MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C09
was submitted for information
only, no action thereon
being necessary.

INFORMATIONAL

C09

CALENDAR ITEM

A 17, 26

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02/25/93
PRC 5893
Grimmett

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES NOTICE OF PROPOSED USE OF STATE LANDS FOR TWO TEMPORARY ROCK BARRIERS IN OLD RIVER, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

PARTY:

Department of Water Resources
1416 - 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

BACKGROUND

On September 26, 1979, the State Lands Commission approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), effective October 19, 1979, by and between the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Lands Commission, which provides for the utilization by DWR of State lands under the jurisdiction of the Commission for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Resources Development System.

CURRENT PROPOSAL

Pursuant to the terms of the MOU, DWR has provided the Commission with a "Notice of Proposed Use of State Lands" and proposes to construct temporary rock-filled barriers at the head of Old River, in Old River near Tracy, and in the Middle River near Tracy, to be installed beginning in 1993.

The Temporary Barriers Project is needed to determine the design and operation of permanent facilities to correct existing problems in the south Delta. Currently there are concerns regarding effects on local water diverters and fish migration. The Temporary Barriers Project will test improvements to reduce or eliminate these problems and monitor environmental conditions.

The Old River at San Joaquin River barrier has been installed by DWR in the fall season at the proposed location from 1968 through 1992, and was installed in the spring of 1992. The barrier is

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proposed to improve migration conditions in the Delta for chinook salmon smolts and adults in the spring and fall. The barrier is intended to prevent fish from going down Old River toward federal and State pump facilities during their downstream migration and improve dissolved oxygen and flow conditions in the San Joaquin River during their upstream and downstream migration. DWR's proposal is for a temporary solid rock barrier with no pipes or flap gates to be installed for two or more weeks between April 1 and June 1 of each year, and a rock barrier with a small notch to be installed between September 1 and November 30 as in past years. This barrier will have boat portage facilities for the April and May installation to allow boat traffic to pass.

The Old River near Tracy Pumping Plant barrier was installed by DWR in the proposed location in 1991 and in 1992. This barrier was also installed for three months during the drought of 1977. The Middle River barrier near Tracy has been installed annually since 1987.

DWR proposes to install these barriers as early as April 1 and they will stay in through September 30. These barriers are designed to regulate flows in the controlled channel by increasing water levels upstream of the barrier so that agricultural pumps can divert water more efficiently. All barrier components will be removed from the channel and waterward levee slopes when the barrier is removed. These barriers will have boat portage facilities to allow boat traffic to pass.

Staff has reviewed the project and recommends the use of the subject land be limited to a term concurrent with the United States Army Corps of Engineers permit, giving Federal authorization to DWR for the project. The project will be subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures referenced in said permit and specified in the proposed Negative Declaration, SCH#93012014, December 1992, prepared by DWR for the Proposed Temporary Barriers Project Test Program.

Staff has requested that DWR provide to the Commission any and all documentation which results from this monitoring and management program.

In accordance with the procedures set forth in the MOU, staff acknowledges the "Notice of Proposed Use of State Lands".

AB 884:
N/A

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