

MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C19
was approved as Minute Item
No. 19 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 2
to 0 at its 8-12-91
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

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08/12/91
W 24705 PRC 7564
Pelkofer

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY PERMIT - INFORMATION COLLECTION

APPLICANT:

Mr. Bruce Watkins
582 Rumbolt Way
Livermore, California 94550

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:

Tide and submerged land in the Pacific Ocean approximately three miles north of Point Sur, Monterey County, about a half-mile offshore.

LAND USE:

Survey, identify, and map the wreck site of the S. S. Ventura, which struck two rocks, broke up, and sank on April 20, 1875. No object recovery will be undertaken and the survey activity will require only minimal or no disturbance of the bottom surface.

TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:

Initial period:

One (1) year beginning on the date of execution of the permit by the State Lands Commission.

CONSIDERATION:

The public benefit.

BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Pursuant to 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2003(a)(4)(A).

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

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

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

AB 884:

N/A

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The S. S. Ventura was a wooden-hulled steamship of 775 tons that was built for the Navy in 1866 and commissioned as the USS Reseca. The ship was purchased by Goodall Nelson and Perkins in 1873 and put into service as a coast-wise steamer between San Francisco and San Diego, with stops in Santa Barbara and San Pedro.

She left San Francisco on the morning of April 20, 1875 with a hundred and thirty passengers, baggage and express, and four hundred tons of freight, destined for Los Angeles. About five P.M., she ran into a fog bank after passing New Year's Island and lowered sail and reduced speed, but proceeded on her passage. About eight o'clock, a crewman reported a light through the fog, which was thought to be a sister ship on her passage northward. Shortly thereafter, she cleared the fog and the lookout shouted "breakers" just before she struck the rocks.

She was close enough to allow a rope to be run to the beach and all the passengers were successfully transferred to shore. They were picked up the next day by the Santa Cruz and taken to Monterey. The ship's hull, which was badly damaged by the rocks and surf, was stripped clean by salvagers and what remained was left to break up in the sea.

2. Applicant has located the site of the wreck and has made a number of dives to identify a boiler, propeller shaft, and various other large pieces of machinery. Based on his research, he believes it to be from the Ventura. Applicant proposes to survey and map the site identifying visible artifacts and photographing them. No disturbance of the site is planned and no artifacts will be disturbed or removed from the site.
3. James Allan, marine archaeologist with the Institute for Western Maritime Archaeology at the University of California at Berkeley, will act as advisor on the project. Applicant has provided a satisfactory survey plan and will continue to make survey dives and do research pending the issuance of the permit.

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4. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15061), the staff has determined that this activity is exempt from the requirements of the CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 6, Information Collection, 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15106 and 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2905(e)(3).

Authority: P.R.C. 21084 and 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15300 and 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2905.

5. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370, et seq. 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.

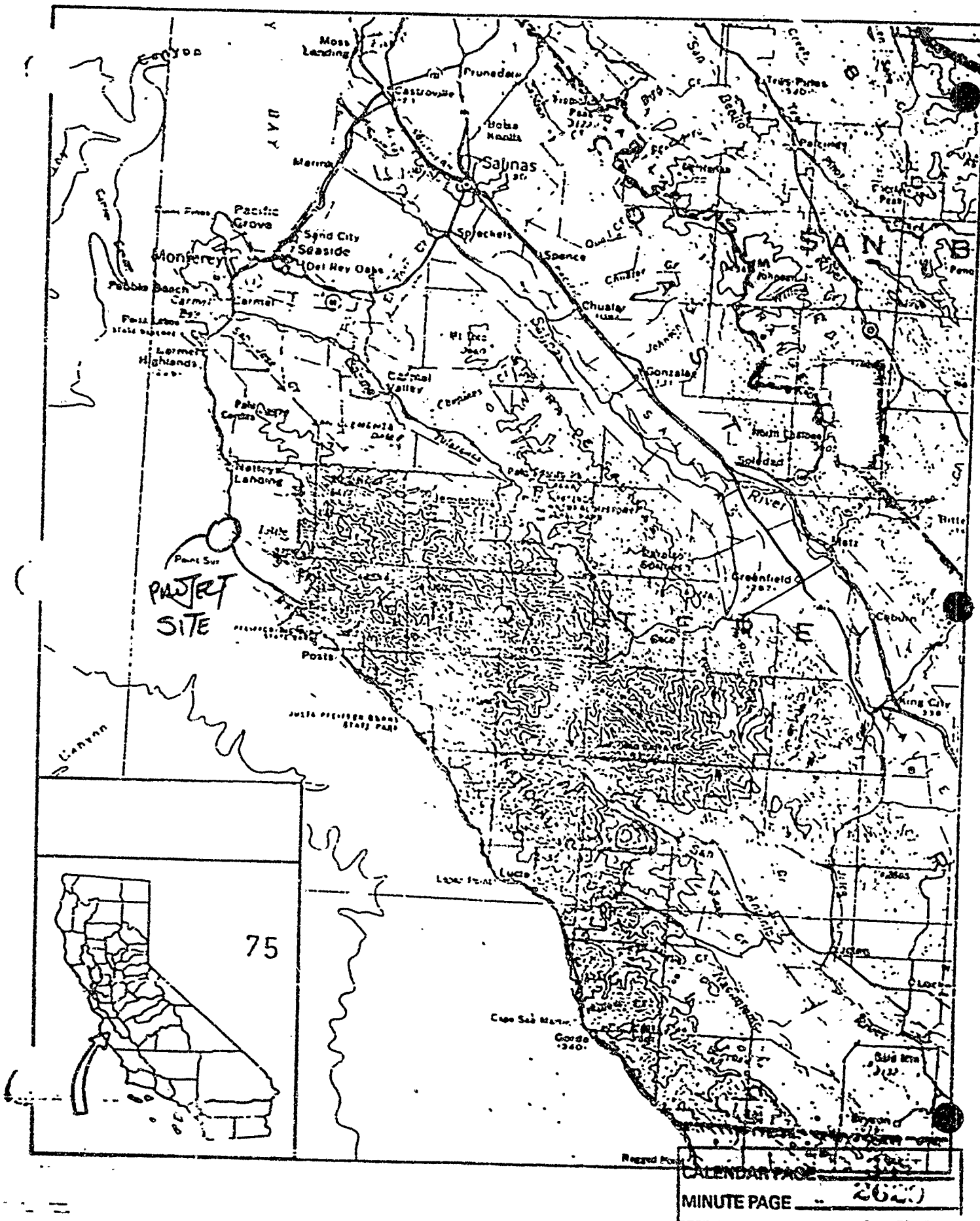
EXHIBIT:

- A. Location Map

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15061 AS A CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT PROJECT, CLASS 6, INFORMATION COLLECTION, 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15106, 2 CAL. CODE REGS. 2905(e)(3).
2. AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF A ONE-YEAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY PERMIT - INFORMATION COLLECTION, COMMENCING ON THE DATE THE PERMIT IS EXECUTED BY THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, FOR THE SURVEY, MAPPING, AND IDENTIFICATION OF ARTIFACTS FROM THE WRECK SITE OF THE S. S. VENTURA IN THE GENERAL LOCATION SHOWN ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED.

EXHIBIT A



PROJECT SITE

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