

MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C76
was approved as Minute Item
No. 76 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 4-30-00
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM
C76

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04/20/00
W24763
Pelkofer
Walker

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERMIT – ARTIFACT RETREVIAl

APPLICANT:

Don Morris, Archaeologist
National Park Service
Channel Islands National Park
1901 Spinnaker Drive
Ventura, CA 93001

AREA, LAND TYPE AND LOCATION:

Tide and submerged land in the Pacific Ocean, offshore side middle Anacapa Island in the Channel Islands opposite East Fish Camp at the site of the wreck of the S. S. Winfield Scott.

LAND USE:

Archaeological information collection and retrieval of surface artifacts from the wreck of the S.S. Winfield Scott.

PERMIT DURATION:

Permit Period : 120 days commencing April 20 2000

CONSIDERATION:

The Public Benefit, pursuant to 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2003(a)(4)(A).

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- A. Public Resources Code Division 6, Public Lands, Parts 1 and 2; Division 13, Environmental Quality.
- B. California Code of Regulations: Title 3. Div. 3; Title 14, Div. 6.

PERMIT STREAMLING ACT DEADLINE:

N/A

CALENDAR PAGE **0000468**

MINUTE PAGE **8161**

CALENDAR ITEM NO. C76 (CONT'D)

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The proposed project will retrieve from the wreck site of the *Winfield Scott* artifacts which are normally covered by sand and have been exposed as a result of recent El Nino weather patterns. The Park Service which has conducted survey dives of the site in recent week has discovered the artifacts and is very concerned that unless the artifacts are removed they will disappear during the summer diving season. Staff concurs with the Park Services' assessment and believes that it is necessary to remove them immediately to protect and preserve them and to prevent their loss. The *Winfield Scott* wreck is a very popular recreational dive site and has in the past suffered from destructive anchoring and thefts by divers.
2. National Park Service archaeologist Don Morris has agreed to assemble and supervise a team to recover the artifacts in an appropriate manner. He will also seek a conservation facility and a repository such as the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum.
3. Constructed in 1851 in New York, the *Winfield Scott* a 235 foot sidewheel steamer was lost on December 2, 1853 when it grounded just offshore of middle Anacapa Island. Construction plans for the ship have not survived so the physical remains and recovered artifacts offer the only opportunity to study and important mid-nineteenth century coastal packet steamer. Such steamers played a significant role in the birth of California.
4. There have been two previous formal archaeological examinations and preliminary documentation of the *Winfield Scott*. A survey and documentation of the site is scheduled for latter this summer by a group from East Carolina University. Previous studies have been done under the supervision of the National Park Service.
5. The project area is within the Channel Islands National Park and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Both agencies have granted their permission for the project. All activities under this permit will be carried out under the supervision of the Channel Islands National Park Service archaeologist. The results of the project will be compiled in a fieldwork findings report and copies will be furnished to NOAA and the Commission.

CALENDAR PAGE **0000469**

MINUTE PAGE **8162**

CALENDAR ITEM NO. C76 (CONT'D)

6. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15061), the staff has determined that this activity is exempt from the requirement of the CEQA under the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. The staff believes, based on the information available to it, that there is no possibility that this project may have a significant effect on the environment. 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15061 (b) (3).
7. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C 6370, et seq. Based upon the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the application review process, it is staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

EXHIBIT:

A. Location Map

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THIS ACTIVITY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE USE CLASSIFICATION DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE LAND PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 6370, ET SEQ.
2. FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO 14. CAL. CODE REGS. 15061 BECAUSE THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE ACTIVITY MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT; 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15061 (b) (3).
3. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ISSUE A PERMIT, COMMENCING ON APRIL 20, 2000 FOR A PERIOD OF 120 DAYS, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, FOR NON-INTRUSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMOVAL OF ARTIFACTS FROM THE WRECK SITE OF THE WINFIELD SCOTT.

CALENDAR PAGE 0000470

MINUTE PAGE 8163

