

**CALENDAR ITEM
C46**

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08/20/10
W 6005.123
R. B. Greenwood

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A
NON-EXCLUSIVE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PERMIT
ON SOVEREIGN LANDS OF THE SMITH RIVER
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION**

APPLICANT:

California Department of Transportation
Attn.: Mr. Starr Kilian
1656 Union Street
Eureka, CA 95502-3700

BACKGROUND:

The geological survey permit would authorize the gathering of data that will be used in the design and routing of a proposed highway bridge that crosses the Smith River to replace the existing Dr. Fine Bridge on Highway 101 in Del Norte County. The geological survey will obtain deep core samples, using rotary wash drilling, on the shores and within the bed of the Smith River. This is necessary to gather geotechnical information about the subsurface conditions and soil composition of the route of the proposed bridge.

The proposed project involves less than 30 rotary wash borings in and adjacent to the Smith River along the proposed bridge alignment over a period of approximately three (3) years (approximately seven to ten days at each boring location). The deep geologic samples may be collected at locations, as generally depicted on Exhibit A (attached hereto), utilizing rotary wash drilling methods, down-hole sampling and testing from a self-contained barge or platform, as detailed below.

Borings are anticipated to be approximately 200 feet deep, with some extending to approximately 250 feet. The borings will use a 4-inch bit and a bentonite clay or polymer drilling fluid in a closed circulation system completely isolated from

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the river waters. After drilling and sampling, the boreholes will be backfilled with clean cement grout. Drill cuttings, drilling fluid, and wash water will be retained in 55-gallon steel drums for testing and disposal at an approved landfill.

The drilling barge consists of nine, 6-foot by 15-foot sections, and requires a minimum of 24 inches of water. The barge will be secured by four anchors. The California State Lands Commission will receive copies of all data derived from any and all surveys under the proposed permit upon request.

TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:

Three years beginning October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2013.

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, Title 2, section 2905(e)(1)
- C. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. A Spill Contingency Plan has been provided and approved by Commission staff.
2. 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 CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 6, Information Collection; Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905 (e)(1).

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

3. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 6370, et seq., but such activity will not affect those significant lands. Based upon the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the CEQA review process, staff has concluded that the project, as

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proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

EXHIBIT:

- A. Permit Location Map

PERMIT STREAMLINING ACT DEADLINE:

October 1, 2010

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

It is recommended that the Commission:

CEQA FINDINGS:

1. Find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061 as a Categorical Exempt Project, under Class 6, Information Collection; Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905(e)(1).
2. Find that this activity is consistent with the use classification designated by the Commission for the land pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 6370, et seq.

AUTHORIZATION:

Authorize issuance to the California Department of Transportation of a Non-Exclusive Geological Survey Permit to conduct a Geological Survey Program (as herein described) during the period October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2013, within the permit region as designated on Exhibit A, attached hereto.