

MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C54 was approved as
Minute Item No. 54 by the California State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its
12-16-02 meeting.

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P. Griggs

K. Walker

**CONSIDER TRANSFER OF TITLE OF AN HISTORIC ANCHOR FOUND ON
STATE LANDS TO CALTRANS FOR CONSERVATION AND DISPLAY**

PARTY:

California Department of Transportation
280 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94119

BACKGROUND

While dredging an access channel for work on the San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge, contractors working for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) discovered and recovered an anchor from the Bay mud. The contractor recovered the anchor before notifying Caltrans or the State Lands Commission.

The anchor has been examined by a maritime specialist, and is tentatively identified as late 19th century, although some foundries continued to make this type of anchor into the early 20th century. The size of anchor would have been appropriate for a schooner of approximately 100 feet in length. No other artifacts were recovered from the site, and side scan sonar records do not show any shipwrecks or other debris in the vicinity. Commission staff has received pictures of the anchor as recovered.

Caltrans would like to place the anchor on public display, probably in the new park that is proposed at the foot of the Oakland touchdown of the new East Span of the Bay Bridge. The anchor will first have to undergo a conservation process, and Caltrans is willing to fund this effort. No State Lands Commission funds will be spent to conserve the anchor.

Staff recommends that title to this anchor, which is vested in the State and in the custody of the Commission pursuant to PRC 6313(a), be transferred under authority of this section to Caltrans. Title, rather than custody, should be transferred consistent with best curatorial practice. Should Caltrans ever decide it no longer wants the anchor, it will first offer the anchor to the Commission, in writing, before disposing of it.

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PERMIT STREAMLINING ACT DEADLINE:

N/A

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Public Resources Code, section 6313(a) provides: The title to all abandoned shipwrecks and all archaeological sites and historic resources on or in the tide and submerged lands of California is vested in the state. All abandoned shipwrecks and all submerged archaeological sites and submerged historic resources of the state shall be in the custody and subject to the control of the commission for the benefit of the people of the state of California. The commission may transfer title, custody, or control to other state agencies or recognized scientific or educational organizations, institutions or individuals by appropriate legal conveyance.
2. Caltrans archaeologists will be in charge of the conservation and preparation for display of the anchor, with Commission staff review. The proposed display location maintains the anchor's context, and makes it available for viewing by a large number of people.
3. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15060(c)(3)), the staff has determined that this activity is not subject to the provisions of the CEQA because it is not a "project" as defined by the CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21065 and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, sections 15060(c)(3) and 15378.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15060(c)(3) BECAUSE THE ACTIVITY IS NOT A PROJECT AS DEFINED BY PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21065 AND TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15378.
2. AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP (TITLE) OF THIS ANCHOR RECOVERED FROM SAN FRANCISCO BAY TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PURPOSES OF SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AND PERMANENT PUBLIC DISPLAY.

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