

MINUTE ITEM

3. APPLICATION TO USE AN AREA OF SUBMERGED LANDS IN MONO LAKE, MONO COUNTY, TO CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS INVOLVING FIRING OF EXPLOSIVES UNDERWATER; DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH - W.O. 4944, P.R.C. 3087.9.

After consideration of Calendar Item 7 attached, and upon motion duly made and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER IS AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH, A PERMIT TO CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS INVOLVING THE DETONATION OF EXPLOSIVES UNDERWATER IN AN AREA OF MONO LAKE, MONO COUNTY, THE PERMIT TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 1964. THE CONSIDERATION IS TO BE THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.

Attachment
Calendar Item 7 (2 pages)

CALENDAR ITEM

7.

APPLICATION TO USE AN AREA OF SUBMERGED LANDS IN MONO LAKE, MONO COUNTY, TO CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS INVOLVING FIRING OF EXPLOSIVES UNDERWATER; DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH - W.O. 4944.

An application has been received from the Department of the Navy, Office of Naval Research, Washington, D. C., for approval of a permit to use an area of Mono Lake for the conduct of experiments using explosives underwater (see Exhibit "A"). The test specifications for depth, bottom contour, and shoreline are so severe as to limit possible test sites. Preliminary planning indicates that Mono Lake best meets these requirements. The tests would be conducted from September to December 1964. During the test period, about ten days of actual firing would be required. However, immediate access is requested to permit emplacement of the necessary instrumentation.

The firing area would be about six miles from the marina, but only the immediate area of the explosion would be restricted from public use.

The salinity of the waters of Mono Lake is such that marine life is non-existent.

It is planned that the explosive charges to be used in the experiments will be between 3,000 and 5,000 pounds of TNT, which are approximately the size of the charges detonated in Mono Lake a few years ago by the Naval Ordnance Test Station.

The explosion will take place underwater within the general areas indicated on the attached exhibit - exact sites to be selected. Computations show that adjacent land areas will be unaffected by explosions of the size involved in the program.

It is planned that the tests will take place in the early morning hours in the post-recreation season when traffic is at a minimum. A patrol craft will monitor the water area within a radius of three miles from the explosion sites to keep the area clear of nonproject personnel. While no danger to adjacent highways will result from the experiments, the sector of road nearest to the shot site will be cleared of traffic for the period involved in detonation. The program is not considered dangerous to any of the present structures in the lake area.

Participating groups and agencies include the Defense Atomic Support Agency, Office of Naval Research, Interstate Electronics Corporation, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Navy Civil Engineering Laboratory at Port Hueneme, Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake, and the U. S. Army Waterways Experiment Station at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The experiments are important to the national defense effort.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH, A PERMIT TO CONDUCT

CALENDAR ITEM 7. (CONTD.)

EXPERIMENTS INVOLVING THE DETONATION OF EXPLOSIVES UNDERWATER IN AN AREA OF MONO LAKE, MONO COUNTY, THE PERMIT TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 1964. THE CONSIDERATION IS TO BE THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.