance/Revocation

Upon determination by the Planning Department that the operator is not in compliance with one or all of the conditions of the Conditional Use Permit, or upon finding that the project is creating a nuisance as defined by law, or that the project is degrading the quality of the environment and causing significant environmental impacts which may result in substantial adverse effects to the well-being of the residents of Imperial County, the matter can be brought to the Planning Commission or other appropriate agency to enforce the requirements of the permit, or to consider the immediate suspension of all operations.

G-3 Idemnification

The operator shall defend at its sole expense any action brought against the County because of the issuance of this permit or, in the alternative, the relinquishment of such permit. The operator shall

reimburse the County for any court costs and attorney's fees which the County may be required by a court to pay as a result of such action. The County may, at is sole discretion, participate in the defense of any such action, but such participation shall not relieve the operator of its obligations under this condition.

G-4 General Law

The Conditional Use Permit and all stipulations contained herein are subject to all laws and regulations pertaining to mining and reclamation as prescribed by Federal, State or County governments.

G-5 Minor Amendments

The Planning Director may approve minor changes, or administrative extensions, as requested in writing by the operator to the Conditional Use Permit, provided it does not result in significant additional environmental impacts, are generally procedural/technical, and or which may be necessary to comply with other government permit compliance requirements.

G-6 Payment

The operator shall pay any and all amounts as determined by the County to defray all costs for the review of reports, field inspections or other monitoring activities related to compliance with the Conditional Use Permit, County Ordinances, and/or other laws that apply.

G-7 Severability

Should any condition of the Conditional Use Permit be determined by a Court of law, or other agency with proper jurisdiction, to be invalid for any reason, such determination shall not invalidate the remaining provisions of the CUP.

G-8 Right of Entry

The County reserves the right to enter the premises to make appropriate inspections and to determine if the conditions are being complied with. Access to the site by authorized County personnel shall not be unreasonably denied by the operator.

G-9 Definitions

In the event of a dispute, the meaning(s), or intent of any word(s) or phase(s) and/or conditions or sections herein, shall be determined by the Imperial County Planning Commission, and their determination shall be final, unless a timely appeal is made and modified by the Board of Supervisors.

G-10 Provisions Run With the Land/Project

If a new operator succeeds to the interest of the operator in the operation by sale, assignment, transfer, conveyance, exchange or other means, the successor shall be bound by the provisions of the appr-

Conditional Use Permit. The Planning Department shall be informed within thirty (30) days of any such change of interest.

G-11 Recordation

This permit shall not be effective until it is recorded at the County Recorder's Office. Payment of the recordation fee is the responsibility of the operator. If the operator fails to pay the recordation fee within six months, the permit shall be deemed null and void.

G-12 Condition Priority

The project shall be operated as described in the Conditional Use Permit application, Environmental Information form, project description and as specified in these conditions. Where a conflict exists, the conditions shall govern and take precedence.

G-13 Insurance

The operator shall secure and maintain Workers Compensation Insurance as required by the State of California. The operator shall also secure liability insurance and such other insurance as may be required by the State and or Federal law. A certificate of insurance is to be provided to the Planning Department by the insurance carrier and coverage shall be kept for the life of the project.

G-14 Time Limit

The permit is limited to until the drilling program is completed or one year from the date the permit was recorded, which ever comes first. If an extension is necessary, the operator must file a written request with the Planning Director at least sixty days prior to the expiration date of the permit. An extension shall not be granted if the operator is in violation of any one or all of the conditions or if there is a history of non-compliance with the conditions.

G-15 Specificity

The issuance of this permit does not authorize the operator to construct or operate this project in violation of any local, state, federal laws nor beyond the specified boundaries of the project as shown on the application site plan. This permit shall not allow any accessory or ancillary use not specified herein. This permit does not provide any prescriptive right or use to the operator for future additions or modifications to this project.

G-16 Archaeological Resources

If any unusual specimens of bone, stone or ceramic are discovered during any phase of the project, all operations shall cease immediately until a qualified archaeologist, retained by the operator and approved by the Planning Director reviews the specimens. The recommendations of the archaeologist shall be complied with prior to resuming operations.

PROJECT SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

S-1 Off Road Vehicle Traffic

Off road vehicle traffic is prohibited and all vehicles shall be restricted to access roads. Only project personnel and equipment directly involved with the drilling program are allowed to gain access to the area.

S-2 Project Location

This Conditional Use Permit applies solely to the area delineated in the site plan, comprising approximately 4.3 acres on SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH RANGE 20 EAST, San Bernardino Base and Meridian; also known as Parcel No. 042-050-18-01.

S-3 Validity of Ownership

Approval of the Conditional Use Permit shall not now nor in the future serve as a determination of the ownership nor the validity of any lease or mining claim to which it may relate.

S-4 Vehicle Staging Area

Vehicle staging areas shall be located within previously disturbed areas.

S-5 Notice To Develop Production Mine

The operator shall notify the Planning Department if a decision has been made to develop the project into a production mine.

S-6 State Lands Commission

The exploratory permit is subject to approval by the State Lands Commission. The project must be approved by the State Lands Commission prior to any work being done.

S-7 Department of Fish and Game

Any activity that would divert or obstruct the natural flow or change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream or lake will require authorization from DFG prior to any work being initiated.

S-8 Air Pollution Control District

The operator shall consult with APCD regarding requirement for permits.

S-9 Desert Tortoise

The operator shall comply with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service mitigation plan regarding the potential presence of threatened desert tortoise in the project area. It is against state and federal law to

handle the desert tortoise without prior permit from the Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Project crews shall immediately cease all activities if desert tortoises are encountered during any phase of the project. Activities shall not resume until the desert tortoise has cleared the area.

S-10 Desert Bighorn Sheep

The proposed project area may be habitat area for desert bighorn sheep. The operator shall consult with the Department of Fish & Game and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding the potential presence of desert bighorn sheep in the project area. All project activities shall cease immediately upon encountering desert bighorn sheep during any phase of the project and shall not continue until the desert bighorn sheep have cleared the area.

S-11 Limit on Activities

Drill crews and vehicles shall be limited to access roads and drill pad areas. Off-road vehicle use by project employees is prohibited during work and non-work hours. Camping, discharge of firearms, pets, fires and collection or harassment of any plants or animals is prohibited. The speed limit on access roads is limited to 10 miles per hour for all project vehicles. All vehicles associated with the project shall be occupied by at least two individuals so that one person can specifically assist in avoiding desert tortoises. Daily project operations shall cease at least one hour before sunset. Operation of project vehicles during non-daylight hours is prohibited to avoid injuring or killing desert tortoises during travel to and from project site.

S-12 Field Contact Representative

The operator shall designate a field contact representative (FCR) who will be responsible for overseeing compliance with protective conditions for the desert tortoise and for coordination and compliance with the County and any other agency. The FCR shall have the authority to halt all activities that are in violation of the conditions. The FCR shall have a copy of all conditions when work is being conducted on the site. The FCR may be the operator, program manager, any other employee, or a contracted biologist. The FCR shall halt any activity that might result in harm to a desert tortoise.

S-13 Employee Education

An employee education program shall be received, reviewed, and approved by the County at least 15 days prior to the presentation of the program. All new employees shall participate in the education program prior to working on-site. The program shall cover the following topics at a minimum:

- Distribution of the desert tortoise;
- General behavior and ecology of the desert tortoise;
- Sensitivity to human activities;
- Legal protection;

- o Penalties for violations of State or Federal laws;
- o Reporting requirements; and,
- o Project protective measures.

S-14 Handling of Desert Tortoise is Strictly Prohibited

No project employee shall at any time handle any desert tortoise.

S-15 Desert Tortoise Report

No later than 90 days after the completion of exploration activities, the FCR shall prepare a report for the County. The report shall document the effectiveness and practicality of the mitigation measures, the number of desert tortoises encountered and the number killed or injured by project related activities. The report shall make recommendations for modifying the conditions to enhance desert tortoise protection and to make it more workable for the operator. The report shall provide an estimate of the actual acreage disturbed by various aspects of the operation.

S-16 Dead or Injured Desert Tortoise

Upon locating a dead or injured desert tortoise, the operator is to notify the Planning Department immediately. The County will then notify the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service by telephone within three days of the finding. Written notification must be made within five days the finding to the appropriate USF&WS office and to the Service's Division of Law Enforcement in Torrance, CA (310/297-0062). The information provided must include the date and time of the finding or incident (if known), location of the carcass, a photograph, cause of death, if known, and other pertinent information. Desert tortoise remains shall be collected, delivered to the County, and frozen as soon as possible. Injured animals shall be transported to a qualified veterinarian for treatment at the expense of the project proponent. If an injured animal recovers, the Service shall be contacted for final disposition of the animal.

S-17 Vehicles Parked Outside the Fenced Enclosure

If it becomes necessary for a worker to park temporarily outside of the fenced enclosure, the worker shall inspect for desert tortoises under the vehicle prior to moving it. If a desert tortoise is present, the worker shall move the vehicle only when necessary and when the desert tortoise would not be injured by moving the vehicle or shall wait for the desert tortoise to move out from under the vehicle before moving the vehicle.

S-18 Dogs

Dogs are strictly prohibited from all project areas known to be desert tortoise habitat.

I-19 Trash and Food Items

All trash and food items shall be contained within closed, raven-proof containers. These containers shall be regularly removed from the project site to reduce the attractiveness of the area to common ravens and other desert tortoise predators and disposed in an appropriate waste disposal facility.

I-20 Explosives

Use of explosives during any phase of this project is prohibited.

I-21 Desert Tortoise Survey

The operator shall retain a qualified wildlife biologist to conduct a desert tortoise survey of the proposed disturbed area prior to starting any project activities. The biologist shall identify the number of existing desert tortoises within the general project area. Special habitat features such as burrows and drinking sites existing within the proposed access roads shall be identified. This information shall be used as necessary to modify the proposed access roads and location of drill pads to avoid disturbing desert tortoises and habitat.

I-22 County Monitoring

The County Planning Department shall insure that the conditions measures contained in the permit and the reclamation plan for the exploratory drilling program are implemented. The Planning Department shall coordinate with the operator to monitor all phases of the project's activities and insure compliance with the conditions of the conditional use permit, reclamation plan and conditions contained herein. Project activities that will be monitored shall include the desert tortoise survey, access road and drill pad construction, test-hole drilling, drill-hole abandonment, reclamation activities and revegetation of disturbed areas.

I-23 Failure To Comply With Conditions

Failure by the operator, FCR, employees or any contractor to comply with the conditions of the permit and reclamation plan may result in the immediate suspension of all project activities and may be punishable under the provisions of County, State or Federal laws.

Motion made by Commissioner Mealey and seconded by Commissioner Selvin, and carried on the affirmative roll call of Commissioners Boyle, Hoopes, Cardenas, Martinez, Schaffner, Hoffmeyer, Mealey, Selvin, and Gauna.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission to Certify the Negative Declaration on the basis of the Initial Study and any comments received shows no substantial evidence that the project will

have a significant effect on the environment; Recognize the De Minimus findings as recommended by the Environmental Evaluation Committe that the project will not individually or cumulatively have an adv effect on fish and wildlife resources, as defined in Section 711.2 of the Fish and Game Codes; Make the findings; and Approved Conditional Use Permit #1041-92, subject to the amended conditions.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed by the Imperial County Planning Commission at a regular meeting July 22, 1992 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, El Centro, California.

Jimmie Doyle, Chairperson

JURG HEUBERGER, Secretary
Imperial County Planning Commission

761
3392

PROJECT REPORT

TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE: July 22, 1992 TIME: 9:00 am AGENDA NO: 13

APPLICANTS NAME American Girl Mining Joint Venture SUPERVISOR D. 5

OWNERS NAME State Lands Commission

PROJECT TYPE Reclamation Plan #151-92-Exploratory Drilling Program

PROJECT ADDRESS N/A

GEN LOCATION Cargo Mucacho Mountains

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Section 36, Township 14 South, Range 20 East, SBB&M

ASSESS. PAR. NO. 0420501801 PARCEL SIZE 1440 acres

EXISTING ZONE "S" Open Space ADJ. ZONING "S" Open Space

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENT INCONSISTENT x MAY BE/FINDINGS

COMMENTS FROM:

PUBLIC WORKS

E.H.S. / HEALTH Letter in file dated 5/12/92

A.G. / A.P.C.D.

FIRE / O.E.S.

COUNSEL

OTHER

PROTEST REC. YES NO x NUMBER

E.E.C. DECISION DATE May 29, 1992 I.S. NUMBER 3301-92

x NEG. DEC. E.I.R. OTHER N.A.

COMMISSION DEC. APPROVED DENIED DATE July 22,1992

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that you conduct a public hearing and that you hear all the opponents and proponents of the proposed project. It is further recommended that you approve Reclamation Plan #151-92 and that you take the following action:

1. Certify the Negative Declaration on the basis of the Initial Study and any comments received shows no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

2. Recognize the De Minimus findings as recommended by the Environmental Evaluation Committee, that the project will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on fish and wildlife resources, as defined in Section 711.2 of the Fish and Game Codes.

3. Make the attached findings.

4. Approve Reclamation Plan #151-92 subject to the attached conditions.

JURG HEUBERGER

FILE I.D.

IMPERIAL COUNTY RP15192

Planning Department

762

3393

RESOLUTION APPROVING
RECLAMATION PLAN #151-92,
AS SUBMITTED BY AMERICAN GIRL MINING JOINT VENTURE

WHEREAS, there was submitted to the Imperial County Planning Commission Reclamation Plan #151-92, as submitted by American Girl Mining Joint Venture, proposing an Exploratory Drilling Program, on a Portion Township 14 South, Range 20 East, unsurveyed 1440 acres more or less, Assessor's Parcel Number 042-050-18-01, (Cargo Mucacho Mountains), (Supervisorial District #5), AND

WHEREAS, there was a public hearing held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Administration Center, El Centro, California, July 22, 1992 at 9:00 a.m., AND

WHERAS, it was the findings of the Commission that the project should be approved subject to the following conditions:

GENERAL CONDITIONS

G-1 Permits/Licenses

The operator shall comply with all County, State and Federal laws, rules, regulations and standards as they may pertain to this project, whether specified herein or not. It is the responsibility of operator to know all applicable regulations.

G-2 Compliance/Revocation

Upon determination by the Planning Department that the operator is not in compliance with one or all of the conditions of the Reclamation Plan, or upon finding that the project is creating a nuisance as defined by law, or that the project is degrading the quality of the environment and causing significant environmental impacts which may result in substantial adverse effects to the well-being of the residents of Imperial County, the matter can be brought to the Planning Commission or other appropriate agency to enforce the requirements of the reclamation plan, or to consider the immediate suspension of all operations.

G-3 Idemnification

The operator shall defend at its sole expense any action brought against the County because of the issuance of this Reclamation Plan. The operator shall reimburse the County for any court costs and attorney's fees which the County may be required by a court to pay as a result of such action. The County may, at its sole

discretion, participate in the defense of any such action, but such participation shall not relieve the operator of its obligations under this condition.

G-4 General Law

The Reclamation Plan and all stipulations contained herein are subject to all laws and regulations pertaining to mining and reclamation as prescribed by Federal, State or County governments.

G-5 Minor Amendments

The Planning Director may approve minor changes, or administrative extensions, as requested in writing by the operator to the reclamation plan, provided it does not result in significant additional environmental impacts, are generally procedural, technical, and/or which may be necessary to comply with other government permit compliance requirements.

G-6 Payment

The operator shall pay any and all amounts as determined by the County to defray all costs for the review of reports, field inspections, or other monitoring activities related to compliance with the Reclamation Plan, County Ordinances, and/or other laws that apply.

G-7 Severability

Should any condition of the Reclamation Plan be determined by a Court of law, or other agency with proper jurisdiction, to be invalid for any reason, such determination shall not invalidate the remaining provisions of the Plan.

G-8 Right of Entry

The County reserves the right to enter the premises to make appropriate inspections and monitoring in order to determine if the Reclamation Plan conditions are being complied with. Access to the site by authorized County personnel shall not be denied the operator.

G-9 Definitions

In the event of a dispute, the meaning(s), or intent of any word(s) or phase(s) and/or conditions or sections herein, shall be determined by the Imperial County Planning Commission, and their determination shall be final, unless a timely appeal is made and modified by the Board of Supervisors.

G-10 Provisions Run With the Land/Project

If a new operator succeeds to the interest of the operator in the operation by sale, assignment, transfer, conveyance, exchange or other means, the successor shall be bound by the provisions of the approved Reclamation Plan. The County shall be notified within thirty (30) days of any such change of interest.

CALENDAR PAGE 764
MINUTE PAGE 3395

G-11 Insurance

The operator shall secure and maintain Workers Compensation Insurance as required by the State of California. The operator shall also secure liability insurance and such other insurance as may be required by the State and/or Federal law. A certificate of insurance is to be provided to the Planning Department by the insurance carrier and coverage shall be kept for the life of the project.

G-12 Specificity

The approval of the Reclamation Plan does not authorize the operator to construct or operate this project is violation of any local, state, federal laws nor beyond the specified boundaries of the project as shown on the application site plan. The Reclamation Plan does not allow any accessory or ancillary use not specified herein. The Reclamation Plan does not provide any prescriptive right or use to the operator for future additions or modifications to this project.

PROJECT SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

S-1 Project Location

This Reclamation Plan applies solely to the area delineated in the site plan, comprising approximately 4.3 acres in Section 36, TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH RANGE 20 EAST, San Bernardino Base & Meridian, Parcel No. 042-050-18-01;

S-2 Validity of Ownership

Approval of the Reclamation Plan shall not now nor in the future serve as a determination of the ownership nor the validity of any lease or mining claim to which it may relate.

S-3 Notice of Start and Completion of Project

The operator shall notify the Planning Department of the start and completion date of each phase of the project so that monitoring can be scheduled accordingly.

S-4 Protection of Plant Life

Destruction of palo verde, ironwood and mesquite trees is prohibited. Any cactus or ocotillo plants that will be impacted by any phase of the operation shall be removed prior to surface disturbance and stockpiled for transplanting. The north side of each cactus shall be marked, roots will be allowed to air dry for a minimum of three days and a maximum of three months prior to transplanting. Cactus and other plants will be watered as necessary at the time of planting.

S-5 Financial Assurance

American Girl Mining Joint Venture shall post a financial assurance in the amount of $10,000 payable to the County of Imperial and the State Geologist. The financial assurance shall be in a form acceptable to County Counsel to insure the completion of reclamation. Financial assurances may take the form of surety bonds, irrevocable letters of credit, trust funds, or other assurances which the County reasonably determines are adequate to perform reclamation in accordance with the surface mining operation's approved reclamation plan. The limit on the amount of security should not be construed as a limitation on the liability of operator concerning the completion of reclamation. The amount of the financial assurance required shall be adjusted annually to account for new lands disturbed by surface mining operations, inflation, and reclamation of lands accomplished in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. The bond shall be posted prior to the start of the project. The financial assurance shall remain in effect for the duration of the surface mining operation and any additional period until reclamation is completed.

S-6 Drill Hole Abandonment

Drill holes shall be sealed to a depth of 20 feet. Drill hole surface plugs shall be inspected annually by the operator to monitor the effectiveness of the plugs. The operator may be required to take corrective action if necessary if the plugs are found to be defective.

The surface of the drill pad shall be raked to blend with the surrounding contours. Prior to backfilling, unattended holes shall be covered. At the end of drilling, the driller shall submit to the Planning Department a driller's log that describes the location and depth of each hole, a general description of the geological formations encountered, description of any ground waters encountered and depth(s). Regional Water Quality Control Board shall be consulted to determine the proper method of drill hole abandonment if ground water is encountered.

S-7 Drill Fluids

Drill fluids shall be disposed in previously disturbed areas. Drill fluids shall be disposed in a manner to blend with the existing terrain. The FCR shall insure that drill fluids are not disposed near any desert tortoise burrows.

S-8 Preservation of Top Soil

The operator shall salvage the upper six inches of substrate where possible in amounts to adequately cover disturbed areas in order to promote revegetation. The areas to be reclaimed shall be recontoured, decompacted and then covered with a mix of preserved top soil.

In areas that are bladed for example roads and drill pads, the top 6 inches of topsoil and rock shall be windrowed outside of the area of disturbance. Once the roads and pads have been reshaped and

CALENDAR PAGE 766
MINUTE PAGE 3397

ripped to alleviate compaction, the windrowed material shall be respread as the final surface dressing.

S-9 Time Limits

All disturbed areas shall be reclaimed within two weeks following the completion of the drilling program.

S-10 Access Roads and Drill Pads

Where practical, new access roads and drill pads should not be bladed. Instead, the vegetation should be crushed in place and the soil profile left intact and reseeding will not be necessary. Reclamation will consist of shallow scarification of the soil surface.

S-11 Annual Report

The operator shall submit an annual report pursuant to the requirements of Section 2207 of the Public Resources Code.

S-12 Monitoring By Operator

Monitoring by the operator shall be conducted for at least one year following the completion of the project. Monitoring shall include but not limited to measurements such as estimates of the survival of transplanted cacti, and other species, review of erosion control measures, rate of natural revegetation, and the effectiveness of drill hole surface plugs.

S-13 Disposal of Solid Waste

All waste generated by the project shall be removed from the site and disposed in an appropriate waste disposal facility.

S-14 Field Contact Representative

The operator shall designate a field contact representative (FCR) who will be responsible for overseeing compliance with protective conditions for the desert tortoise and for coordination and compliance with the County and any other agency. The FCR shall have the authority to halt all activities that are in violation of the conditions. The FCR shall have a copy of all conditions when work is being conducted on the site. The FCR may be the operator, program manager, any other employee, or a contracted biologist. The FCR shall halt any activity that might result in harm to a desert tortoise.

S-15 Area of Disturbance

The area of disturbance shall be confined to the smallest practical area, considering topography, placement of drill pads and equipment, location of burrows, public health and safety, and other limiting factors. Work areas shall be delimited by flagging or other marking to minimize surface disturbance with vehicle straying. Special habitat features, such as burrows shall be avoided. Previously disturbed areas shall be utilized for the

CALENDAR PAGE
MINUTE PAGE

disposal of drill fluids, storage of equipment and parking of vehicles. The FCR shall insure compliance with this measure.

S-16 Test Holes

To prevent desert tortoises from falling in, test holes shall be either fenced or covered as much of the time as possible and at all times when not attended.

S-17 Revegetation

At the end of the project, disturbed areas, including new access roads, shall be recontoured and reseeded with an appropriate mixture of native plant species.

BE IT CERTIFIED, that the Commission Certified the Negative Declaration on the basis of the Initial Study and any comments received shows no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment; Recognize the De Minimus findings as recommended by the Environmental Evaluation Committee, that the project will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on fish and wildlife resources, as defined in Section 711.2 of the Fish and Game Codes; Make the findings; and Approved Reclamation Plan #151-92, subject to the conditions.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mealey, seconded by Commissioner Hoffmeyer and carried on an affirmative roll call vote of Commissioners Doyle, Cardenas, Martinez, Mealey, Colvin, Gauna, Hoffmeyer, Schaffner and Hoopes.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed by the Imperial County Planning Commission at a regular meeting July 22, 1992, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Administration Center, El Centro, California.

Jimmie Doyle, Chairman

JURG HEUBERGER, Secretary
Imperial County Planning Commission

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CALENDAR PAGE 768
MINUTE PAGE 3399

Notice of Determination

Appendix H

To: ___ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

xx County Clerk
County of Imperial
939 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

From: (Public Agency) Imperial County Planning
939 Main Street
(Address)
El Centro, CA 92243

Subject:

Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

American Girl Mining Joint Venture	Conditional Use Permit #1041-92 & Reclamation Plan #151-92	
Project Title		
n/a	Jesse Soriano	(619) 339-4236
State Clearinghouse Number (If submitted to Clearinghouse)	Lead Agency Contact Person	Area Code/Telephone/Extension

Cargo Mucacho Mountains, Imperial County
Project Location (include county)

Project Description: Exploratory Drilling Program on a Portion Township 14 South, Range 20 East, unsurveyed 1440 acres more or less

This is to advise that the Imperial County Planning Commission has approved the above described project on
(☐ Lead Agency ☒ Responsible Agency)

July 22, 1992 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:
(Date)

1. The project [☐will ☒will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
   ☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒were ☐were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐was ☒was not] adopted for this project.
5. Findings [☐were ☒were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public.

	July 29, 1992	Planning Director
Signature (Public Agency)	*Date*	*Title*

Date received for filing at OPR:

CALENDAR PAGE 769
MINUTE PAGE 3400

Revised October

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

CERTIFICATE OF FEE EXEMPTION

DE MINIMIS IMPACT FINDING

PROJECT TITLE/LOCATION:

American Girl Mining Joint Venture — Conditional Use Permit #1041-92 & Reclamation Plan #151-92

Cargo Mucacho Mountains, Imperial County; Portion Township 14 South, Range 20 East, unsurveyed 1440 acres more or less

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Exploratory drilling program

FINDINGS OF EXEMPTION:

There will be no adverse impacts upon wildlife or natural resources, and no intrusion upon any known habitat, nor is it likely to have a future impact.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the lead agency has made the above findings of fact and that (based upon the initial study and hearing record) the project will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on wildlife resources, as defined in Section 711.2 of the Fish and Game Code.

Jurg Heuberger
Planning Director
Planning/Building Department
Imperial County

July 29, 1992
Date

ss/certfee.lgl
(April 1991)

CALENDAR PAGE 770
MINUTE PAGE 3401

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FINDINGS

1. The use is deemed essential or desirable to the public convenience or welfare,

2. The use is in harmony with the various elements or objectives of the comprehensive general plan, and

3. There will be no adverse impacts upon wildlife or natural resources, and no intrusion upon any known habitat, nor is it likely to have a future impact.

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CALENDAR PAGE 771
MINUTE PAGE 3402

SURFACE/SUBSURFACE MINING AND RECLAMATION PLAN FINDINGS

1. The County of Imperial hereby finds that the extraction of minerals is essential to the continued economic well-being of the County and its residents and that the reclamation of all mined lands is necessary to prevent or minimize significant adverse effects on the environment and to protect the public health and safety.

2. The County also finds that the reclamation of federal, state and private lands will permit the continued mining of minerals and will provide for protection and subsequent beneficial use of all mined and reclaimed lands.

3. The County further finds that the extraction of valuable minerals through surface/subsurface mining and the reclamation of all mined lands is consistent with the goals and policies of the General Plan and with Public Resources Code, Division 2, Chapter 9.

4. There will be no adverse impacts upon wildlife or natural resources, and no intrusion upon any known habitat, nor is it likely to have a future impact.

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CALENDAR PAGE 772
MINUTE PAGE 3408

MONITORING PROGRAM

AMERICAN GIRL MINING JOINT VENTURE
(CUP NO. 1041-92 RECLAMATION PLAN 151-92)

SECTION 36, T14S, R20E

Imperial County staff will monitor the following activities:

1) Desert tortoise survey;

2) Access road and drill pad construction;

3) Test hole drilling;

4) Drill hole abandonment;

5) Revegetation of disturbed areas; and,

6) Compliance with the mining permit and reclamation plan conditions.

Monitoring will be coordinated with AGMJV.

JFS/p85/Monitor

CALENDAR PAGE 773
MINUTE PAGE 3404

PRC 7468.2

MINERAL PROSPECTING PERMIT AMENDMENT

(EXPLORATION DRILLING PROJECT)

Mineral Prospecting Permit PRC 7468.2 was issued by the State Lands Commission (State) to American Girl Mining Joint Venture (Permittee) on December 1, 1990. Permittee has requested an amendment of activities allowed under the permit.

Therefore, the State and the Permittee agree to amend the permit as follows:

I. Prospecting activity by Permittee allowed under this Amendment shall be as described in Imperial County's Negative Declaration SCH# 92061029 and by reference made a part of this Amendment.

II. In addition to the provisions of Exhibit "A" of the original permit document, the following additional conditions are applicable to the exploration drilling project:

A. Prior to any surface disturbance, all proposed drillsites and access roads will be surveyed by a qualified consulting biologist to minimize impacts to vegetation and wildlife. The survey will concentrate on identifying sensitive plant and animal species in the project area. The biologist will also locate access roads with engineer's tape to minimize surface disturbance.

B. To limit potential hazards to desert tortoise that may be in the project area, Permittee shall adopt certain mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts to desert tortoise habitat:

1. Permittee shall designate a field contact representative who will be responsible for overseeing compliance with protective conditions for desert tortoise.

2. An employee education program will be conducted prior to beginning the drilling project. The education program will cover such topics as the distribution of desert tortoise, its legal protection status and the project's protective mitigation measures. A similar program is currently in effect at Permittee's operations on adjacent private and federal lands and will be extended to the State parcel.

3. Only biologists authorized by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall handle desert tortoise.

Permittee and contract personnel will be expressly prohibited from harassing or in any way disturbing any desert tortoise.

4. A qualified biologist will be on-site during road construction activities. The biologist shall have authority to halt any activity that might result in harm to the desert tortoise.

5. The area of disturbance shall be confined to the smallest practical area. Special habitat features of the desert tortoise will be avoided.

6. Where practical, access roads will not be bladed for exploratory work. The consulting biologist shall select and flag the access routes.

7. To prevent desert tortoises from falling in test holes, the holes shall be either fenced or covered as much of the time as possible and at all times when not attended.

8. A temporary fence shall be erected around the drill site. The fence shall be ½ inch-mesh hardware cloth supported by steel t-posts. The fencing shall be at least 18 inches high.

9. Upon locating a dead or injured desert tortoise, Permittee shall notify the State Department of Fish and Game and the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service field offices having jurisdiction.

10. Vehicle speeds within the project site shall not exceed 20 miles per hour. Only personnel and equipment directly involved in the exploration drilling shall be allowed in the project area.

11. Prior to moving vehicles, all workers shall inspect under vehicles for desert tortoise.

12. No dogs will be allowed in the work area. Likewise, camping and firearms will be prohibited. These prohibitions will apply to AGM and contract personnel. The area is used for outdoor recreation (camping, off-roading, etc.) by the general public, and Permittee has no authority to restrict these activities outright.

13. All food items and accumulated trash shall be promptly contained within closed, raven-proof containers. No structures which could serve as raven nesting or perching sites will be constructed or placed on-site.

14. Permittee shall abide by the modifications that have

been made to the Reclamation Plan to address concerns regarding treatment of topsoil and revegetation of disturbed sites. The plan also establishes a monitoring program for mitigation measures to be conducted by Imperial County staff for compliance with project stipulations. All reports on monitoring furnished to Permittee by the County shall promptly be forwarded to the State.

III. Permittee shall notify Commission staff in writing or by facsimile (310-590-5295) one week prior to commencing exploration drilling activity.

IV. Within thirty (30) days of the approval of this permit amendment by the State Lands Commission, Permittee shall furnish, and maintain until released by the State, a bond or other security device acceptable to the State, in the the sum of $17,500.00 in favor of the State for its exclusive use and benefit, guaranteeing the faithful performance by Permittee of all terms and conditions of the permit including those in this amendment. This requirement shall be in addition to any other bonding requirements under state laws and regulations.

V. Pursuant to Paragraph 1 of the Permit, the term of this Permit is extended for one (1) year, commencing December 1, 1992 and expiring November 30, 1993.

VI. All other terms and conditions of the Permit shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

CALENDAR PAGE 776
MINUTE PAGE 3407

VII. This amendment shall be effective September 23, 1992, and shall prevail over any provisions of the permit which may be contrary to or inconsistent with it.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS COMMISSION

_____ _____

Date

PERMITTEE

_____ _____

Date

By_____

_____
Title

_____
Address

_____
City and State

Approved as to form:

DANIEL E. LUNGREN
Attorney General,
State of California

By_____ _____

Deputy Attorney General Date

CALENDAR PAGE 777
MINUTE PAGE 3408