

**CALENDAR ITEM
C70**

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S 28

08/19/15
W 6005.158
R. B. Greenwood

**CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR A SURVEY-SPECIFIC NON-EXCLUSIVE
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY PERMIT TO CONDUCT A LOW-ENERGY GEOPHYSICAL
SURVEY USING A WEIGHT DROP ON TIDE AND SUBMERGED LANDS
OFFSHORE EL SEGUNDO UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION**

APPLICANT:

West Basin Municipal Water District
Attn.: Ms. Diane Gatzka
17140 Avalon Boulevard
Carson, CA 90746

BACKGROUND:

West Basin Municipal Water District has applied for a site-specific low-energy offshore Geophysical Survey Permit. These permits are issued to qualified companies to perform geophysical surveys of the ocean bottom for purposes such as geotechnical investigation of seismic hazards, sand erosion and deposition studies, optic cable routes, oil and gas pipeline routes, harbor facility bathymetric changes, submerged hazards and debris, and cultural resources (e.g. sunken boats and airplanes). This survey will occur offshore of El Segundo, Los Angeles County, to determine the feasibility of the site for a proposed subsurface brine intake for desalination. Geophysical data will be collected via a 36-channel hydrophone cable. The energy source will be generated by a 50-pound weight attached to a steel pipe dropped by a diver onto a metal plate on the ocean floor. The sound waves produced by the weight drop and recorded by the hydrophones will provide subsurface geologic information that will be used to develop profiles of subsurface geology. The five-day survey will extend 1,700 linear feet offshore from the surf zone. The California State Lands Commission (Commission) staff may receive copies of all data derived from any and all surveys under the permit upon request.

TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:

Four months, beginning August 20, 2015, through December 31, 2015.

PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:

Required fees, expense deposit, and other security have been received.

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STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- A. Public Resources Code section 6826.
- B. Public Resources Code section 21080, subdivision (c).
- C. Public Resources Code section 6870.
- D. California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Article 2.9, section 2100.
- E. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15074.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The staff recommends that the Commission find that this activity is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 6, Information Collection; California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 2905, subdivision (e)(3).

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

2. 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 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.

EXHIBIT:

- A. Project Site Location

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 2, section 2905, subdivision (e)(3).

SIGNIFICANT LANDS:

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.

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AUTHORIZATION:

Authorize issuance of a Non-Exclusive Geophysical Survey Permit to West Basin Municipal Water District to conduct low-energy geophysical surveys offshore of El Segundo, Los Angeles County, from August 20, 2015, through December 31, 2015, as designated on Exhibit A, attached hereto.



EXHIBIT A
Project Site Location

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