

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. C23 was approved as Minute Item No. 23 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 11/07/92 meeting.

**CALENDAR ITEM
C23**

A	35,37,41,53,54,55,67,70,73,74,78,79		11/07/97
		PRC	W 25433
S	18,19,23,27,28,35,39,38,40		M. Howe

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WETLANDS CLEARINGHOUSE
WORKING AGREEMENT**

BACKGROUND:

The Southern California Wetlands Clearinghouse is a partnership of public agencies working cooperatively to acquire, restore, and enhance coastal wetlands and watersheds between Point Conception and the International border with Mexico. Using a non-regulatory approach and an ecosystem perspective, the Clearinghouse will work together to identify wetland acquisition and restoration priorities, prepare plans for these priority sites, pool funds to undertake these projects, implement priority plans, and oversee port-project maintenance and monitoring.

Currently, board member agencies include: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, U. S. Army Corp of Engineers; U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Marine Fisheries Service; California Resources Agency; California Environmental Protection Agency; California Department of Fish and Game; California Coastal Commission; California State Lands Commission; California Coastal Conservancy; San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board; Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board; Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board; and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The Clearinghouse Board members recognize the vital role wetlands play in maintaining a healthy ecosystem, buffering the impact of floodwaters, cleansing pollutants from runoff, recharging overdrawn water supplies and providing critical habitat for fish and wildlife species. A majority of the threatened and endangered species in Southern California depend on wetlands and many commercial and recreational fish species use these areas for spawning grounds. Wetlands also provide economic benefits, recreational opportunities and generally contribute to a higher quality of life for residents in the densely populated five county regional called Southern California.

The purpose of this document to be signed by the executor officer is to acknowledge agreement among state and federal resource agencies.

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The Clearinghouse will develop and implement a regional prioritization plan for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of Southern California coastal wetland and watersheds, which will result in a long-term increase in the quantity and quality of the region's wetlands.

PERMIT STREAMLINING ACT DEADLINE:

N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

CEQA FINDINGS:

FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15061 BECAUSE THE ACTIVITY IS NOT A PROJECT AS DEFINED BY PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21065 AND TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15378.

AUTHORIZATION:

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WETLANDS CLEARINGHOUSE WORKING AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO FORM A PARTNERSHIP OF PUBLIC AGENCIES TO WORK COOPERATIVELY TO ACQUIRE, RESTORE, AND ENHANCE COASTAL WETLANDS AND WATERSHEDS BETWEEN POINT CONCEPTION AND THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER OF MEXICO.