

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. C41 was approved as Minute Item No. 41 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 12-09-03 meeting.

MINUTE ITEM
C41

12/09/03
W 25505
L. Kiley

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
(PARTY)

Calendar Item 41: This item was unanimously approved with the consent calendar items but was amended. Commissioner Steve Westly asked that State Lands' staff work with his staff to consider alternatives for dealing with disposal of property in Los Angeles County.

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L. Kiley

CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT TITLE TO APPROXIMATELY 24 ACRES SITUATED NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF JEFFERSON AND LINCOLN BOULEVARDS, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AND AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER THAT PARCEL AND AN ADJACENT APPROXIMATELY 36 ACRE PARCEL TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

The Commission previously authorized the staff to record a deed to certain land situated near the intersection of Jefferson and Lincoln Boulevards, Los Angeles County (Item C115, December 16, 1998). The land was to be restored as a freshwater marsh. The construction of the freshwater marsh is a requirement of certain Tract Maps approved by the City of Los Angeles for the development of the area known as Playa Vista. The freshwater marsh, which has now been completed, will ultimately function as part of a larger restored Ballona Wetlands system. The deed has not yet been recorded.

The land subject to the deed, whose recordation was previously approved by the Commission, was part of a larger parcel totaling about 60 acres, all of which was scheduled for restoration as either freshwater or saltwater marsh as part of the Ballona Wetlands system. The conveyance of the entire parcel to a public entity is required to occur on or before February 24, 2004, by the terms of an agreement between the developer of Playa Vista and a Trustee acting on behalf of the State Controller as beneficiary. It was contemplated, when the previous authorization was requested that the Commission would subsequently accept title to the remainder of the 60 acres.

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), acting on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game, has acquired most of the remaining area of the Ballona Wetlands. WCB is presently considering whether it should acquire the freshwater marsh and the remainder of the 60 acre parcel so that integrated management of the entire Ballona Wetlands System could be attained. Staff believes that would be a desirable outcome, and seeks further authority to record a deed to the remainder of the acreage to assure that the property is conveyed by the February 2004 deadline. Staff further requests authority to work with the developers and WCB in to achieve the most efficient transfer of the property to either the Commission or WCB.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. C41 (CONT'D)

PERMIT STREAMLINING ACT DEADLINE

N/A

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal.Code Regs. 15061), find that acceptance of title is exempt from the requirements of the CEQA 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. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370, et seq. but will not affect those significant lands.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT ACCEPTANCE OF TITLE IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURUSANT TO 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15061 BECAUSE ACCEPTANCE OF TITLE IS NOT A PROJECT AS DEFINED BY PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21065 AND TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15378.
2. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO ACCEPT AND RECORD A DEED TO THE REMAINDER OF AN APPROXIMATELY 60 ACRE PARCEL, A PORTION OF WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED TO BE ACCEPTED BY ITEM C115, DECEMBER 16, 1998.
3. AUTHORIZE THE STAFF TO WORK WITH THE DEVELOPERS OF PLAYA VISTA AND THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD TO ACHIEVE THE MOST EFFICIENT TRANSFER OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY TO EITHER THE COMMISSION OR THE WCB.
4. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND THE STAFF OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE STEPS OUTLINED ABOVE, INCLUDING ACCEPTANCE AND RECORDING OF DOCUMENTS, AND COURT APPEARANCES IF NECESSARY.