

This Calendar Item No. C39 was approved as Minute Item No. 39 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 12-09-03 meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM C39

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P. Griggs

CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION BY THE WEST SACRAMENTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF THE FIRST PACIFIC COAST SALMON CANNERY SITE AS A CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL LANDMARK, SACRAMENTO RIVER, CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO, YOLO COUNTY

APPLICANT:

West Sacramento Historical Society
P.O. Box 65
Broderick, CA 95605

BACKGROUND:

The West Sacramento Historical Society (Society) has requested that the California State Lands Commission (Commission) support the Society's nomination, to the Office of Historic Preservation, of the First Pacific Coast Salmon Cannery site as a California Historical Landmark. The Cannery was located on a barge anchored in the Sacramento River opposite the city of Sacramento's K Street on lands owned by the State of California; now under the jurisdiction of the Commission. This area is adjacent to the West Sacramento River Walk Park. The Commission must give its written consent for the nomination to proceed.

Between 1864 and 1866, William and George Hume and Andrew Hapgood perfected the canning techniques that led to the development of the multi-million dollar Pacific Coast salmon canning industry. Before canning, sales were limited to fresh and salted salmon. In 1866, the three men established the Columbia River salmon canning industry in Washington based on the techniques first developed at the Sacramento River cannery. Later, George Hume became one of the founders of the Alaska Packers Association.

In 1964, the National Park Service designated the Cannery site as a National Historic Landmark for its significance in commerce. Subsequent changes to the site affected the qualities that made the site eligible under the strict criteria required for National Historic Landmarks. As a result, the National Park Service is withdrawing the designation. The bronze plaque placed by the National Park Service was removed during development of the area in the 1980s and cannot be located.

The Cannery site may, however, be eligible for designation as a California Historical

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Landmark because: 1) it was the first of its type in the State, 2) it had important statewide economic significance, and 3) sites with no physical remains may still qualify for listing.

The Society has begun the process to designate the Cannery site as a California Historical Landmark. This process includes submitting a nomination to the Office of Historic Preservation for its review, presentation to the State Historical Resources Commission for its approval, and registration by the Director of California State Parks. The Society submitted its nomination to the Office of Historic Preservation on November 1, 2003. The Society would like for the nomination to be considered at the next meeting of the State Historical Resources Commission in February 2004.

Another requirement for designation of a site is written consent of the property owner. The Society wrote the Commission asking it to support the nomination by writing a letter to the Office of Historic Preservation giving its consent. Without the Commission's consent, the site may not be designated as a landmark.

The site does not need protection from any potential change in land use because no structures or other facilities from the Cannery remain at the site. Any further commercial use or other development of the site or surrounding area would not be hindered by the landmark designation, as it would be commemorative only.

If the designation is approved by the State Historical Resources Commission, a bronze plaque would be placed on or near the site. The Office of Historic Preservation would approve the wording on the plaque. The Society, or others, would pay for the marker's cost, construction, and maintenance. The marker would be placed along the existing West Sacramento River Walk Park or on State land between the River Walk and the Sacramento River at a location mutually agreeable to the Office of Historic Preservation, the property owner (Commission), adjoining property owner(s) and any affected lessee(s).

Staff recommends: 1) that the Executive Officer be authorized to write a letter to the California Office of Historic Preservation supporting the Society's nomination of the Salmon Cannery site as a California Historical Landmark, 2) that the Executive Officer or his designee work cooperatively with the Office of Historic Preservation, adjoining property owner(s), and any affected lessees to determine a mutually agreeable location for the proposed bronze plaque, and 3) that the Commission authorize placement of the proposed bronze plaque on State land.

CONDITIONS:

The location of the bronze plaque, if on State land, must be approved, in writing, by the Executive Officer before the Society installs the marker.

Placement of the bronze plaque shall be conducted in compliance with all applicable federal, State and local laws, rules and regulations.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- A. Public Resources Code sections 6301 and 21084.
- B. Cal. Code Regs.: Title 14, Div. 6, section 15303.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 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 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

Authority: Public Resources Code sections 6301 and 21084, and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15303.

2. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 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

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

CEQA FINDING:

FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15303 AS A CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT PROJECT, CLASS 3, NEW CONSTRUCTION OR CONVERSION OF SMALL STRUCTURES.

SIGNIFICANT LANDS INVENTORY FINDING:

FIND THAT THIS ACTIVITY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE USE

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CLASSIFICATION DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE LAND PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTIONS 6370, ET SEQ.

AUTHORIZATION:

1. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION SUPPORTING THE WEST SACRAMENTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S NOMINATION OF THE FIRST PACIFIC COAST SALMON CANNERY SITE AS A CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL LANDMARK.

2. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION, ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNER(S), AND ANY AFFECTED LESSEES TO DETERMINE A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE LOCATION FOR THE PROPOSED BRONZE PLAQUE.

3. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO APPROVE THE LOCATION AND PLACEMENT OF THE PROPOSED BRONZE PLAQUE ON STATE LAND, AS DESCRIBED HEREIN.