

**STAFF REPORT  
C02**

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04/19/18  
PRC 7513.1  
S. Avila

**GENERAL LEASE – RECREATIONAL USE**

**APPLICANT:**

Douglas F. Busch and Julie M. Busch, Trustees of the Busch Family Living Trust, dated April 1, 2000

**PROPOSED LEASE:**

*AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:*

Sovereign land in Lake Tahoe, adjacent to 8321 Meeks Bay Avenue, near Meeks Bay, El Dorado County.

*AUTHORIZED USE:*

Continued use and maintenance of an existing pier, boat lift, and two mooring buoys.

*LEASE TERM:*

10 years, beginning April 21, 2018.

*CONSIDERATION:*

\$1,033 per year, with an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment.

*SPECIFIC LEASE PROVISIONS:*

1. Liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
2. Lessee shall not store any personal items or construct any improvements in the Public Trust easement that may impair the public uses of access, navigation, fishing, and lake-related recreational uses.
3. If Lessee does not have a valid Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) buoy permit, Lessee is required to obtain such authorization for the mooring buoys within 2 years after the certification of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Lake Tahoe Shorezone Ordinance Amendments and approval of the amended ordinances. If Lessee is unable to obtain such

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authorization within the time limit, they may be required to remove the buoys.

4. Lessee expressly acknowledges and agrees that issuance of a lease does not substitute for, or provide preference in, obtaining authorizations from TRPA or any other regulatory agency for the improvements authorized by the Commission.

**STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:**

**Authority:**

Public Resources Code sections 6005, 6216, 6301, 6501.1, and 6503.5; California Code of Regulations, title 2, sections 2000 and 2003.

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

On April 26, 2013, the Commission authorized the issuance of Lease No. PRC 7513.1, a General Lease - Recreational Use, for an existing pier, boat lift, and two mooring buoys, to Douglas F. Busch and Julie M. Busch, Trustees of the Busch Family Living Trust, dated April 1, 2000, ([Item C06, April 23, 2013](#)). That lease will expire on April 20, 2018. The Applicant is applying for a General Lease – Recreational Use for the existing pier, boat lift, and two mooring buoys.

Applicant owns the upland adjoining the lease premises. The subject facilities are privately owned and maintained. The pier, boat lift, and two mooring buoys are used for the docking and mooring of boats. Recreational boating is a water-dependent use that 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 land (Pub. Resources Code, § 6503.5).

The pier, boat lift, and buoys have existed for many years at this location. The pier is built on single pilings. The immediate area of the existing pier is gently sloped and made up of sand with the occasional boulder scattered around, which enables easy public access along the Public Trust easement. The buoys are located directly lakeward of the upland parcel and occupy a relatively small area of the lake.

The proposed lease does not alienate the State's fee simple interest or permanently impair public rights. The lease is limited to a 10-year term and does not grant the lessee exclusive rights to the lease premises and reserves an easement to the public for Public Trust-consistent uses. Upon termination of the lease, the lessee may be required to remove all

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improvements from State land and restore the lease premise 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.

For all the reasons above, Commission staff believes the issuance of this lease 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. These actions are 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 and Strategy 1.3 to promote, expand, and enhance appropriate public use and access to and along the State's inland and coastal waterways.
2. 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.

**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).

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

Find that the proposed lease will not substantially impair the public rights to navigation and fishing or substantially interfere with Public Trust needs and values at this location, at this time, and for the foreseeable term of the lease; and is in the best interests of the State.

**AUTHORIZATION:**

Authorize issuance of a General Lease – Recreational Use to the Applicant beginning April 21, 2018, for a term of 10 years, for the continued use and maintenance of an existing pier, boat lift, and two mooring buoys, 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 \$1,033 with an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment; and liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

**EXHIBIT A**

**PRC 7513.1**

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Three parcels of submerged land situate in the bed of Lake Tahoe, lying adjacent to Lot 1 of fractional Section 28, Township 14 North, Range 17 East, MDM., as shown on Official Government Township Plat approved July 29, 1880, County of El Dorado, State of California and more particularly described as follows:

**PARCEL 1 – PIER**

All those lands underlying an existing pier, catwalk and boatlift lying adjacent to that parcel as described in that Exhibit "A" of that Grant Deed recorded August 3, 2012 as Document Number 2012-0038457 in Official Records of said County.

TOGETHER WITH any applicable impact area(s).

EXCEPTING THEREFROM any portion(s) lying landward of elevation 6223 feet LTD on the shoreline of said Lake Tahoe.

**PARCEL 2 & 3– BUOYS (2)**

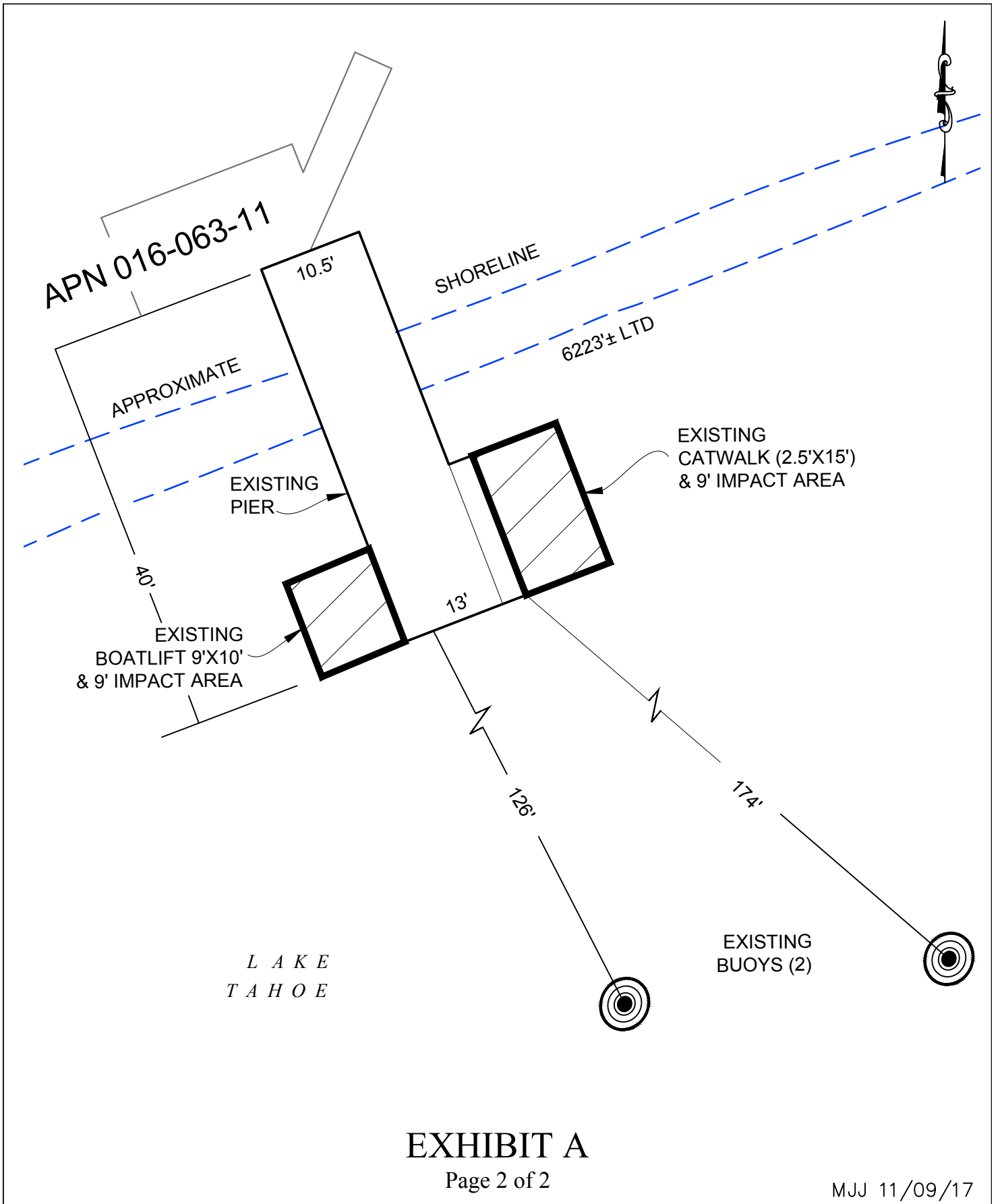
Two circular parcels of land, being 50 feet in diameter, underlying two existing buoys lying adjacent to said parcel.

Accompanying plat is hereby made part of this description.

**END OF DESCRIPTION**

Prepared November 13, 2017 by The California State Lands Commission Boundary Unit.





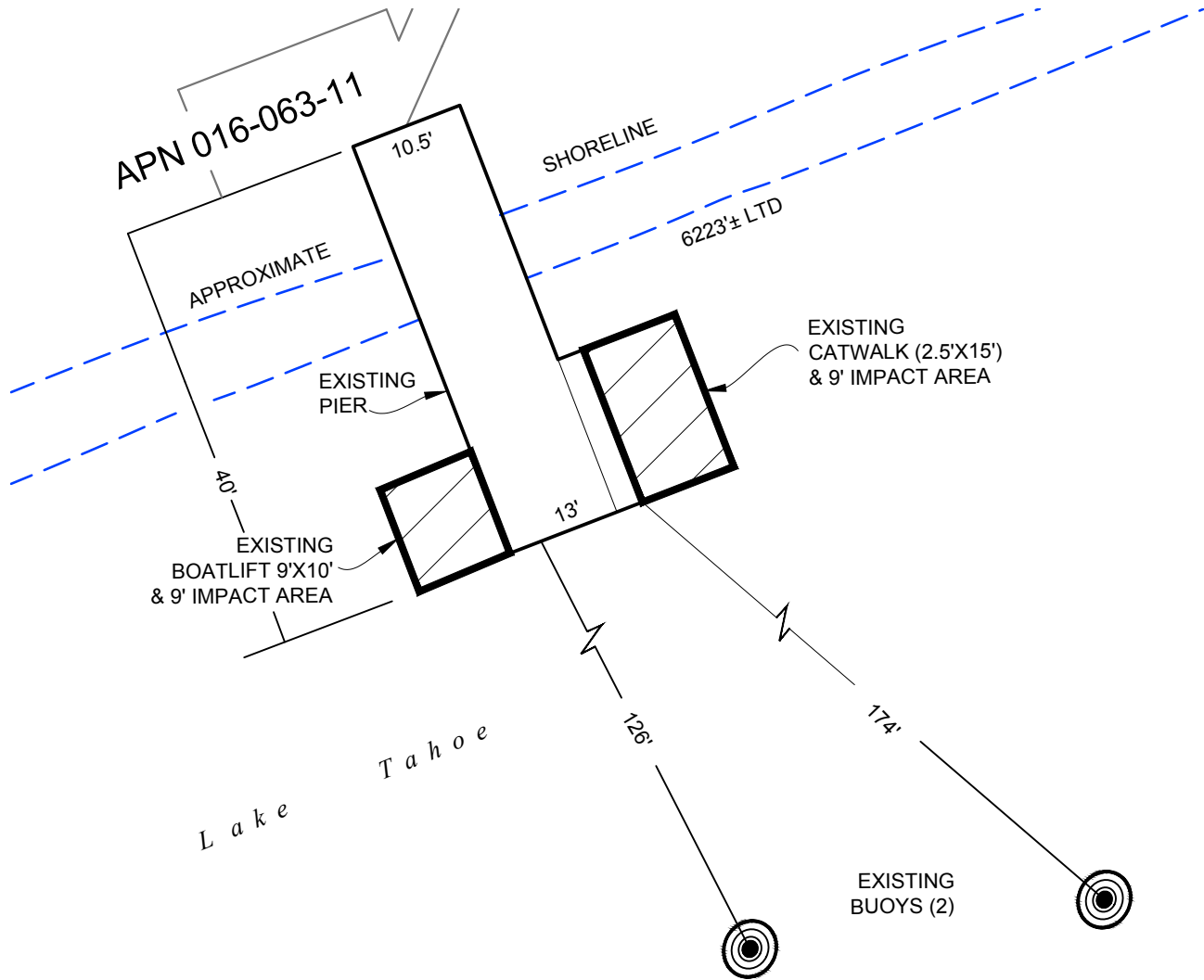
LAND DESCRIPTION PLAT  
 PRC 7513.1, BUSCH TRUST  
 EL DORADO COUNTY

CALIFORNIA STATE  
 LANDS COMMISSION



NO SCALE

# SITE



8321 MEEKS BAY AVENUE, MEEKS BAY

NO SCALE

# LOCATION

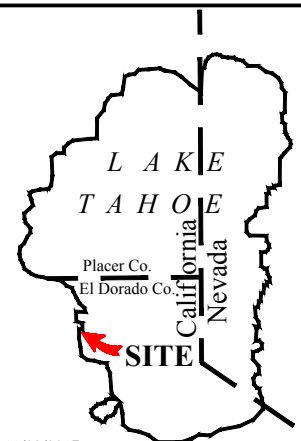


MAP SOURCE: USGS QUAD

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.

# Exhibit B

PRC 7513.1  
 BUSCH FAMILY  
 LIVING TRUST  
 APN 016-063-11  
 GENERAL LEASE -  
 RECREATIONAL USE  
 EL DORADO COUNTY



MJJ 11/09/2017