

CALENDAR ITEM  
**C25**

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02/07/17  
PRC 6885.1  
G. Asimakopoulos

**GENERAL LEASE – RECREATIONAL AND  
PROTECTIVE STRUCTURE USE**

**APPLICANT:**

Joseph R. Chalifoux and Sherri E. Chalifoux

**PROPOSED LEASE**

*AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:*

Sovereign land located in the Sacramento River, adjacent to 2827 Garden Highway, near the city of Sacramento, Sacramento County.

*AUTHORIZED USE:*

Use and maintenance of existing bank protection, and construction, use, and maintenance of a floating boat dock, gangway, and three steel pilings.

*LEASE TERM:*

10 years, beginning February 7, 2017.

*CONSIDERATION:*

**Floating Boat Dock, Gangway, and Three Steel Pilings:** \$324 per year, with an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment.

**Bank Protection:** The public use and benefit; with the State reserving the right at any time to set a monetary rent if the Commission finds such action to be in the State's best interests.

*SPECIFIC LEASE PROVISIONS:*

Liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

**STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:**

**Authority:**

Public Resources Code sections 6005, 6216, 6301, and 6503.5; California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 2000, subdivision (b).

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**Public Trust and State's Best Interests Analysis:**

On May 3, 1995, the Commission authorized a 10-year General Lease - Protective Structure and Recreational Use to David C. Finley ([Calendar Item C02, May 3, 1995](#)). That lease expired on July 31, 2005. The previously authorized dock and gangway were removed sometime in 1998. On August 30, 2013, the upland parcel was deeded to Joseph R. Chalifoux and Sherri E. Chalifoux. The Applicant is now applying for a General Lease – Recreational and Protective Structure Use for the construction, use and maintenance of a 40' x 24' uncovered single-berth floating boat dock, 60' x 5' gangway, and three steel pilings. Construction of the improvements must be completed by October 31, 2021. The proposed improvements will be privately owned and maintained. The adjacent upland parcel is privately owned and developed with a residence.

The subject dock and appurtenant facilities will be for the docking and mooring of boats. Recreational boating is water-dependent and is generally consistent with the common law Public Trust Doctrine. The California Legislature has identified private recreational boating facilities as an authorized use of Public Trust lands (Pub. Resources Code, § 6503.5).

The proposed lease includes certain provisions protecting the public use of the proposed lease area, including a limited lease term of 10 years and a non-exclusive use provision. The previously authorized dock and appurtenant facilities had existed for many years at this location; and the new dock and gangway will be located in the same area. The facilities will not significantly alter the land, the lease does not alienate the State's fee simple interest, and neither permanently impairs public rights. Upon termination of the lease, the lessee may be required to remove any improvements and restore the lease premises to their original condition.

The proposed lease requires the lessee to insure the lease premises and indemnify the State for any liability incurred as a result of the lessee's activities thereon. The lease also requires the payment of annual rent to compensate the people of the State for the occupation of the public land involved. The bank protection will maintain and improve the integrity of the river channel, which will help protect the Public Trust resource of the river for recreational and navigational purposes by the public.

**Climate Change:**

Climate change impacts, including sea-level rise, are not limited to the open coast and may involve increased wave activity, storm events, and flooding. The existing bank protection and the proposed facilities within the

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proposed lease area are located in and along the Sacramento River within a tidally-influenced region. These existing and proposed facilities are, and will be, vulnerable to flooding at current sea levels and at a higher risk of flood exposure given future projected scenarios of sea-level rise. The project includes the construction of an uncovered single-berth floating boat dock, gangway, and three steel pilings, and use of existing bank protection. By 2030, California's coast could see up to 1 foot of sea-level rise (from year 2000 levels), 2 feet by 2050, and possibly more than 5 feet by 2100 (National Research Council 2012). This effect could increase the Sacramento River's inundation levels within the lease area. In addition, as stated in *Safeguarding California* (California Natural Resources Agency 2014), climate change is projected to increase the frequency and severity of natural disasters related to flooding, drought, and storms (especially when coupled with sea-level rise).

Climate change could have a number of impacts for the region. The amount and timing of snowmelt runoff will likely change such that runoff pulses are earlier in the season and stronger precipitation events will occur over a shorter period of time. This is because warming temperatures will result in more water falling as rain rather than snow, earlier spring snowmelt, and less snowpack overall. In rivers and tidally-influenced waterways, more frequent and powerful storms can result in increased flooding conditions and damage from storm-created debris. In addition, there will be greater amounts of runoff because less water will be trapped at higher altitudes in snowpack. Conversely, climate-change induced droughts could decrease river levels and flow for extended periods of time. Climate change and sea-level rise will further influence coastal and riverine areas by changing erosion and sedimentation rates. In rivers and tidally influenced waterways, flooding and storm flow will likely increase scour, decreasing bank stability and structure.

The combination of these projected conditions could potentially raise the likelihood of damage to structures within the lease premises during the term of the lease. For example, the potential for more frequent and stronger storm events may expose the lease area structures to higher flood risks and cause structures to be damaged or dislodged, presenting hazards to public safety, as well as dangers for navigation within the channel. Conversely, prolonged drought conditions could lower water levels exposing previously submerged structures to the elements potentially leading to increased wear and tear on the pilings and dock, reduce navigability of the channel thereby increasing hazards, and impact the function and utility of the lease area structures. The floating dock and gangway will be adaptable to variable water levels, allowing them to rise

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and fall with storms and droughts and increasing their resiliency to some climate change impacts, but may require more frequent maintenance to ensure continued function during and after storm seasons and to avoid dislodgement of dock facilities. The fixed features may need to be reinforced to withstand higher levels of flood exposure. The bank is somewhat vegetated, which provides stability and reduces the amount of erosion and scour pressure it may experience during future events, but remains at risk of accelerated deterioration from currents and floods. Regular maintenance, as required by the terms of the lease, will reduce the likelihood of severe structural degradation or dislodgement. The lease includes an acknowledgement that the lease premises may be subject to the effects of sea-level rise and may require additional maintenance or protection as a result, for which the lessee agrees to be solely responsible.

**Conclusion:**

For all the reasons above, staff believes the issuance of this lease is consistent with the common law Public Trust Doctrine and will not substantially interfere with Public Trust needs at this location, at this time, and for the foreseeable term of the proposed lease, and is in the best interests of the State.

**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

1. This action is consistent with Strategy 1.1 of the Commission's Strategic Plan to deliver the highest levels of public health and safety in the protection, preservation, and responsible economic use of the lands and resources under the Commission's jurisdiction.
2. Staff recommends that the Commission find that the issuance of the lease is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 3, New Construction of Small Structures; California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 2905, subdivision (c)(1).

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

3. 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 staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through

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the CEQA review process, it is staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

**APPROVALS REQUIRED:**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Reclamation District 1000

**EXHIBITS:**

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

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the Commission:

**CEQA FINDING:**

Find that the issuance of the lease is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061 as a categorically exempt project, Class 3, New Construction of Small Structures; California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 2905, subdivision (c)(1).

**PUBLIC TRUST AND STATE'S BEST INTERESTS:**

Find that the proposed lease will not substantially interfere with the Public Trust needs and values at this location at this time, or for the foreseeable term of the lease, is consistent with the common law Public Trust Doctrine, and is in the best interests of the State.

**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 Lease No PRC 6885.1, a General Lease – Recreational and Protective Structure Use to Joseph R. Chalifoux and Sherri E. Chalifoux beginning February 7, 2017, for a term of 10 years, for use and maintenance of existing bank protection, and construction, use, and maintenance of a floating boat dock, gangway, and three steel pilings, as described in Exhibit A, Land Description, and as shown on Exhibit B, Site and Location Map (for reference purposes only), attached and by this reference made a part hereof; consideration for the floating boat dock,

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gangway, and three steel pilings: \$324 per year, with an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment; consideration for the bank protection: the public use and benefit, with the State reserving the right at any time to set a monetary rent if the Commission finds such action to be in the State's best interests; and liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

**EXHIBIT A**

**PRC 6885.1**

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

A parcel of tide and submerged land situate in the bed of the Sacramento River lying adjacent to Swamp and Overflowed Lands Survey 206 patented August 2, 1869 County of Sacramento, State of California, and more particularly described as follows:

All those lands underlying a proposed single berth floating dock, three (3) pilings and gangway adjacent to that parcel as described in Exhibit "A" of that Grant Deed recorded August 30, 2013 in Book 20130830 Page 984, Official Records of said County.

TOGETHER WITH any applicable impact area(s).

ALSO TOGETHER WITH that land lying immediately beneath any bank protection structure lying adjacent to said parcel.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM any portion(s) lying landward of the Ordinary High Water Mark of the Sacramento River.

Accompanying plat is hereby made part of this description.

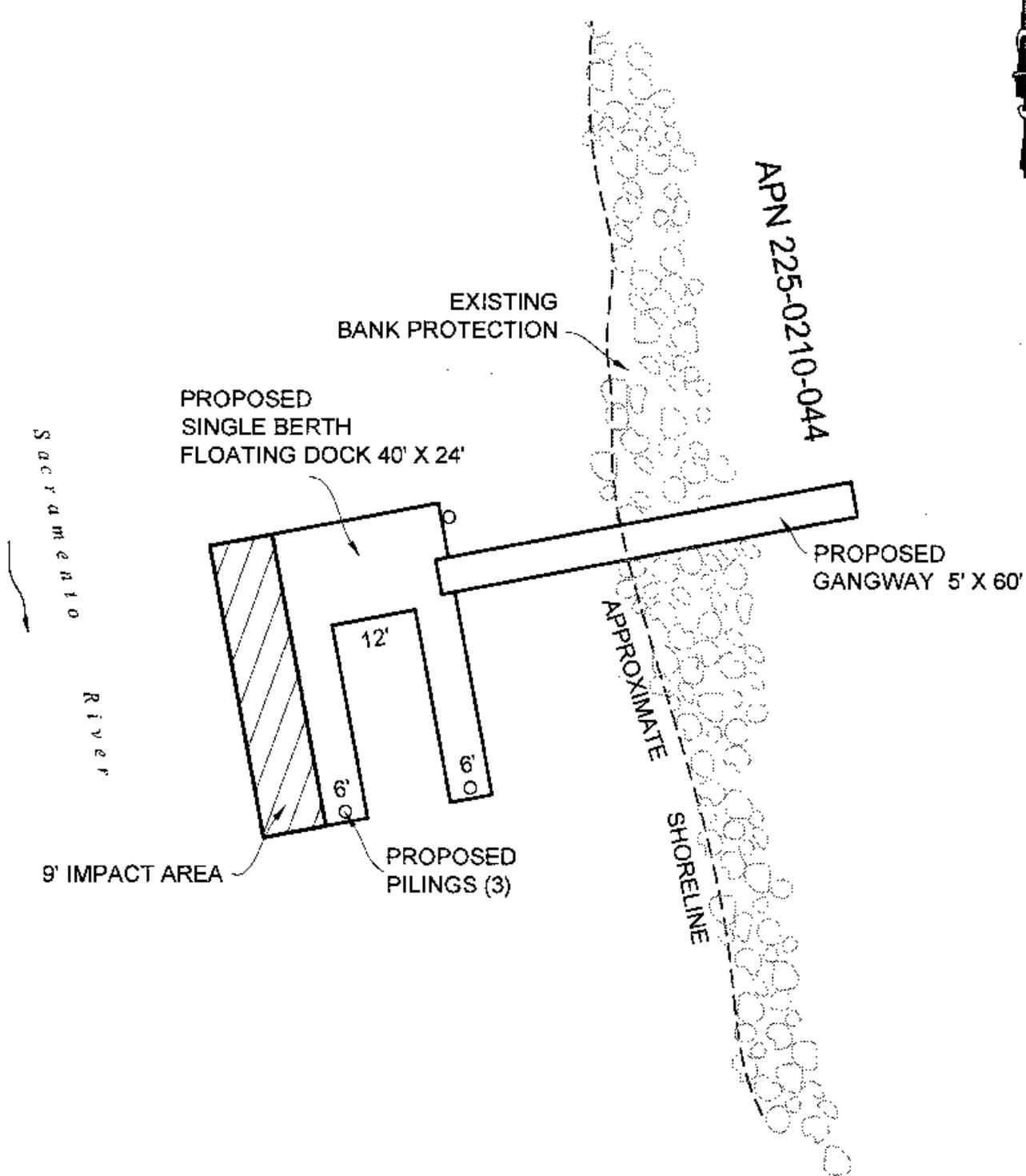
This description is based on Applicant provided design plans for a proposed dock, together with any and all appurtenances pertaining thereto, to be built at a later date within the lease time frame. This description is to be updated once final as-built plans are submitted.

**END OF DESCRIPTION**

Prepared December 29, 2016 by

The California State Lands Commission Boundary Unit



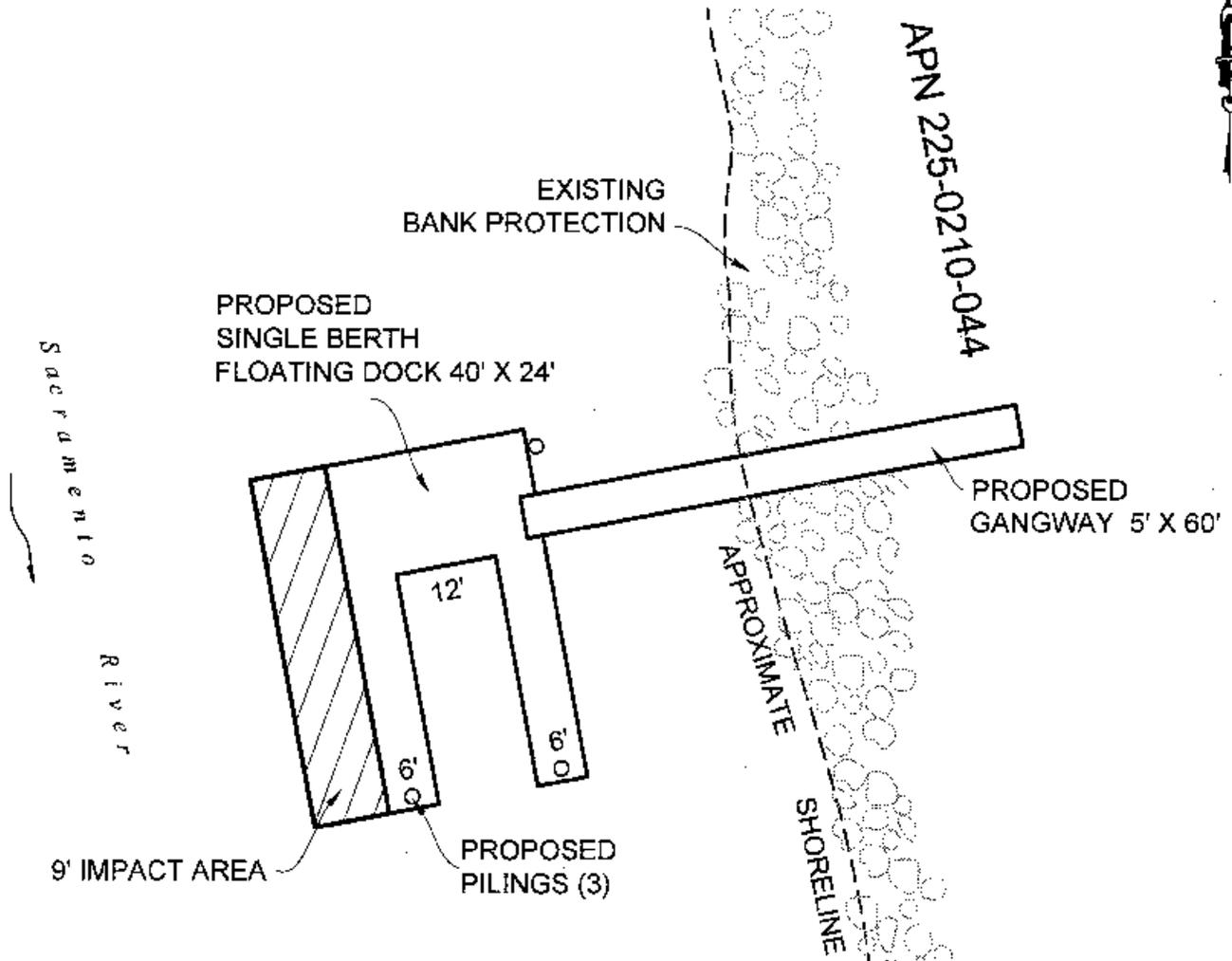


# EXHIBIT A



NO SCALE

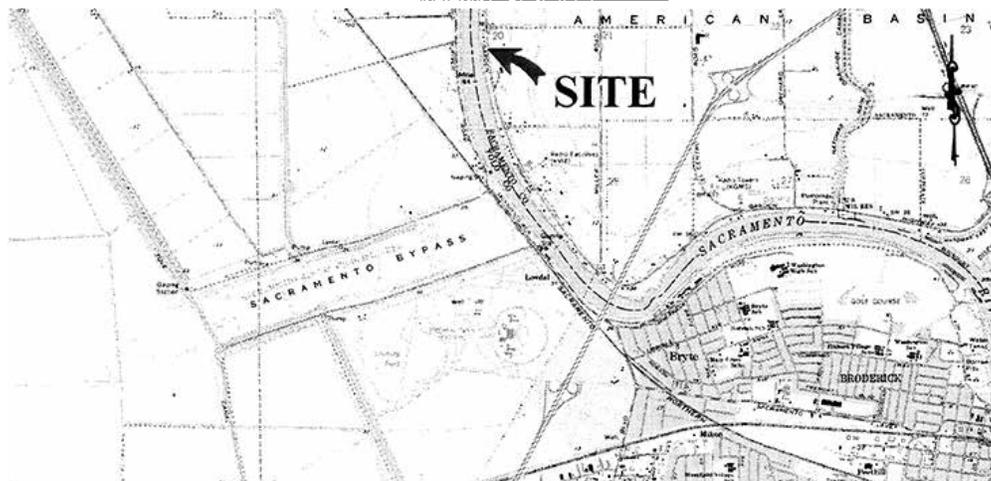
# SITE



2827 GARDEN HWY., NEAR SACRAMENTO

NO SCALE

# LOCATION



MAP SOURCE: USGS QUAD

# Exhibit B

PRC 6885.1  
 CHALIFOUX  
 APN 225-0210-044  
 GENERAL LEASE -  
 RECREATIONAL &  
 PROTECTIVE STRUCTURE USE  
 SACRAMENTO COUNTY



This Exhibit is solely for purposes of generally defining the lease premises, is based on unverified information provided by the Lessee or other parties and is not intended to be, nor shall it be construed as, a waiver or limitation of any State interest in the subject or any other property.