

MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C59
was approved as Minute Item
No. 59 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 4-20-00
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM
C59

A 25,29

04/20/00

S 14,16

W 25606

J. Smith

GENERAL LEASE FOR RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION

LESSEE:

San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.
1550 East Shaw Avenue, Suite 114
Fresno, California 93710

AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:

Sovereign lands lying below the ordinary low water mark in the San Joaquin River, between Friant Dam and State Highway 99, Fresno and Madera counties.

AUTHORIZED USE:

Removal and monitoring of non-native, invasive exotic plants, and native plant revegetation.

LEASE TERM:

Ten years, beginning April 1, 2000.

CONSIDERATION:

The public use and benefit; with the State reserving the right at any time to set a monetary rent if the Commission finds such action to be in the State's best interest.

SPECIFIC LEASE PROVISIONS:

Insurance:

\$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit Coverage.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Applicant has or will obtain a right to use the uplands adjoining the lease premises where necessary.
2. Applicant, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation and State Parks, has received funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Bureau of Reclamation to undertake a multifaceted effort to remove non-native,

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invasive exotic species in and adjacent to the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam and State Highway 99. The initial step will be the training of Applicant's staff and volunteers to identify and remove exotic plants using appropriate techniques. Upon completion of the training, Applicant's staff and volunteers will conduct surveys of the river to locate populations of Giant Grass (*Arundo donax*), Tamarisk (*Tamarisk spp.*), and Scarlet Wisteria (*Sesbiana tripetii*). The locations of these populations will be entered into a GIS database for future reference. The primary removal method will be by hand or with weed wrenches. In some cases, herbicides will be applied to cut stumps by trained staff. After the removal of the exotic plants, the native riparian vegetation is expected to recover quickly. In some areas, cuttings of native plants may be planted where once covered by exotics. The Applicant will perform ongoing maintenance as a part of their regular programs. A final component of the project will be an educational effort done by the Applicant in conjunction with the California Native Plant Society and the California Department of Fish and Game to help identify and discourage the use of non-native, invasive exotic species along the San Joaquin River. The project is expected to benefit a large number of fish and wildlife species that are known to use the San Joaquin River and adjacent areas on a year-round or seasonal basis. Staff is requesting that the Applicant provide the Commission with copies of the monitoring results and conclusions.

3. In 1992, Commission staff completed and published a set of **Administrative Maps of the San Joaquin River** between Friant Dam and State Highway 99 depicting the location of the High and Low Water Lines. At several locations along this stretch of the San Joaquin River, the boundary between public and private ownership has subsequently been fixed by agreement. At those locations, the agreement(s) would supercede the Administrative Maps.
4. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061), the staff has determined that this activity is exempt from the requirements of the CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 4, Minor Alteration to Land; Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15304.

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084 and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15300.

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5. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 6370, et seq. Based upon the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the CEQA review process, it is the staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; California Department of Fish and Game; California Department of Parks.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Location and Site Map
B. Land Description

PERMIT STREAMLINING ACT DEADLINE:

April 24, 2000

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

CEQA FINDING:

FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15061 AS A CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT PROJECT, CLASS 4, MINOR ALTERATION TO LAND; TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15304.

SIGNIFICANT LANDS INVENTORY FINDING:

FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE USE CLASSIFICATION DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE LAND PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTIONS 6370, ET SEQ.

AUTHORIZATION:

AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE TO SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY AND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC. OF A GENERAL LEASE FOR RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION, BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2000, FOR A TERM OF TEN YEARS, FOR REMOVAL OF NON-NATIVE, INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANTS AND NATIVE PLANT REVEGETATION ON THE LAND

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DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT B ATTACHED AND BY THIS REFERENCE
MADE A PART HEREOF; LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR COMBINED
SINGLE LIMIT COVERAGE OF \$1,000,000.

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EXHIBIT B

LAND DESCRIPTION

All of those sovereign submerged lands of the State of California lying between the low water lines of the natural bed of the San Joaquin River, situated in the counties of Fresno and Madera and lying between Friant Dam and State Highway 99.