CALENDAR ITEM
C88

A 34 | 10/19/12
W 6005.134
S 18 | R. B. Greenwood

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A NON-EXCLUSIVE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PERMIT ON STATE-OWNED SOVEREIGN LANDS, LOCATED ON 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

BACKGROUND:

The Geological Survey Permit, to accommodate regional dust abatement activities, will include an area of approximately 10 square miles of State-owned sovereign lands. Geological and geotechnical samples of the surface sediments will be collected at 26 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: Best Available Control Measures (BACMs), such as shallow flood areas, managed vegetation areas, gravel cover, hybrid BACMs, or tillage, as well as appurtenant roads, pipelines, and other facilities. The sampling program will require four (4) months and will be conducted during a permitted period of twelve (12) months. A track-mounted excavator will dig up to eleven (11) test pits, 10 feet by 20 feet wide, and up to 20 feet deep. Up to fifteen (15) 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 survey 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 (Commission) staff will receive copies of all data derived from any and all surveys under the permit.

TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:

Twelve (12) months, beginning October 20, 2012, through October 19, 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 section, Title 14, section 15306
C. California Code of Regulations section, 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 (7) 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;

   - Vehicle speed limitations in areas, including buffers, occupied by the snowy plover, other special-status plant and wildlife species, and sensitive habitats;

   - Filling of excavated test pits by the close of the day and/or provision of a means of closure or escape to avoid entrapping wildlife; and

- Provision of covers for all pipes or other structures greater than four (4) inches and less than twelve (12) inches in diameter within the geotechnical sampling area to preclude their use by the burrowing owl.

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- The locations where geological and/or geotechnical sampling will occur have been surveyed for cultural resources. All known cultural resource sites shall be avoided with a minimum buffer of 100 feet. A qualified archaeologist and a qualified paleontologist, or archaeologist with cross training in paleontology, with the authority to stop the work, will monitor all geotechnical sampling activities and will implement a monitoring program for all ground-disturbing activities.

- The qualified archaeologist will coordinate with local tribes, and a Native American monitor(s) shall also be retained to monitor activities.

- Should an inadvertent discovery of cultural or paleontological resources occur during the geological and/or geotechnical sampling, all work within 100 feet shall stop, until after the resource is evaluated to determine if it qualifies as a California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) eligible site or is a unique paleontological resource. If the resource is found to qualify as a CRHR-eligible resource or is a unique paleontological resource, then the sampling location shall be moved at least 100 feet away from the area to completely avoid further disturbance of the resource.

- Geotechnical sampling personnel will be briefed on procedures to be followed in the event an archaeological resource is encountered.

- The Inyo County Coroner will be notified immediately should any human remains be encountered.

- The qualified archaeological monitor will prepare daily monitoring logs that will be submitted weekly to the LADWP and Commission staff upon request.

2. 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 6, Information Collection; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15306.

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084 and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, 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 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 California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 2954 is not applicable.

EXHIBITS:

A. Location Map
B. List of Sample Locations

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Commission:

CEQA FINDINGS:

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 6, Information Collection; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, 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 October 20, 2012, through October 19, 2013, at the locations designated on Exhibits A and B, attached hereto.

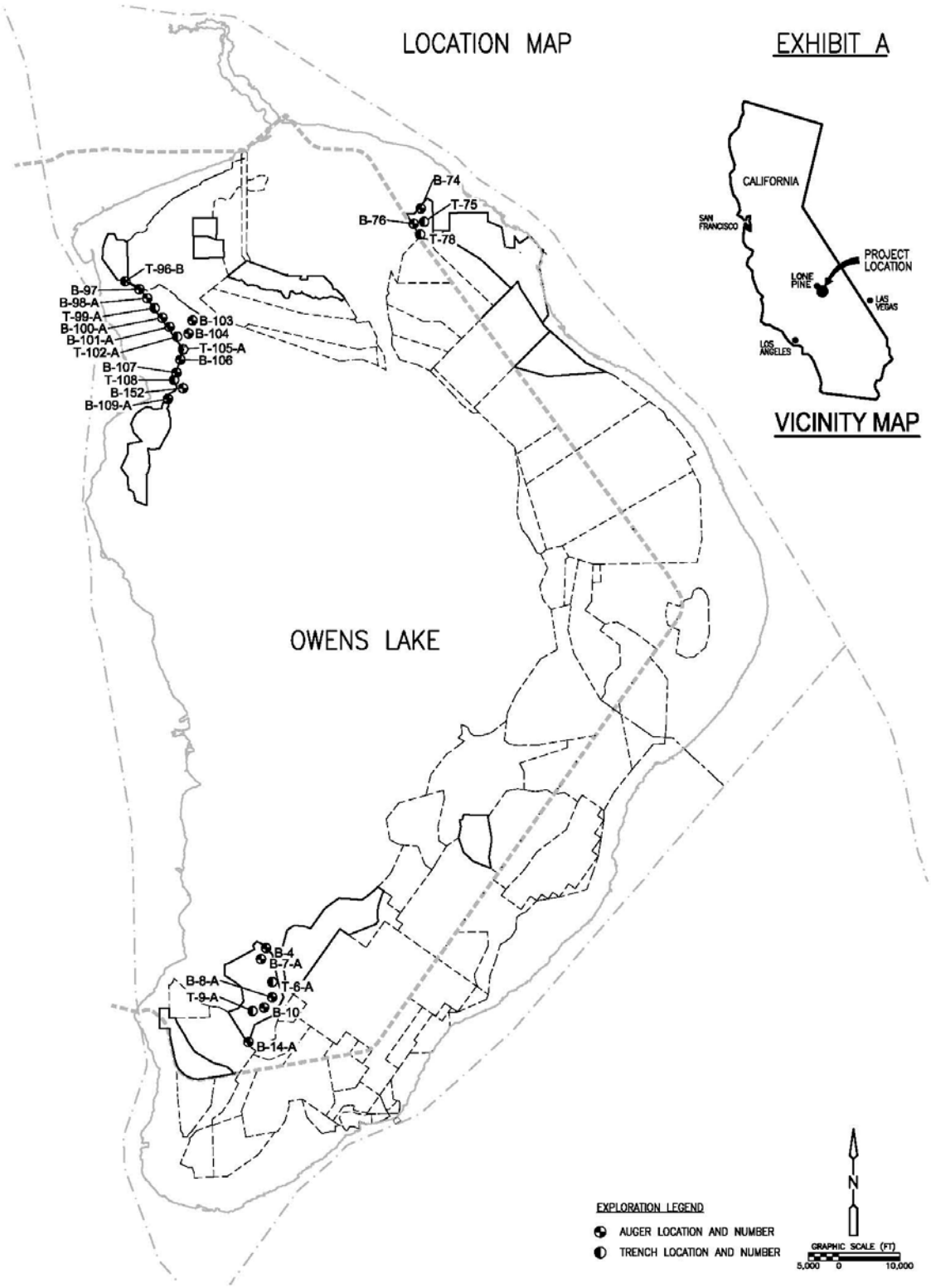
LOCATION MAP
EXHIBIT A
CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO
PROJECT LOCATION
LONE PINE
LAS VEGAS
LOS ANGELES
VICINITY MAP
B-74
T-75
B-76
T-78
T-96-B
B-97
B-98-A
T-99-A
B-100-A
B-101-A
T-102-A
B-103
B-104
T-105-A
B-106
B-107
T-108
B-152
B-109-A
OWENS LAKE
B-4
B-7-A
T-6-A
B-8-A
T-9-A
B-10
B-14-A
EXPLORATION LEGEND
AUGER LOCATION AND NUMBER
TRENCH LOCATION AND NUMBER
N
GRAPHIC SCALE (FT)
5,000
0
10,000

Exhibit B

List of Sample Locations

Exploration ID	Northing	Easting
B-4	2016977.01	6859928.83
T-6-A	2014181.64	6860434.20
B-7-A	2016066.79	6859503.06
B-8-A	2012919.86	6860423.00
T-9-A	2011794.06	6858807.99
B-10	2012084.02	6859758.39
B-14	2009257.53	6858468.67
B-74	2077707.95	6872621.15
T-75	2076616.18	6872891.52
B-76	2076452.80	6872035.16
T-78	2075577.76	6872576.45
T-96-B	2071732.75	6848363.10
B-97	2071083.76	6849522.42
B-98-A	2070336.62	6850170.06
T-99-A	2069530.25	6850779.13
B-100-A	2068739.12	6851405.02
B-101-A	2067978.55	6852003.15
T-102-A	2067187.42	6852626.26
T-103	2068513.88	6853885.34
T-104	2067440.84	6853555.20
T-105-A	2066141.90	6853116.93
B-106	2065294.50	6852894.72
B-107	2064221.40	6852564.54
T-108	2063628.02	6852350.01
B-109-A	2062628.05	6851865.21
B-152	2062945.36	6853102.01