MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. C67 was approved as Minute Item No. 67 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 2 to 0 at its 12-08-05 meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM
C67

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12/08/05
W 25306
J. Trout
A. Abeleda

AUTHORIZATION FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SOLICIT STATEMENTS OF INTEREST FOR MONITORING, REPORTING, AND REMEDIATING BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF THE BOLSA CHICA LOWLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

BACKGROUND

The State Lands Commission acquired 880 acres of restorable wetlands at Bolsa Chica in 1997 as part of a wetlands mitigation of adverse impacts of fill at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. Various aspects of this Project have been before the Commission over the last eight years.

Subsequent to the acquisition, the Commission along with seven other state and federal agencies undertook the planning, design, environmental review and construction of the wetlands restoration. Including the acquisition, the Project cost will exceed $130 million. Most of the funding has come from the ports along with $20 million in Proposition 40 and 50 grant funds through the Wildlife Conservation Board and California Coastal Conservancy.

Restoration construction began in October 2004 and should be complete by June 30, 2006. At that time, management of the restored area will begin. A long-term managing entity has yet to be selected.

DISCUSSION

As part of approval of the restoration, the California Coastal Commission and Army Corps of Engineers imposed conditions requiring monitoring and reporting of restored wetlands for at least ten years. In addition, if necessary, the inlet channel and flood shoal are to be dredged and the material placed on the adjoining state beach. Results of the monitoring are to reported to the Coastal Commission, Corps of Engineers and other agencies.

Monitoring plans and follow up plans were prepared by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service. These will be the basis for contract work. They provide for extensive sampling of the beach and inlet depths, water quality, and biological resources as well as completion of

reports on the results. Staff believes it is preferable to contract with one firm to undertake this work rather than have several smaller contracts with specialized firms. The proposed contract would be for ten years. The proposed contract award will be brought to the Commission for approval. Funds to pay for monitoring work are available in the operation and maintenance account of the Bolsa Chica Project funds in the Kapiloff Land Bank in the state treasury.

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 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 EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15061 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 EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SOLICIT STATEMENTS OF INTEREST FOR MONITORING, REPORTING AND REMEDIATING BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF THE BOLSA CHICA LOWLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT.