

**CALENDAR ITEM  
C52**

A 34

10/27/11

W 6005.132

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R. B. Greenwood

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A  
NON-EXCLUSIVE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PERMIT  
ON STATE-OWNED SOVEREIGN LANDS,  
LOCATED MOSTLY IN THE NORTHWESTERN  
AND SOUTHEASTERN PORTIONS OF OWENS LAKE,  
INYO COUNTY**

**APPLICANT:**

City of Los Angeles  
Department of Water and Power  
Attn.: Mr. William T. Van Wagoner  
111 N. Hope Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**AREA, LAND TYPE, LOCATION:**

The proposed Geological Survey Permit, to accommodate regional dust abatement activities, will include an area of approximately 3.5 square miles of State-owned Sovereign Lands under the jurisdiction of the California State Lands Commission, located mostly in the northwestern and southeastern portions of Owens Lake, Inyo County.

**BACKGROUND:**

The geological sampling surveys authorized under the terms of the permit are for the purpose of obtaining bulk samples and hand auger samples for geotechnical information. Geological and geotechnical samples of the surface sediments will be collected at 85 locations (shown on Exhibits A and B, attached hereto). The analysis of the samples will be used to provide guidance for the Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program pertaining to future location of: roads, pipelines, support facility building foundations, shallow flood areas, managed vegetation areas, and tillage areas. The sampling program will require three (3) months and will be conducted during a permitted period of four (4) months. A track-mounted excavator will dig up to twenty five (25) test pits, 10 feet by 20 feet wide, and up

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to 20 feet deep. Up to sixty (60) locations will be sampled by hand auger to a maximum depth of ten (10) feet. No drilling muds or circulating fluids will be used under this geologic sampling permit. All disturbed and/or excavated areas will be restored in-kind upon completion of sampling. Sampling activities will be accompanied by a pickup truck or all-terrain vehicle. Upon request, the California State Lands Commission will receive copies of all data derived from any and all surveys under the permit.

**TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:**

Four (4) months, beginning November 1, 2011, through February 28, 2012.

**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)(3)
- C. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061

**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

1. The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has included numerous provisions as part of its project application to perform geotechnical survey work on Owens Lake. These provisions are protective of sensitive resources that may be encountered during the course of the geotechnical survey and include:

Biological Resources

- A worker education program taught by a biologist approved by the California Department of Fish and Game focused on the snowy plover, other special status plant and wildlife species, and sensitive habitats that occur within the Owens Lake basin.
- Pre-geotechnical sampling work, performed no more than seven days prior to the start of the geotechnical work, for the snowy plover, other special status plant and wildlife species, and sensitive habitats. Inclusion of 200-foot buffers, well-marked, around all special status plants, sensitive habitats, and any nests of the snowy plover or other special status species, such as the burrowing owl, that may be observed during the pre-geotechnical sampling surveys.

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- Vehicle speed limitations in areas, including buffers, occupied by the snowy plover, other special status plant and wildlife species, and sensitive habitats.
- Provision of covers for all pipes or other structures greater than four inches and less than 12 inches in diameter within the geotechnical sampling area to preclude their use by the burrowing owl.

Cultural Resources

- A qualified archaeologist, with the authority to stop work, will monitor all geotechnical sampling activities and will implement a monitoring and recovery program in any area identified as having the potential to contain unique archaeological resources as determined by previous cultural resource surveys conducted in the sampling areas.
  - The qualified archaeologist will coordinate with local tribes and a Native American monitor(s) shall also be retained to monitor activities.
  - Geotechnical sampling personnel will be briefed on procedures to be followed in the event a unique archaeological resource is encountered.
  - The Inyo County Coroner will be notified should any human remains be encountered.
  - The qualified archaeological monitor will prepare daily monitoring logs that will be submitted weekly to the LADWP.
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 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15306.
- Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084; and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15300.
3. This activity involves lands which have NOT been identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6370, et. seq., however, the Commission has declared that all lands

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are “significant” by nature of their public ownership (as opposed to “environmentally significant”). Since such declaration of significance is not based upon the requirements and criteria of Public Resources Code section 6370 et seq., use classifications for such lands have not been designated. Therefore, the finding of the project’s consistency with the use classification as required by Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2954 is not applicable.

**EXHIBITS:**

- A. Location Map
- B. List of Sample Site Locations

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the Commission:

**CEQA FINDINGS:**

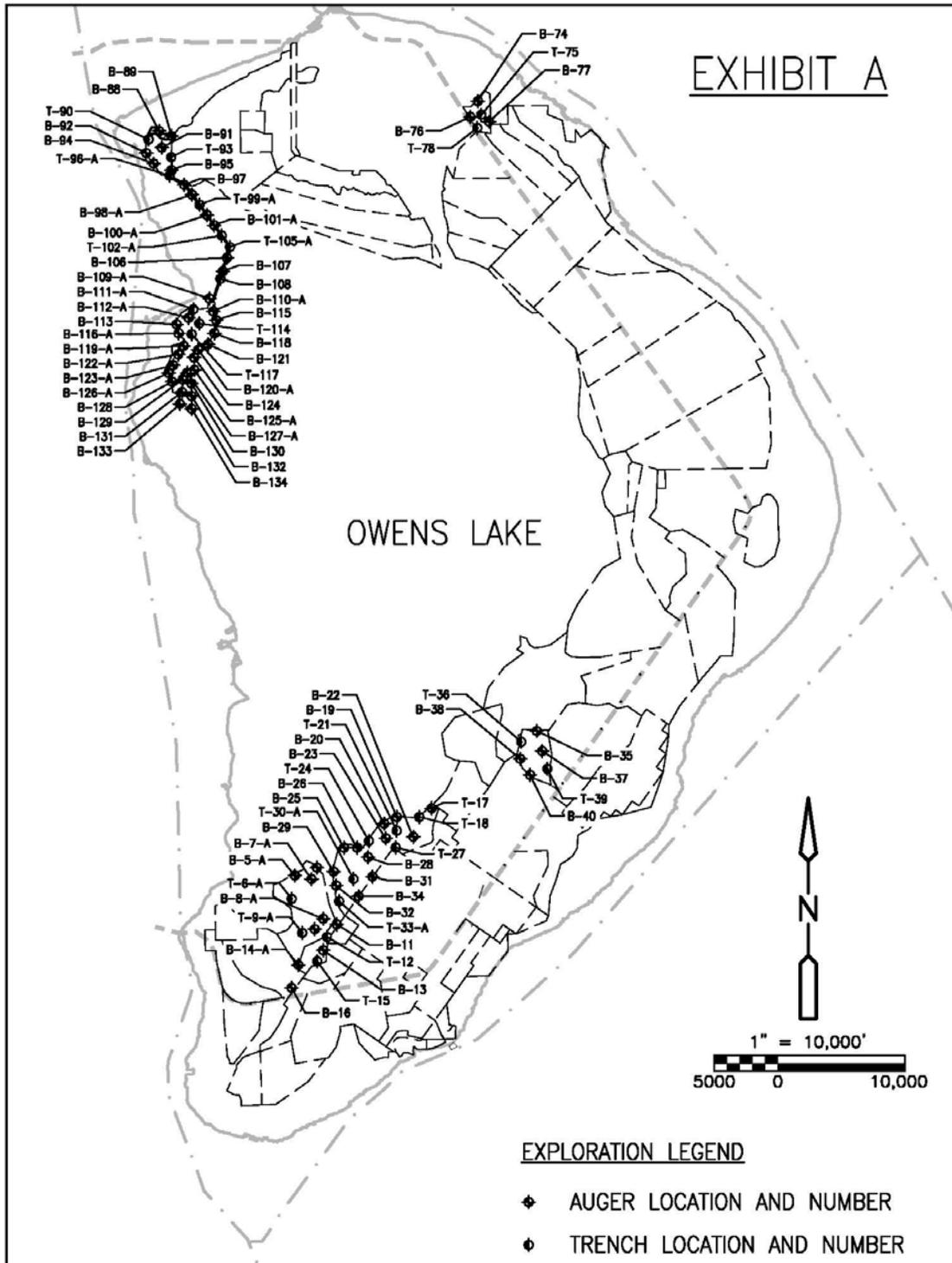
Find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061 as a categorically exempt project, under Class 6, Information Collection; Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15306.

**AUTHORIZATION:**

Authorize issuance to the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, of a Non-Exclusive Geological Survey Permit to collect geological data and samples for the period November 1, 2011, through February 28, 2012, at the locations as designated on Exhibits A and B, attached hereto.

# LOCATION MAP

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## Exhibit B

### List of Sample Locations

<b>Exploration ID</b>	<b>Northing</b>	<b>Easting</b>
B-4	2016977.01	6859928.83
B-5-A	2016351.938	6858194.769
T-6-A	2014489.215	6857970.436
B-7-A	2016066.788	6859503.065
B-8-A	2012919.861	6860423.004
T-9-A	2011794.063	6858807.998
B-10	2012084.02	6859758.39
B-11	2012470.58	6861531.24
T-12	2011468.96	6860757.11
B-13	2010427.69	6860427.78
B-14-A	2009257.528	6858468.671
T-15	2009552.38	6859987.84
B-16	2007439.9	6857934.4
B-17	2021673.98	6868957.83
T-18	2020983.26	6868007.95
B-19	2020978.45	6866249.64
B-20	2020464.15	6865221.09
T-21	2019903.584	6866243.96
B-22	2019416.95	6867508.66
B-23	2019292.57	6865351.65
T-24	2019073.983	6864050.607
B-25	2018552.61	6862063.1
B-26	2018547.81	6863089.74
T-27	2018557.023	6866163.343
B-28	2017798.56	6863949.33
B-29	2016669.06	6861246.5
T-30-A	2016069.109	6862843.52
B-31	2016262.88	6864300.26
B-32	2015549.65	6861443.09
T-33-A	2014294.137	6861714.009
B-34	2014701.99	6863214.67
B-35	2027791.839	6877256.181
T-36	2026932.83	6876035.23

<b>Exploration ID</b>	<b>Northing</b>	<b>Easting</b>
B-37	2026208	6877688.92
B-38	2025589.33	6875954.08
T-39	2024789.82	6878089.31
B-40	2024315.95	6876725.04
B-74	2077707.954	6872621.147
T-75	2076616.18	6872891.52
B-76	2076452.801	6872035.162
B-77	2076073.18	6873493.99
T-78	2075577.761	6872576.448
B-88	2075325.448	6847553.304
B-89	2074942.96	6848521.63
T-90	2074672.523	6846718.139
B-91	2074024.784	6847761.499
B-92	2073579.999	6846542.921
T-93	2073266.96	6848498.872
B-94	2072753.216	6847121.297
B-95	2072240.266	6848530.011
T-96-A	2071808.444	6848371.766
B-97	2071083.755	6849522.423
B-98	2070297.727	6850139.503
T-99	2069511.699	6850756.583
B-100	2068725.671	6851373.663
B-101	2067939.643	6851990.743
T-102	2067153.615	6852607.823
T-105	2066367.587	6853224.903
B-106	2065294.495	6852894.72
B-107	2064221.403	6852564.537
T-108	2063622.473	6852375.01
B-109-A	2062065.925	6851515.538
B-110-A	2061041.952	6851807.636
T-111-A	2061213.607	6850247.444
B-112-A	060525.611	6849869.256
B-113	2060017.91	6848934.91
T-114	2060091.158	6850711.045
B-115	2060343.275	6852044.487
B-116-A	2059311.194	6849084.743
T-117	2059244.613	6850111.633
B-118	2059322.233	6851898.969
B-119-A	2058308.585	6849480.366

<b>Exploration ID</b>	<b>Northing</b>	<b>Easting</b>
B-120-A	2058011.161	6850628.743
B-121	2058447.07	6851411.21
B-122-A	2057626.244	6849055.208
B-123-A	2056777.368	6848658.025
B-124	2057391.337	6850302.215
B-125-A	2056401.7	6850322.773
B-126-A	2056159.157	6848302.058
B-127-A	2056170.523	6849754.233
B-128	2055480.759	6848573.07
B-129	2055661.29	6849414.889
B-130	2055337.304	6850095.605
B-131	2054664.77	6849355.53
B-132	2054327.481	6850107.264
B-133	2053718.41	6849189.58
B-134	2053321.77	6850107.31