MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C55 was approved as Minute Item No. 55 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 8-8-05 meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM
C55

A 1

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PRC 8634

08/08/05
W 6005.102
R. Greenwood

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A NON-EXCLUSIVE GEOLOGICAL PERMIT ON TIDE AND SUBMERGED LANDS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

APPLICANT:

Independent Natural Resources, Inc.
Attn.: Mr. Mark A. Thomas
7466 Washington Avenue South
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

LAND TYPE AND LOCATION:

Sovereign lands located offshore Table Bluff, Humboldt County, between the mouth of the Eel River and the entrance to Humboldt Bay.

PROPOSED PROJECT:

The one time geological survey authorized under the terms of the permit is for the purpose of obtaining core samples from the seafloor to obtain geotechnical information. The geotechnical investigation is being conducted to provide information to develop foundation design criteria and gather subsurface data for a geologic hazards analysis that will be prepared for a proposed pile-supported platform that will support a prototype of a SEADOG wave pump that is proposed for installation later in 2005, or early in 2006. The geotechnical investigation will involve drilling one rotary wash geotechnical test boring at the location of the proposed structure. The boring will extend about 100 feet below the seafloor and will be used to conduct *in situ* testing and to obtain soil core samples. The drilling is anticipated to take about 12 hours to complete. Sediment samples collected at the site will be subjected to laboratory testing to ascertain the physical characteristics of the material that will subsequently be used by engineers to design the platform pilings.

Independent Natural Resources, Inc.'s, (INRI) contractor, Land Marine Geotechnics (LMG), will complete the collection and analyses of the samples.

LMG will utilize the Gregg Drilling Company of Signal Hill to complete the sample collection. Gregg Drilling Company proposes to use the drill ship Quinn Delta for the boring. Quinn Delta is a self propelled, shallow draft, ocean-going vessel specially engineered and designed with 80 foot spuds that can be extended and used to stabilize the vessel in waters up to 70 feet deep. The two spuds stabilizing the ship will have limited impact to the soft bottom seafloor in that each will cover an area less than 4 feet squared. Closed system drilling will be conducted within a 7-inch diameter casing, which will extend from about 20 feet below the ocean floor to the ocean surface. Drilling mud will be circulated through the drill pipe and casing to tanks on the drill ship. Use of less than 50 pounds of bentonite drilling mud is anticipated for the entire project. The mud and soil spoils system is fully contained and no fluid or soil cuttings will be discharged into the ocean as part of the drilling process. Upon completion of the boring, the soil cuttings and drilling fluid will be disposed of onshore at an appropriate disposal facility and the casing will be removed. Prior to initiating the proposed sampling, a Notice to Mariners will be submitted to the local U.S. Coast Guard and additional information sheets on the timing and location of the activity will be posted at the Harbor Master's Office and marinas within Humboldt Bay. Upon request, the Commission will receive copies of all data derived from any and all surverys under the permit.

TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:

Beginning August 10, 2005, through November 10, 2006.

PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:

Required fees, expense deposit, and other security have been received.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

A. Public Resources Code section 6826
B. California Code of Regulations section: Title 2, section 2905(e)(1)
C. California Code of Regulations section: Title 14, section 15061

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. 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 6, Information Collection: Core hole drilling, operations to obtain information design data, to gather data and information for environmental documentation where minimal or no disturbance of the land surface

results. Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905(e)(1).

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15300, and Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905.

2. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code section 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.

EXHIBIT:

A. Location Map

PERMIT STREAMLINING ACT DEADLINE:

September 17, 2005

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 AS A CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT PROJECT, CLASS 6, INFORMATION COLLECTION, TITLE 2, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 2905(e)(1).

AUTHORIZATION:

AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE TO INDEPENDENT NATURAL RESOURCES, INC., OF A NON-EXCLUSIVE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PERMIT TO CONDUCT ONE TIME GEOLOGICAL SAMPLING DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST 10, 2005, THROUGH NOVEMBER 10, 2006, AT THE LOCATION DESIGNATED ON EXHIBIT A, ATTACHED HERETO.
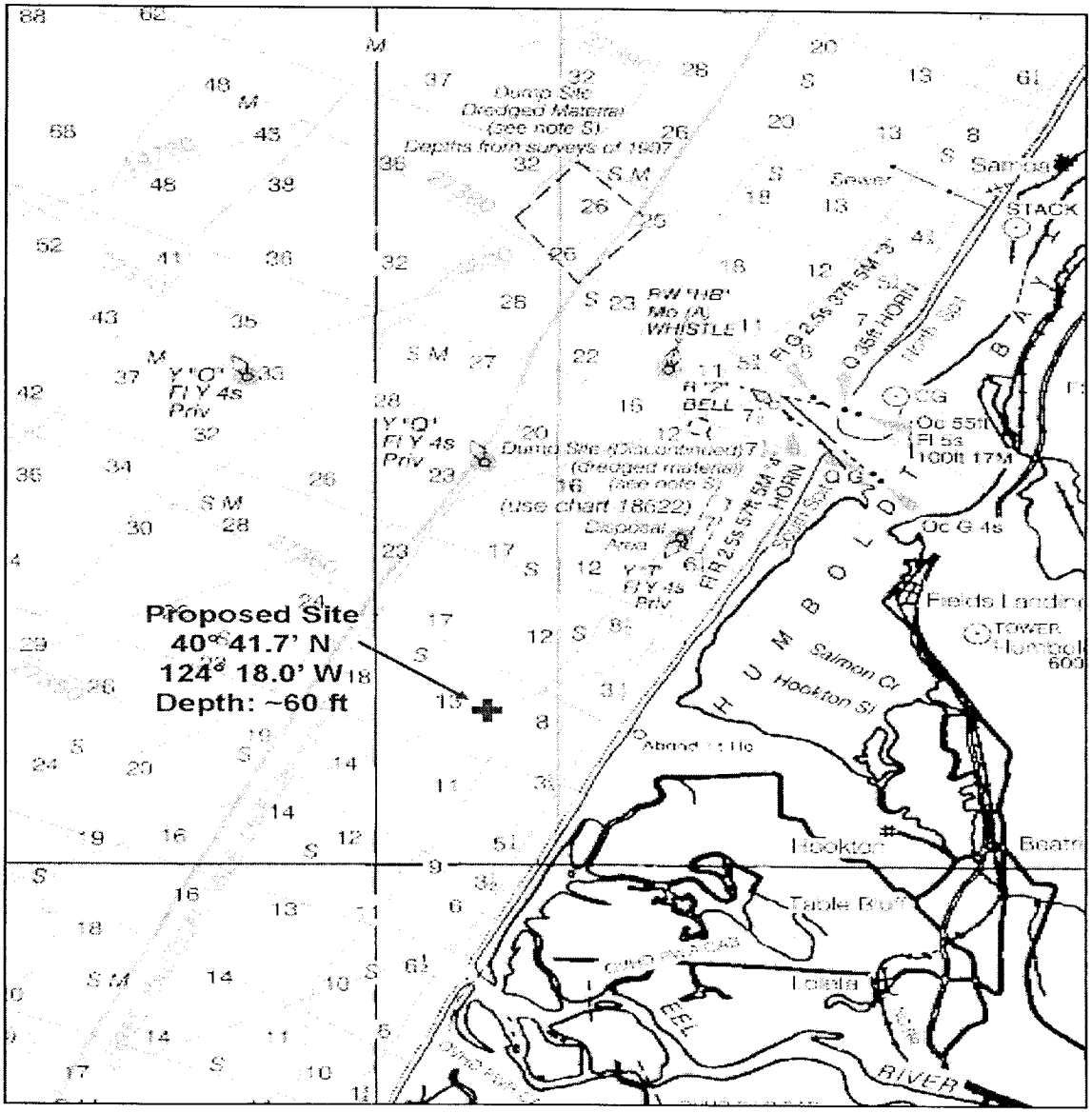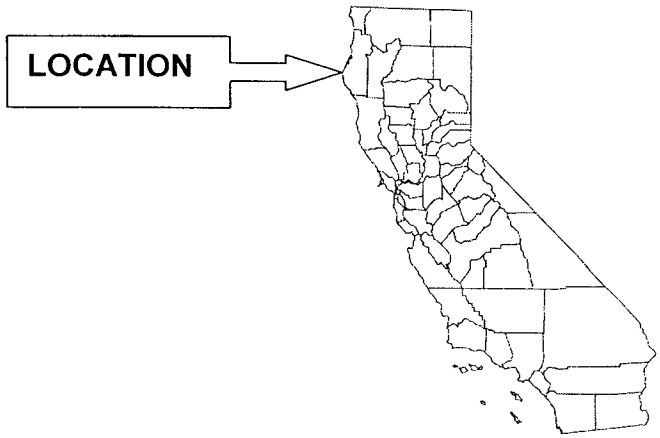
EXHIBIT A
LOCATION MAP