

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 26
was approved as Minute Item
No. 26 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 2
0 at its 4-27-78
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

26.

4/78
W 40017
Smith
PRC 5474

PROSPECTING PERMIT FOR MINERALS OTHER THAN
OIL AND GAS AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

APPLICANT: George J. and Marcia M. Nielsen
2139 Cheam Avenue
Simi Valley, California 93063

TYPE OF LAND: School land, patented with 100% mineral
reservation to the State.

AREA AND LOCATION: Approximately 160 acres in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec.
36, T30S, R36E, MDB&M, Kern County.

MINERALS: (Silver and associated minerals) Argentiferous ores.

PERTINENT INFORMATION:

Proposal: Mr. Nielsen has applied
for a prospecting permit
to evaluate the mineral
potential of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$
of the subject section.

Purpose: Determine if silver ore
exists in commercial
quantities and if so
propose a plan for its
extraction.

METHOD OF EXPLORATION:

Applicant proposes to drill approximately
5 holes, to depths ranging from 25 to 100
feet, across 2 outcrops, to obtain fresh
samples for analysis. Drilling will be
performed by a portable gasoline-powered
Winkie-type drill. It is possible if the
assay results are favorable that additional
holes may be drilled, or the drilling program
may be supplemented by shallow trenching
for additional sample collection.

PREREQUISITE ITEMS:

1. Statutory filing fees and permit fees
have been deposited by the applicant.

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2. The subject permit has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General pursuant to Section 6890 of the Public Resources Code.
3. A statement for proposed royalty schedule has been signed by the applicant.
4. The area is not known to contain commercially valuable deposits of minerals and has not been declared to be within a geothermal resources area.
5. A review by the Commission's Staff indicates that there will be no significant effects upon the identified environmental values.
6. The surface owner was notified pursuant to Section 6893 of the Public Resources Code and did not choose to exercise his preferential right.

APPROVAL OBTAINED:

The subject permit has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General pursuant to Section 6890 of the Public Resources Code.

The Commission's Staff, in accordance with Article 10, Section 2906(b), has conducted an initial study and has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with Section 2905(c) a Negative Declaration EIR ND 219 has been prepared and filed with the State Clearinghouse.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Location Map.
- B. Negative Declaration and Initial Study.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION'S STAFF.
2. CERTIFY THAT NEGATIVE DECLARATION EIR ND 219 HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN COMPLIANCE WITH BOTH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT OF 1970, AS AMENDED, AND WITH THE STATE GUIDELINES, AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.

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3. DETERMINE THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
4. FIND THAT GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION WILL HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT UPON ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS IDENTIFIED PURSUANT TO SECTION 6370.1 ET SEQ. OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE.
5. DETERMINE THAT THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT ARE NOT KNOWN TO CONTAIN COMMERCIALY VALUABLE DEPOSITS OF MINERALS AND ARE NOT WITHIN A KNOWN GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES AREA.
6. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT TO GEORGE J. AND MARCIA M. NIELSEN TO PROSPECT FOR A TERM OF 2 YEARS FOR ALL MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL AND GAS AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES IN SE $\frac{1}{4}$ OF SECTION 36, T30S, R36E, MDB&M, KERN COUNTY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSION'S STANDARD FORM OF PERMIT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER ANY PREFERENTIAL LEASE ISSUED UPON DISCOVERY OF COMMERCIALY VALUABLE DEPOSITS, FOR ANY AND ALL MINERAL PRODUCTS, EXTRACTED OR REMOVED FROM SAID PREMISES FOR SALE OR STOCKPILING SHALL BE DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS:
ROYALTY SHALL BE 10% OF THE GROSS REVENUE RECEIVED FROM THE SALE OF MINERAL PRODUCTS, LESS ANY CHARGES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION THAT WERE MADE OR INCURRED WITH RESPECT TO TRANSPORTING AND PROCESSING OF SUCH PRODUCTS.

EXHIBIT "B"
NEGATIVE DECLARATION - PROSPECTING PERMIT W 40017

This Negative Declaration is prepared pursuant to Section 15083, California Administrative Code, Title 14, Division 6 and is based upon an Initial Study pursuant to Sections 15080 and 15066 thereof.

Application has been received for approval to conduct metallic mineral prospecting on the SE⁴ of Section 36, T. 30 S., R. 36 E., M.D.B.&M., Kern County. The total acreage under application is 160. The purpose of the application is to determine if commercial quantities of silver-bearing minerals exist in this area. If so, the applicant will apply for lease to allow their exploitation.

The applicant will drill several small diameter shallow core holes using a portable, gasoline powered drilling rig. Additional sampling may be accomplished by excavating short, narrow and shallow trenches. The coring and trenching operations will be limited to a small portion of the 160 acres. The prospecting operations will not create either permanent or adverse environmental effects. The core holes and trenches will be back filled. No road construction is required. No permanent facilities will be constructed.

The project will not have any economic effect on the area.

The Initial Study was prepared by the Staff of the State Lands Commission using their expertise and data, as well as material submitted by the applicant. This study is on file in the Commission's Long Beach Office.

It is felt that any Environmental Impacts will have only short term effects and will be temporary and insignificant. No permanent evidence of the project will remain after its completion; no long term or adverse effects are foreseeable. Therefore, it has been determined that the proposed exploration project will not have significant effect on the environment.

INITIAL STUDY

Prospecting Permit

W 40017

1. Project and Location

An application has been made to the State Lands Commission to prospect for metallic minerals, primarily silver, in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36, T. 30 S., R. 36 E., M.D.B.&M., Kern County. Section 36 is approximately 18 miles northeast of the Town of Mojave, and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest of the community of Cinco, in the area immediately south of Jawbone Canyon. Part of the area is accessible from the Los Angeles Aqueduct road, a segment of which intersects the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

The State owns 100% of the minerals on the privately owned property. The surface owner of the property has not exercised his preferential right to prospect in accordance with the Public Resources Code, Section 6893.

2. Statement of the Purpose of the Project

The potential mineralization is a lode occurrence defined at the surface by veins and veinlets and is suggestive of a gossan type deposit. Two of the major veins may be traced for short distances on the surface. The applicant proposes sampling these veins to assess the mineral occurrence, nature of the deposit, and the grade of mineralization.

3. General Description of the Project

The applicant proposes to sample the gossan below the weathered zone along the exposed veins. Vein #1 may be traced for 125 feet on the surface; it varies in width from four to twelve inches, while vein #2, considered a secondary vein, may be traced for 25 feet and is approximately twelve inches in width. The main vein has a strike of NW 75° and a dip of approximately S 60°, while the secondary vein has a strike of NE 45° and an apparent dip of 90°.

In order to evaluate this area, two drillsites have been selected along the course of the main vein. One is at the widest point, near the southeast terminus of the surface exposure; a second core hole is near the central portion, along the exposed section of the vein. Three drillsites are proposed for the secondary vein, the first near the central portion of the vein, the second about 25 feet east, and a third about 25 feet west of the vein. If the assay results of these samples are positive it is probable that some additional holes will be drilled to further delineate the potential ore deposit. This will afford good control leading to more effective mineral exploitation. The coring program may be supplemented by shallow trenching to collect channel samples for assay. If it is decided that shallow exploratory trenches, are necessary, caution will be exercised and they will be excavated in areas of minimal vegetation and shall be backfilled when sampling is completed.

The core holes will be drilled to depths ranging from 25 to 100 feet using a portable, gasoline-powered Winkie drill. Since this equipment is very light and mobile, it does not require drillsite preparation, nor will any access roads be constructed.

If the exploration results prove out the ore occurrence, a lease is contemplated. The method of mining will probably be an underground tunneling operation. This will necessitate road construction from the county access road to the site. The next phase of development would be to build a hopper for collecting the ore for future shipment to the mill. Eventually it is anticipated that a millsite would be established near Cinco on Public Domain land. If and when buildings are needed they will be semipermanent and portable to allow removal when mining operations are terminated. It is also anticipated that a water well will be drilled in Jawbone Canyon to avoid hauling water for the mining and milling operations. The development and mining phase shall be subject to the preparation of an additional environmental document.

4. Present Environment

General Geologic Description:

The Cross Top mountain area lies within the southernmost part of the Sierra Nevada geologic province and is bordered on the southeast by the Mojave Desert geologic province.

Generally the Sierra Nevada province is underlain by Cretaceous granitic rocks. The granitic rocks commonly contain roof pendants of pre-Cretaceous metasedimentary rocks, whose trend is northeastward. Layering is nearly vertical and strikes parallel to the long axes of the pendant. Tertiary rocks consist of non-marine sedimentary rocks and shallow intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks. The southeast boundary of the province is defined by the Garlock fault and its associated sub-parallel and discontinuous subsidiary faults.

Lithology:

Paleozoic rocks occur in isolated bodies in this part of the Sierra Nevada province. Evidence suggests that in general, a marine environment probably existed throughout the area during this era.

Mesozoic igneous rocks within the area are most commonly quartz monzonite and quartz diorite. Tertiary rocks consisting of continental sedimentary and volcanic rocks also occur in the immediate vicinity. The continental sedimentary rocks, including pyroclastic rocks, are fine-grained lake sediments and intercalated volcanic ash beds. Hypabyssal intrusive and extrusive rocks are predominantly andesitic to rhyolitic in composition.

In the Jawbone Canyon area (just north of the subject parcel) vesicular basalt and welded volcanic tuff breccia are present. Rhyolitic plugs and dikes are common in the area between Jawbone Canyon and Monolith.

Quaternary rocks are generally restricted to existing stream channels as the area was largely a land area during this period and the present topographic is indicative of the past. In the Jawbone Canyon area the Pleistocene rocks are andesite flows and poorly indurated clastic sedimentary rocks.

Tectonics and Summary:

Epithermal gold and silver deposits related to middle and upper Tertiary intrusive rocks occur in the immediate area. Owing to the dominant horizontal movement on the Garlock fault and compression that resulted from this movement, folds, thrust, tear-faults and rotational faults developed in subsidiary blocks,

Recurrent movement and mineralization were localized along these pre-existing openings. The resulting pattern of faults and veins is complex; the greater the complexity and the greater the amount of recurrent breaking that has provided channelways for the solutions, the greater is the probability of ore formation.

Environmental Setting:

The SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36 is typically barren, rugged desert land. Most of the quarter section lies between the 3500 to 4000 foot elevation and overlooks the small community of Cinco about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the southeast. Though the land is privately owned, there are no structures on the property. The Los Angeles aqueduct transects the section, beginning in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and crossing the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ in the extreme NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and continuing down the western edge of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ into the adjoining Section 1 to the south.

There has been no mining in the immediate section. However, the area in and around Jawbone Canyon has had a history of prospecting and mining. Sections 10, 11, 14, 15 and 29 of this township contain tungsten prospects, although none are known to be active at this time. Section 10 also contains a uranium prospect along with Section 1, and Sections 13, 14, 30 and 36 contained roofing aggregate. Section 26 northwest of Section 36 contains a silver prospect very similar to the prospect of the applicant.

In recent years Jawbone Canyon has become a favorite haunt of the motobike riders and week-end campers.

The project area is typically mountainous desert terrain with sparse fauna and flora. Vegetation observed is:

Limber Pines (Pinus flexilis)
Nolina (Nolina parryi)
Creosote Bush (Larrea divaricata)
Wild Buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum)
Boxthorn (Lycium cooperi)
Desert Trumpet (Eriogonum inflatum)
and miscellaneous grasses

Animals observed are:

Jack Rabbits (Lepus Californicus)
Coyote (Canis la Trans)
Desert Pack Rat (Neotoma Lepida)
Mike (unidentified)
Common Crow (Corvus beachyrhynchus)
Rock Wren (Salpinctes obsoletus)
Red Tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis)
Side Blotched Lizard (Uta stansburiana)
Western Diamondback Rattlesnake (Crotalus atrox)

In the historical past this area has supported quail and chukar, but none have been observed in the area during the past four years.

Climate:

Cross Top Mountain occupies an area in the general northwestern portion of the arid Mojave Desert. The annual precipitation is approximately 5 inches and most of this occurs between November and April, primarily from Pacific maritime air masses. Additional annual precipitation occurs during the four month period of July thru October and is generally the result of Tropical-Continental air masses.

Due in part to the absence of cloudiness wide ranges in temperature are characteristic of this area. The diurnal temperature differential may be as much as 70 to 90 degrees fahrenheit. The day time summer temperatures may be above 100 degrees fahrenheit while evening temperatures may drop into the 30 to 40 range.

5. Environmental Impact

None are anticipated during this phase of evaluation.

6. Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided If The Proposal is Implemented.

None are anticipated during this phase of evaluation.

7. Energy Mitigation

None is needed; the only power equipment that will be employed is a small portable gasoline-powered drill.

8. Alternative to the Proposed Action

The specific alternative is "No Project". However, considering another area may not necessarily be beneficial since the present area has a mining history, the flora and fauna are sparse, and another area may not be as conducive, due to the possibly greater chance of detrimental impact.

9. The Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity.

The short-term effects will be temporary and insignificant and after completion of the exploration project there will be little or no evidence of their impact. There will be no adverse impacts or long-term risks which could affect the environment.

10. Any Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would Be Involved in the Proposed Action Should It Be Implemented.

There are no irreversible environmental changes involved in the proposed action. The amount of material removed for sample analysis will be very small and since no access roads are planned during the exploration phase the area will remain as it was prior to such activity.

11. The Growth-inducing Impact of the Proposed Action.

The exploration phase of the project will have no effect on the growth of the area. If the prospect becomes a viable mining operation it will be a small enterprise and will have little or no effect on the growth of the area.

12. Economic and Social Factors.

There will be no significant change from existing conditions.

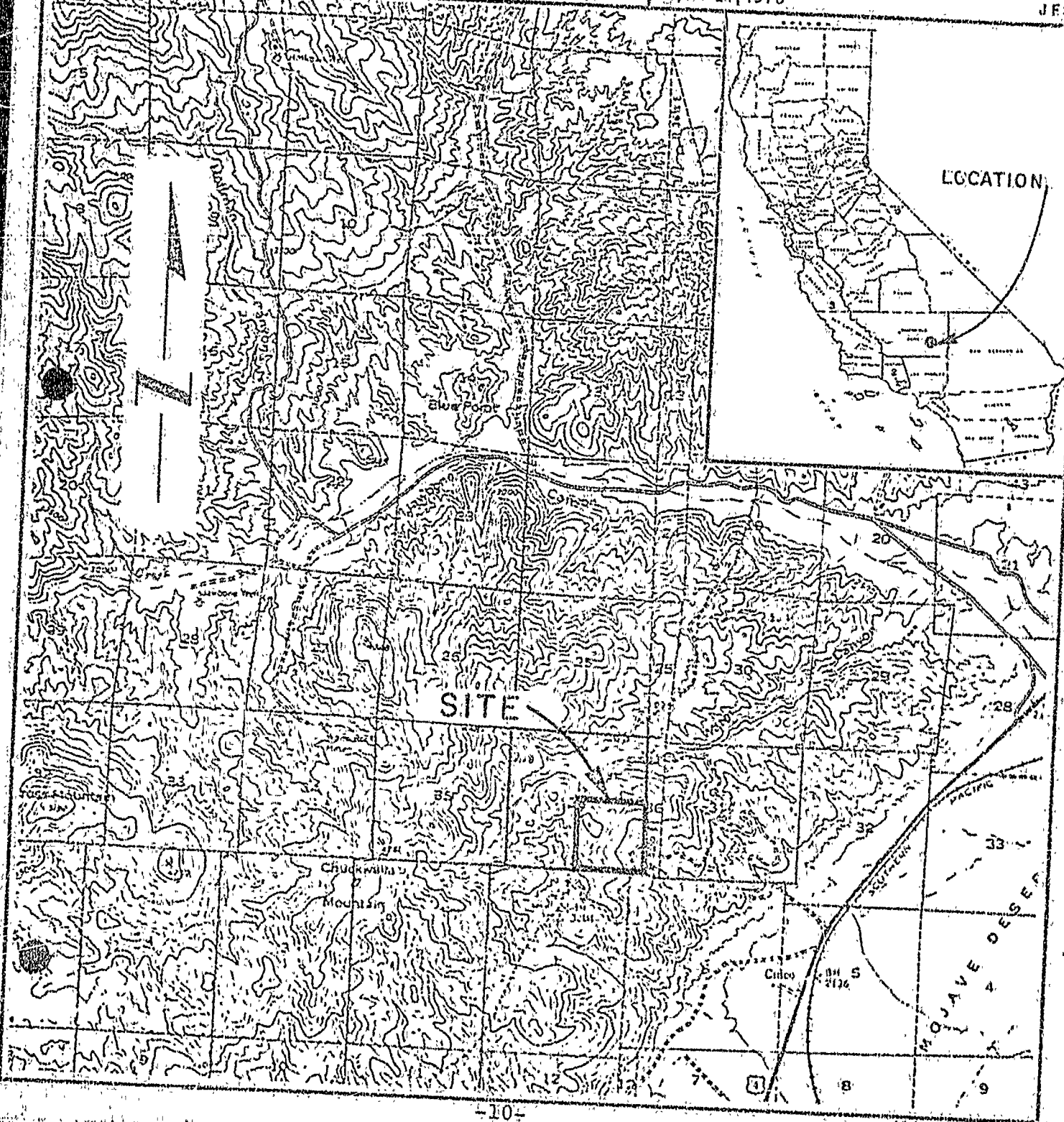
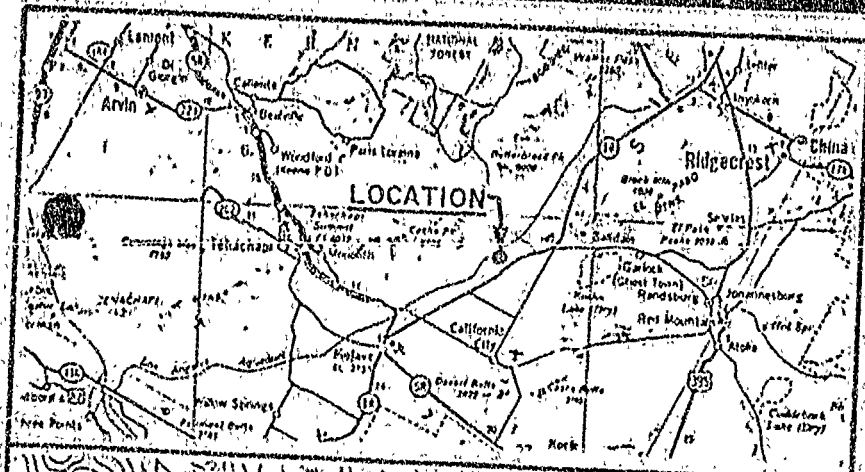
13. Organizations and Persons Consulted.

The Initial Study and Negative Declaration were prepared by the Staff of the State Lands Commission, using their expertise and data, as well as material submitted by the applicant.

EXHIBIT "A"
W 40017
STATE LANDS COMMISSION
Application for Prospecting Permit
by
George & Marcia Nielsen
SE 1/4 SEC. 36, T. 30 S. R 36 E.
KERN COUNTY

April 27, 1978

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