

**CALENDAR ITEM
C106**

A 37

04/23/15

W 6005.151

RA 26414

R. B. Greenwood

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K. A. Keen

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A NON-EXCLUSIVE GEOPHYSICAL
SURVEY PERMIT ON TIDE AND SUBMERGED LANDS
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION**

APPLICANT:

Montecito Water District
Attn.: Ms. Darlene Bierig
583 San Ysidro Road
Montecito, CA 93108

BACKGROUND:

Montecito Water District has applied for a low-energy offshore Geophysical Survey Permit. These permits are issued to qualified companies to perform geophysical surveys of the ocean bottom for purposes such as geotechnical investigation of seismic hazards, sand erosion and deposition studies, optic cable routes, oil and gas pipeline routes, harbor facility bathymetric changes, submerged hazards and debris, and/or location of sunken boats and airplanes. The survey will occur offshore Montecito, Santa Barbara County, to determine the feasibility of the proposed site for a subsurface intake for seawater desalination. Geophysical data will be collected via two 24- or one 48-channel hydrophone bay cable(s) with a diver-operated weight drop (such as a 20 pound sledge hammer on a metal plate) as an energy source. The sounds produced by the weight drop and recorded by the hydrophones will provide subsurface information that will be used to develop elevation profiles of subsurface geologic units. Upon request, California State Lands Commission (Commission) staff will receive copies of all data derived from any and all surveys under the permit.

TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:

Three months, beginning April 24, 2015, through July 23, 2015.

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PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:

Required fees, expense deposit, and other security have been received.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- A. Public Resources Code section 6826.
- B. Public Resources Code section 21080, subdivision (c).
- C. Public Resources Code section 6870.
- D. California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Article 2.9, section 2100.
- E. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15074.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

- 1. The staff recommends that the Commission find that this activity is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 6, Information Collection; California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 2905, subdivision (e)(3).

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

- 2. 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 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. Project Site Location

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Commission:

CEQA FINDINGS:

- 1. 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 6, Information Collection;

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California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 2905, subdivision (e)(3).

SIGNIFICANT LANDS:

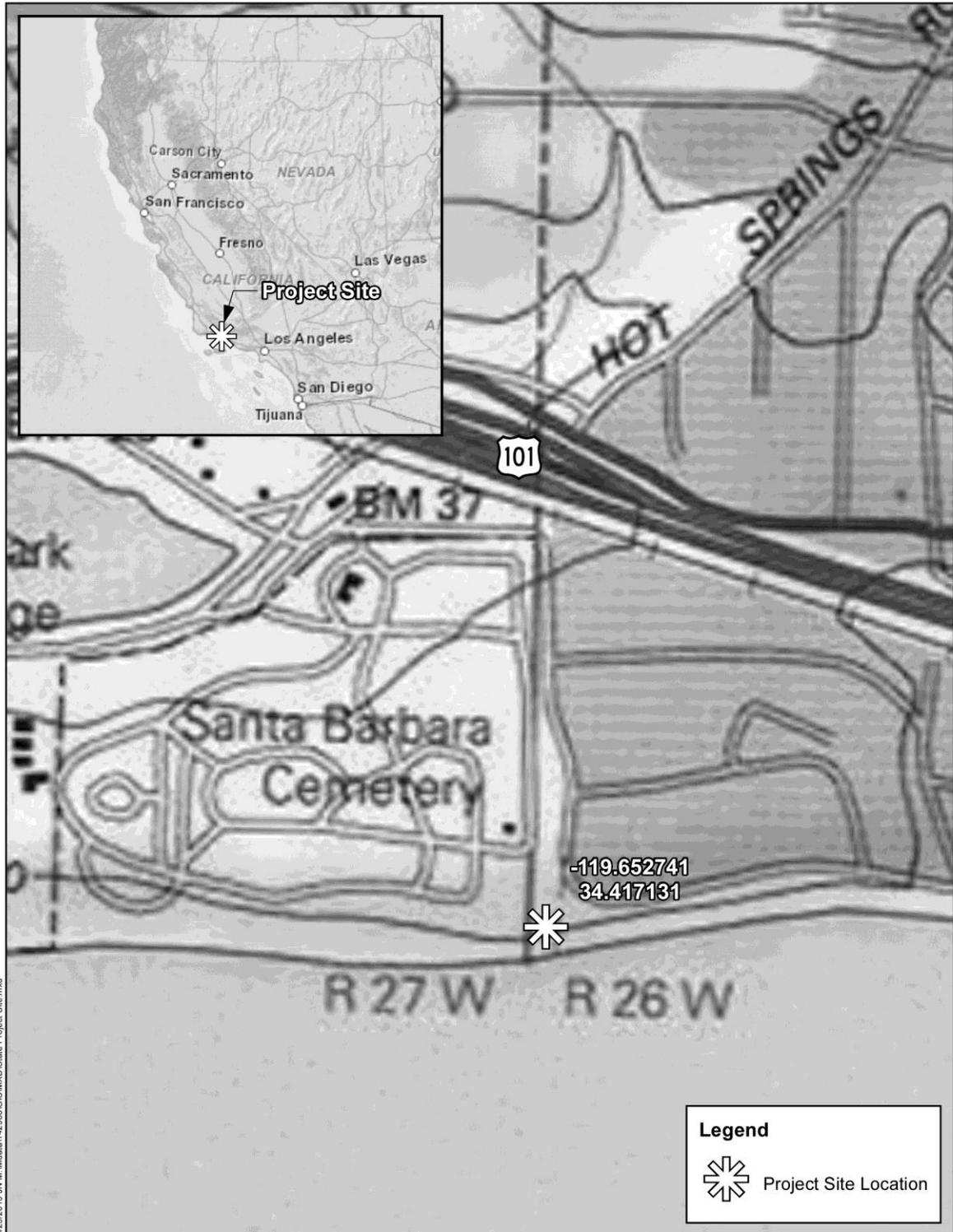
Find that this activity is consistent with the use classification designated by the Commission for the land pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6370 et seq.

AUTHORIZATION:

Authorize issuance to the Montecito Water District of a Non-Exclusive Geophysical Survey Permit to conduct low-energy geophysical surveys from April 24, 2015, through May 23, 2015, within Permit Region II as designated on Exhibit A, attached hereto.

EXHIBIT A

W 6005.151



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MONTECITO COASTAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY PROJECT
Project Site Location