

MINUTE ITEM  
This Calendar Item No. C7  
was approved as Minute Item  
No. 7 by the State Lands  
Commission by a vote of 3  
to 0 at its 11-14-87  
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A 61  
S 25

C07

11/19/87  
WP 6919 PRC 6919  
Fong

APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR ORV RACE

APPLICANT: Sports Committee, District 37  
A.M.A., Inc.  
25787 Tournament Road  
Valencia, California 91355

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:  
Portions of two sections of school land in  
Section 36, T15N R9E, SBM and Section 36, T16N  
R10E, SBM, in San Bernardino County.

LAND USE: Barstow to Vegas Motorcycle Race.

TERMS OF PROPOSED LEASE:

Initial period: One day on the Saturday  
following the Thanksgiving  
holiday being November 28,  
1987.

Public liability insurance: Combined single  
limit coverage of \$1,000,000.

CONSIDERATION: \$250 per annum.

BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Pursuant to 2 Cal. Adm. Code 2003.

PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:

Filing fee has been received.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Parts 1 and 2; Div. 13.

B. Cal. Adm. Code: Title 2, Div. 3; Title 14,  
Div. 6.

AB 884: 03/03/88

(ADDED 11/15/87)

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OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. District 37 of the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) has applied for mass start, hare-hound motorcycle races to be held on the Saturday following Thanksgiving, following essentially the same course and permit stipulations used for the 1986 Barstow to Vegas race. The lease will be for the Barstow to Las Vegas races, subject to review after each race. Entry will be limited to 1,200 motorcycles/ATVs for this 162 mile desert race. The race course includes approximately 1.5 miles of State school lands located in Section 36, T15N R9E, SBM and Section 36, T16N R10E, SBM.

An EA/EIR was prepared and adopted for the 1985 and 1986 races by BLM-Needles Resource Area/San Bernardino County. An addendum to the 1985, 1986 Environment Assessment has been prepared by the Needles Resource Area office of the BLM. The Applicant has completed off-site protection measures to mitigate desert tortoise impacts. The staff has reviewed this document and believes it complies with the requirements of the CEQA.

FURTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED:

Caltrans Encroachment Permit, San Bernardino County Site Approval and BLM Permit.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Land Description.
- B. Location Map.
- C. Conditions of Approval.
- D. CEQA Findings.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT AN EA/EIR WAS PREPARED AND ADOPTED FOR THIS PROJECT BY BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT-NEEDLES RESOURCE AREA/SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN;

(ADDED 11/16/87)

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2. ADOPT THE FINDINGS HERETO ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "D" IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CEQA (P.R.C. SECTIONS 2100, ET SEQ.) AND THE STATE EIR GUIDELINES;
3. AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE TO SPORTS COMMITTEE, DISTRICT 37 A.M.A., INC. OF A GENERAL LEASE - RECREATIONAL USE FOR NOVEMBER 28, 1987, IN CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE MITIGATIONS AND CONDITIONS AS DESCRIBED IN THE FINAL EA/EIR AND EXHIBIT "D"; IN CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL RENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250, WITH THE STATE RESERVING THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE THE LEASE IF THE CONDITIONS STATED IN EXHIBIT "C" ARE NOT SATISFIED FOR USE OF STATE-OWNED LANDS FOR A RACE EVENT ON THE LAND DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.

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EXHIBIT "A"  
LAND DESCRIPTION

Those portions of the "Barstow to Vegas Motorcycle Race" course lying within those parcels of California State school lands described as follows:

Parcel 1

Section 36, T15N, R9E, SBM.

Parcel 2

Section 36, T16N, R10E, SBM.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED OCTOBER 1, 1984 BY BOUNDARY AND TITLE UNIT.

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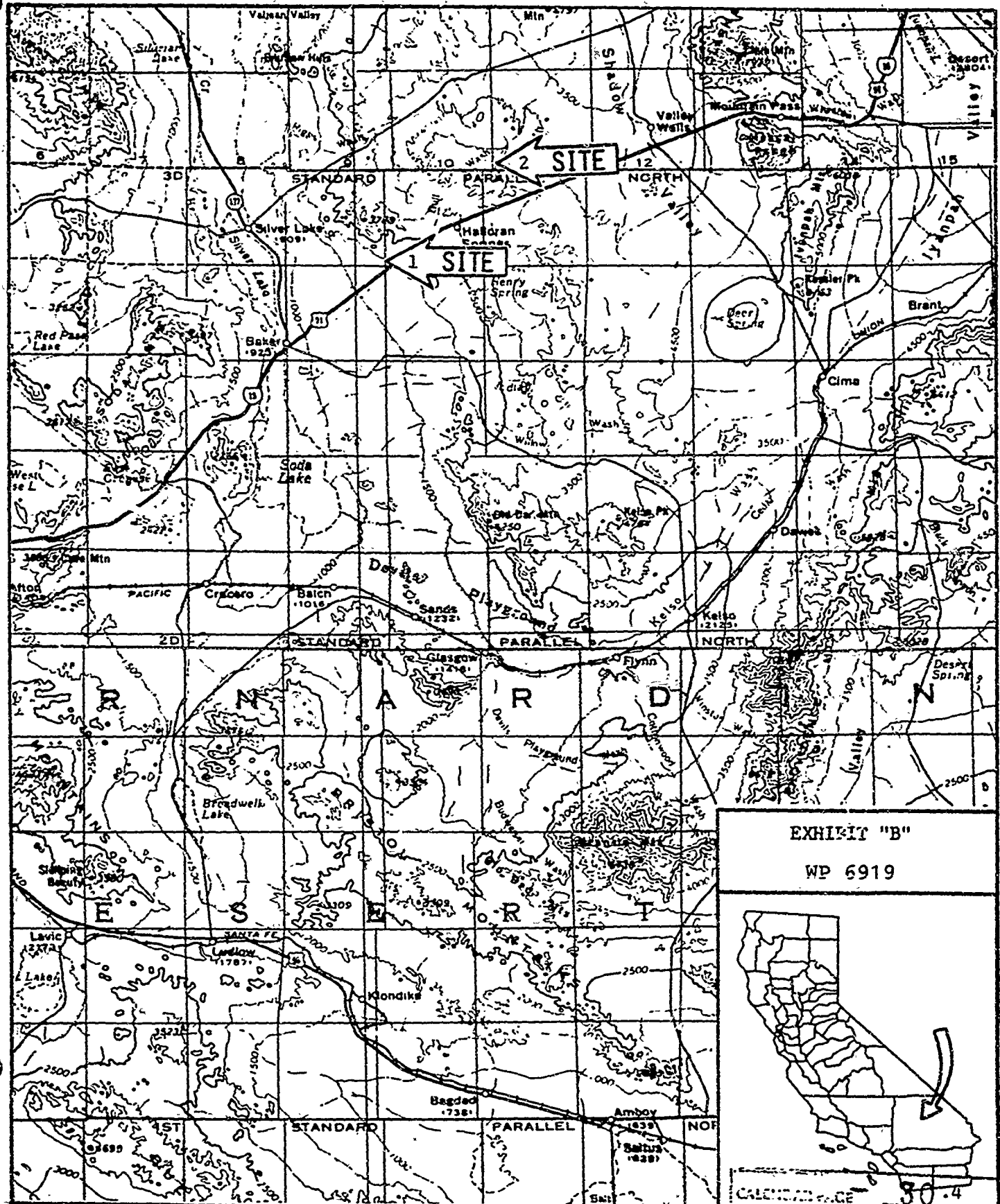


EXHIBIT "B"

WP 6919



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EXHIBIT "C"  
1987 Barstow to Vegas Race Lease -  
Conditions of Approval

1. The lease is subject to review after each race. Compliance with the conditions and mitigation measures imposed by BLM, San Bernardino County and SLC and the environmental degradation resulting from race effects will be reviewed prior to each successive race. Staff may recommend that the issuance of future lease be denied based upon the findings of the post race evaluations.

EXHIBIT "D"  
CEQA Findings

The State Lands Commission (SLC) is a Responsible Agency for this project, and has the responsibility for mitigating or avoiding the environmental effects of those portions of the project under SLC jurisdiction. Pursuant to Sections 15091 and 15096, Title 14, of the California Administrative Code, staff of the SLC has made the following findings for each significant effect of such parts of the project.

Issue: Soils

Impact: Continued and concentrated use of the race course may result in excessive compaction and rutting. This in turn may cause racers and other road users difficulty in maneuvering and could lead to straying off the roadway and traveling cross-country (see also impacts to vegetation and wildlife).

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

Facts Supporting Finding:

The race course crosses two Sections of state-owned land on existing dirt road tracks. Impacts due to deterioration of road surfaces by braiding, widening, rutting or compaction can be avoided by both preventative and remedial mitigation measures:

- o Prior to each race event, the applicant shall inspect the course and groom the roadway surface as necessary.
- o If soils are excessively wet from recent precipitation, the race shall be postponed until the ground dries substantially.
- o After each race event, the applicant shall systematically inspect the race course and carefully restore the surfaces as necessary to pre-race conditions.

Issue: Vegetation and Wildlife

Impact: Straying off the race course could disturb or destroy vegetation, wildlife habitat or populations. Significant impacts could occur from a single event as well as from the cumulative effects of many races.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

Facts Supporting Finding:

Accidental or deliberate straying off the race course can injure or kill individual plants and animals. Off-road travel can also lead to severe soil erosion. Depending upon the amount of damage, the species involved, and the location, significant adverse environmental impacts on desert biotic communities can occur. The effects tend to be long-lasting due to the slow regenerative abilities of most desert habitat types.

The race course through State lands follows established dirt roads. Mitigation measures center on ensuring that race participants remain on the roadways designated for the race. In addition to the conditions listed under the "Soils" issue, the following stipulations should avoid impacts due to off-road travel:

- o The applicant shall ensure that all event participants, including racers, spectators, and support crews, remain on the approved race course, which shall be restricted to the width of the existing dirt road track.
- o The applicant shall be responsible for clearly marking the course by flagging or flagged stakes, placed on either side of the road so that racers can ordinarily see two flags ahead. Turns shall be marked with pennant flagging and, as appropriate, posted before the turn with signs to slow down.



Issue: Sensitive Species - Desert Tortoise

Impact: The race course passes through the Desert Tortoise range. The race events could directly or indirectly cause significant environmental impacts by degrading habitat (see Vegetation and Wildlife Issue) or injuring or killing individual tortoises.

- Finding:
- a) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.
  - b) Some changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. Such changes have been adopted by that Agency.

Facts Supporting Finding:

Because the race passes through State lands on pre-existing roadways, the potential for substantial harm to Desert Tortoise populations is regarded as low. In addition, the races will take place during the winter, when the tortoise is hibernating in burrows. However, any burrows on or near the roadways could be damaged, and individual tortoises could be injured or killed. Because of the sensitivity of this species, any impacts must be considered as potentially significant.

The mitigation measures listed previously for the Soils and Vegetation and Wildlife Issues, which are aimed at confining race participants to the race course roadway, should substantially reduce impacts to the Desert Tortoise. In addition, the Bureau of Land Management is requiring the following off-site tortoise habitat protection measure to mitigate impacts for the whole of the project: