

**CALENDAR ITEM  
C21**

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10/19/12  
PRC 3755.1  
R. Boggiano

**GENERAL LEASE – RECREATIONAL USE**

**APPLICANTS:**

James A. Astorian and Kathrin C. Astorian

**AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:**

Sovereign land in Lake Tahoe, adjacent to 4160 Ferguson Avenue, Carnelian Bay, Placer County

**AUTHORIZED USE:**

Continued use and maintenance of an existing pier, boathouse with a boatlift, and two mooring buoys previously authorized by the Commission, and use and maintenance of two existing boat lifts not previously authorized by the Commission.

**LEASE TERM:**

10 years, beginning October 19, 2012.

**CONSIDERATION:**

\$2,282 per year, with the State reserving the right to fix a different rent periodically during the lease term as provided in the lease.

**SPECIFIC LEASE PROVISIONS:**

Insurance:

Liability insurance in the amount of no less than \$1,000,000.

Other:

The proposed lease contains a provision requiring the Applicants to obtain authorization from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) for the mooring buoys within two years of the adoption of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Lake Tahoe Shorezone Ordinance Amendments and approval of the amended ordinances. This is a continuation of the process the Commission used from approximately 1995 to October 2008 when TRPA adopted an FEIS and Ordinance Amendments supported by the FEIS. In September 2010, the U.S. District Court invalidated the FEIS and nullified the Amendments. When additional information is available, Commission staff will advise the Commission on any suggested modifications to the process used by the Commission pending resolution of the TRPA FEIS and ordinance issues.

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**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

1. Applicants own the upland parcel adjoining the lease premises.
2. On February 5, 2001, the Commission authorized a General Lease – Recreational Use with Omeah Limited Partnership for an existing pier, boathouse with boat lift, and two mooring buoys. That lease expired on August 9, 2008. Between the expiration of the lease and November 2009, the upland property went through the foreclosure process and the lender, JP Morgan Chase Bank NA, took ownership of the upland. On November 24, 2009, the lender sold the upland property to the Applicants, who are now applying for a new General Lease – Recreational Use.
3. On October 8, 2011, Chapter 585, Statutes of 2011 became law. The law took effect on January 1, 2012. This new law repeals section 6503.5 of the Public Resources Code, which had allowed rent-free use of State-owned land by certain private parties for their recreational piers. It replaced the former section with a new section 6503.5 which provides that the State Lands Commission “shall charge rent for a private recreational pier constructed on state lands.” The law provides for two exceptions to the imposition of rent. Those exceptions are for:
  - A. A lease in effect on July 1, 2011, through the remaining term of that lease. If a lease in effect on July 1, 2011, expires or is otherwise terminated, any new lease will be subject to rent; and
  - B. A lease for which the lease application and application fees were submitted to the Commission prior to March 31, 2011.

The Applicants do not qualify for an exception and the lease is subject to rent because the application was received on July 26, 2011.

4. The staff recommends that the Commission find that this activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 1, Existing Facilities; California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 2905, subdivision (a)(2).

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

5. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6370 et seq., but such activity will not affect those significant lands. Based upon

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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.

**EXHIBITS:**

- A. Land Description
- B. Site and Location Map

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the Commission:

**CEQA FINDING:**

Find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061 as a categorically exempt project, Class 1, Existing Facilities; California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 2905, subdivision (a)(2).

**SIGNIFICANT LANDS INVENTORY FINDING:**

Find that this activity is consistent with the use classification designated by the Commission for the land pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6370 et seq.

**AUTHORIZATION:**

Authorize issuance of a General Lease – Recreational Use to James A. Astorian and Kathrin C. Astorian, beginning October 19, 2012, for a term of 10 years, for the continued use and maintenance of an existing pier, boathouse with a boat lift, and two mooring buoys previously authorized by the Commission, and the use and maintenance of two existing boat lifts not previously authorized by the Commission, as described in Exhibit A and shown on Exhibit B (for reference purposes only) attached and by this reference made a part hereof; annual rent in the amount of \$2,282, with the State reserving the right to fix a different rent periodically during the lease term, as provided in the lease; and liability insurance in the amount of no less than \$1,000,000.