

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 30
was approved as Minute Item
No. 30 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 4-7-87
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

30

3/81
W 40206
Smith
PKC 5979

APPROVAL OF A PROSPECTING PERMIT, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

APPLICANT: Home Improvement Association, Inc.
8111 Imperial Avenue
Lemon Grove, California 92045
Agent: Mr. Larry Boerner

TYPE OF LAND AND LOCATION:

School Land - N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 16, T6S, R13E,
SBB& M, Riverside County, 34 miles west
of Indio, 1 mile south of State Highway 10
in the vicinity of the Hayfield Pumping
Station and Hayfield Dry Lake.

PROPOSAL:

The applicant's objective is to determine
whether or not commercial quantities of
gold and silver exist in local quartz string-
ers.

METHOD OF EXPLORATION:

Since the quartz stringers are narrow and
discontinuous, the applicant proposes to
hand dig 3 three narrow trenches (4 feet
wide by 10 to 20 feet deep) to obtain samples
for analysis. Trenches will be filled when
abandoned, with the total surface area
disturbance covering approximately 420
square feet.

PREFERENTIAL TERMS:

1. Required statutory filing fee and expense
deposit have been submitted by the
applicant.
2. Subject parcel is not known to contain
a commercially valuable deposit of
minerals.
3. Royalty payable under any preferential
lease issued shall be as follows: Not
less than 10% of the gross value of
all minerals produced from the leased
lands, less any charges incurred by
the Lessee and approved by the State
in transporting and milling of said
minerals.

A 75
S 38

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APPROVALS OBTAINED:

Pursuant to Section 6890 of the Public Resources Code, the subject permit application has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General as to compliance with applicable provisions of the law.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. A negative declaration was prepared by the Commission's staff, pursuant to CEQA and implementing regulations.
2. This project is situated on school lands not identified as possessing significant environmental values, but is on the fringe of a proposed federal wilderness area.
3. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 6895, the applicant would have a preferential right to a lease for a maximum of 160 acres embraced within the permit.

EXHIBITS: A. Location Map. B. Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT NO. ND 282 NEGATIVE DECLARATION HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE STAFF OF THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIF. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND SUCH DOCUMENT WAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED.
2. FIND THAT THE PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT ARE NOT KNOWN TO CONTAIN COMMERCIALY VAULABLE DEPOSITS OF MINERALS.
4. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF THE PROSPECTING PERMIT TO HOME IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC., LARRY BOERNER AGENT, FOR A TERM OF 2 YEARS, FOR ALL MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES ON THE N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ OF SECTION 16, T6S, R13E, SBB&M, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, 160 ACRES; IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD FORM OF PERMIT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER ANY PREFERENTIAL LEASE ISSUED UPON THE DISCOVERY OF COMMERCIAL VALUABLE MINERAL DEPOSITS FOR ANY AND ALL MATERIALS EXTRACTED OR REMOVED FROM SAID PREMISES FOR SALE OR FOR STOCK PILING SHALL NOT BE

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LESS THAN 10% OF THE GROSS REVENUE LESS SPECIFIC CHARGES,
AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION, RELATED TO TRANSPORTING
AND PROCESSING AS SET FORTH IN SAID LEASE.

EXHIBIT "A"
STATE LANDS COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING
PERMIT
W-40206
BY
HOME IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
RIVERSIDE COUNTY

JFS

W-40206

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

INDIO

Desert Center

SITE
CZ ENDOR PAGE

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0991A

LANDS COMMISSION

McCoy, Controller

McCoy, Lieutenant Governor

Craves, Director of Finance



EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
1807 - 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

WILLIAM F. NORTHROP
Executive Officer

EIR NO: 282

File Ref.: W 40²⁰⁶
SCH # 81010505

☐ Draft
☒ Final

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Title: Prospecting Permit

Project Location: N¹/₂ N¹/₂ Section 16, T6S, R13E., SBB& M

Project Description: To sample local quartz stringers for gold and silver by hand digging 3 trenches. Total area of surface disturbance will be approximately 420 sq. ft. Samples will be analysed by a lab to determine if commercial quantities are present.

This NEGATIVE DECLARATION is prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et. seq. of the Public Resources Code), the State EIR Guidelines (Section 15000 et. seq., Title 14, of the California Administrative Code), and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section 2901 et. seq., Title 2, of the California Administrative Code).

Based upon the attached Initial Study, it has been found that:

☒ the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

☒ the attached mitigation measures will avoid potentially significant effects.

Contact Person: Ted Fukushima
1807 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: (916) 322-7813

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FORM 13.17 (6/80)

December 18, 1980

W 40206
SCH # 81010505

INITIAL STUDY

1. Project and Location:

An application has been made to the State Lands Commission to prospect for gold and silver on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 16, T.6S., R.13E. SBB&M, Riverside County, some 160 acres, by the Hone Improvement Association, Larry Boerner, agent. Section 16 is approximately 34 miles west of Indio, 1 mile south of State Highway 10 in the vicinity of the Hayfield Pumping Station and the Hayfield Dry Lake and can be located on the Hayfield Quadrangle.

2. Statement of the Objectives of Sought by the Proposed Project:

Applicant will sample the small quartz stringers that run in an east/west direction across the weathered granitics, in an effort to establish commercial values of gold and silver ore.

3. General Description of the Project:

The applicant will initially sample the outcrops by trenching. This is the simplest method and an accepted mining practice for evaluation of such type of outcrops. These stringers which are discontinuous on the surface, trend east-west on a probable fault contact. The outcrops are too thin at the surface to follow by drilling or tunneling and hilly terrain is more adaptable to trenching.

Three of these short stringers involving an area of less than 40 acres will be tested by trenching. Number 1 trench will be approximately 40 feet long, 4 feet wide and 10 feet deep, number 2 will be approximately 40 feet long, by 4 feet wide and 15 to 20 feet deep, while number 3 trench is anticipated to be 25 feet long, 4 feet wide and approximately 20 feet deep. The stringers will be selectively sampled once the trenching is completed and the resultant samples analyzed for ore values.

The projected trenches are expected to be completed within thirty to sixty days from a given starting date, at an estimated cost of \$5,000. There will be no heavy equipment employed in the trenching other than a gas driven jack-hammer. Trenches will be hand dug by a crew of 3. A motor home will be set up at the site to provide temporary lodging and electricity for the crew.

All excess material removed from the trenches will be piled along the trenches, available for easy replacement if the analysis of the mineral values prove to be negative. There are no structures on the area, and none are contemplated. Existing trails will be used for access, no new trails or roads will be required.

If minerals are found in commercial quantities, the applicant would apply for a lease. A feasibility study would then have to be made to determine the best mode of mining. At such time, an additional environmental impact report would be prepared, addressing the production phase.

4. Description of the Environmental Setting

(a) Regional Setting

The area is primarily open desert. The closest town is Indio, some 34 miles to the west, the closest inhabitants would be at Chiriaco Summit and the employees of the Hayfield Power Station 3½ miles to the north.

The area situated in the extreme southern edge of Chuckwalla Valley, is bounded on the north by the rugged Eagle mountains and on the south by the Orocopia Mountains. State Highway 10, the main route from Indio to Blythe passes through the Chuckwalla Valley just 1 mile north of the subject section. The only man-made structures in the region are the Colorado River Aqueduct, the Hayfield Pumping Station and the State Highway 10. In the past there has been some mining activity on the eastern fringe of the Orocopia Mountains, but there is little, if any, present day activity other than that of the applicant. Southern California Edison is currently completing the construction of an east-west line of high voltage power line towers, crossing in the immediate area at the southern end of Section 9, adjacent to the northern boundary of Section 16.

Local Setting:

Section 16 is situated on the extreme northeast flank of the Orocopia Mountains, in the southern end of the Chuckwalla Valley. The applicant has applied for the N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, of the section which includes a small portion of the north flank of the Orocopia Mountain and a portion the fan formed by the drainage to the north. The average elevation of the parcel is 1600 feet.

This portion of the Orocopia Mountains is composed almost entirely of weathered Mesozoic granitics, containing small, local quartz stringers trending in an east-west direction, which the applicant will sample and test.

There are no structures or any evidence of man-made activity in the subject area other than the trails and campsites made by the ORVS. Drainage is to the north, with the average annual precipitation varying from 3 to 5 inches.

The fan area is covered with a variety of flora typical of Colorado desert washes, dominated by the Cresote bush. As one approaches the hills, the ground cover greatly diminishes. There are no known rare or endangered flora in the subject area, however, the California Native Plant Society lists one rare or endangered plant, *Ayenia compacta* Rose/*Ayenia* as being in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Hayfield Quadangle (62B). It is not known exactly where this plant occurs, but it is not believed to be within range of the subject area. The BLM has notified the applicant that the area under the pending permit is within the proposed Chuckwalla Critical Habitat zone which has in the region of the permit area, an estimated tortoise density of 20-50 tortoises per square mile.

The Orocopia Mountains to the south of the subject area also contains desert bighorn sheep. This year the State Department of Fish and Game recorded 40 sheep in a helicopter survey of the range, however because of the nearness of the permit area to State Highway 10, it is very doubtful that they would come within range of the area.

The area lies within the ethnographically recorded territory of the Chemehuevi Indian people. A survey of the prospect area was made Mr. James

D. Swensen, Senior Staff Archaeologist with the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of California, Riverside. While eleven previously recorded sites lie within a five mile radius of the subject property, none were found on the subject area nor were any historical materials found. It was concluded as a result of the survey that granting of the prospecting permit and the subsequent proposed exploration program would have no adverse impacts to cultural resources. A copy of Mr. Swenson's report is attached.

(b) Water Quality Aspects

There is no permanent surface water on the subject area and very little is known about the water table, however, water is not a factor under the exploration program since none will be needed in the shallow trenching. A well at Chiriaco Summit five miles to the west, produces water from a depth of 1200 feet, this is believed to be in the same depth range as Kaiser Steel's wells in the Chuckwalla Valley.

5. Assessment of Impact:

Any impact to the area will be insignificant and short termed. Destruction or deformation of the surface shrubs and grasses would be limited to a surface area of approximately 420 square feet, the combined or total surface area of the proposed trenching. Since the trenches will be hand dug and are located on the flank of the hills, where the surface growth is less dense, the impact can be further diminished by selectively placing the waste materials along the edge of the trenches, thus avoiding unnecessary covering of the surface growth. The fact that a small trailer will be on site for living accommodations for a short period of time should have little or no effect since it will be placed on a site previously used for camping and will utilize existing roads for access. Again, trenches will be filled if results of the sampling are negative.

6. Significant Environmental Effect of the Project:

There are no significant impacts due to the proposed exploration program.

7. Any Significant Environmental Effect Which Cannot be Avoided If the Proposal is Implemented:

None are known or anticipated - Applicant will be especially careful of any tortoise habitat and tortoise

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movement that may be encountered in the radius of the permit area.

8. Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize the Significant Environmental Effects:

None are known or anticipated. Applicant has agreed to prudently conduct all operations.

9. Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

No project, resulting in the compilation of no data and no potential for future mining in the event a deposit of interest is present and there is no alternative site.

10. Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long Term Productivity:

Though designated as part of a regional Critical Habitat Area by BLM's recent desert study the current uses of the area appear to be limited to ORV activity and hunting and/or target shooting as evidenced by the abundant empty cartridges found in the area. The prospecting program will be a short term use of the environment, prudently operated. It will not impair the current uses of the environment nor effect the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity.

11. Any Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would Be Involved In the Proposed Action Should It Be Implemented:

None are known.

12. Growth Inducing Impact of the Proposed Action:

There will be no growth impact as a result of the exploration program.

13. Energy Conservation:

Since no power equipment will be involved other than a gas driven jack-hammer, no conservation of energy is forseen.

14. Organization and People Consulted:

Applicant: Home Improvement Association
BLM - By applicant

Archaeological Research Unit of the University of
California Riverside
State Department of Fish & Game

15. Specificity of Data:

Because this is a rather small insignificant project involving a very small area, most of the data considered was regional in aspect with the exception of the archaeological survey.

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JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT
INDIO
Desert Center
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KLL 12-80

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION: An Archaeological Assessment of a Portion
of the N 1/2 of the N 1/2 of Section 16,
T6S, R13E, SBBM, South of Hayfield Lake,
Riverside County, California

by: James D. Swenson
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Archaeological Research Unit
University of California
Riverside, CA 92521

UCRARU #594

Philip J. Walke
Administrator

for: Larry Boerner
Home Improvement Association
8111 Imperial Avenue
Lemon Grove, CA 92045

November 1980

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The purpose of the study reported herein was to ascertain if and to what extent cultural resources would be affected by the proposed granting of a permit to prospect for and extract mineral resources on a portion of the N 1/2 of the N 1/2 of Section 16, T6S, R13E, SBBM, Riverside County, California.

The study included a check of the California Archaeological Site Survey (CASS) records maintained by the Archaeological Research Unit (ARU), University of California, Riverside; a review of the pertinent archaeological, Historic, and ethnographic literature; and an on-foot field inspection to locate and record any possible previously unknown archaeological materials. Temporal scope of the study concerned materials 50 years of age or older.

The subject property consists of low but steep-sided rocky hills and ridges lying at the extreme northeastern edge of the Orocochia Mountains and the southern edge of Chuckwalla Valley. Although the terrain is relatively hilly, all portions of the subject property were accessible to physical examination and the vegetation sparse enough for 100% ground surface observation.

No archaeological or historic materials dating within the temporal scope of this study were located as a result of the field inspection. Indications are that the proposed mining activities on the subject property will have no adverse impacts on cultural resources.

INTRODUCTION

On October 21, 1980, Mr. Larry Boerner of Home Improvement Association, requested the ARU to conduct an archaeological assessment of 30 acres of land south of Hayfield Dry Lake on which he is proposing to conduct mining activities. The subject property, located in the NE 1/4 or the NW 1/4 of Section 16, T6S, R13E, SBBM, as shown on the Hayfield, Calif. 15' USGS quadrangle, is on land administered by the California State Lands Commission. This study was performed in accordance with Section 15066 of the California Administrative Code, Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Preparatory work consisted of a CASS records check and a review of the archaeological, historical, and ethnographic literature pertinent to the

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area under study. As the CASS records indicated that the subject property was located in close proximity to a number of recorded archaeological sites but had itself never been subjected to systematic investigation by a qualified archaeologist, an on-foot field examination was performed by the author on October 27, 1980.

The study area is located within the ethnographically recorded territory of the 'emehuevi Indian people; an area extending across the desert of present-day Riverside and San Bernardino Counties from the Colorado River to approximately the eastern portion of Joshua Tree National Monument.

No archaeological or historic materials were observed on the subject property, and the determination is that the proposed use of the land for mining activities will have no adverse effects on cultural resources.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT KNOWLEDGE

Eleven previously recorded archaeological sites lie within a five mile radius of the subject property. Nine are located to the north along the southern base of the Eagle Mountains, and two are located on the south side of Hayfield Dry Lake within .5 mile of the subject property.

CA-Riv-343T is the site designation for an east-west aboriginal trail referred to in the literature as the Copa-Maricopa Trail. This trail was one of the main arteries of travel between the Colorado River and the Coachella Valley. Its recorded location in the CASS records (passing through the S 1/2 of Section 9 just north of the subject property) is an approximation based on ethnographic and historic accounts.

CA-Riv- 018 is located .5 mile northeast of the subject property. The site consists of one bedrock mortar and an associated scatter of ceramic sherds.

The nine sites to the north of Hayfield Dry Lake form a complex of petroglyph (a form of aboriginal rock art in which the design elements are pecked into the rock surface) sites located at springs and within dry-wash canyons draining the Eagle Mountains. Included within this complex is a site exhibiting the remains of circular houses (rock rings). The sites described above could be related to times when the Hayfield area possessed considerably greater hydrological resources than at present.

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Chemehuevi ethnography and culture history is treated in some detail in several published sources. Euler (1966), Laird (1976), and Steward (1938), are the primary ethnographic and ethnohistoric sources. The archaeology and prehistory of the area is dealt with in Hester (1973), Cressman (1977), Campbell and Campbell (1935), and King (1975).

Based on the archaeological and ethnographic data, the predicted site density in the region would be low; restricted to areas which now or in the past contained natural lithic, hydrologic, or vegetal resources.

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

Work performed prior to the field survey is described above in this report. The field survey was performed by the author on October 27, 1980, and consisted of walking transects across the property in an east-west direction at approximately 30 meter intervals. The steepness of the terrain in some places inhibited walking straight transects in these areas. However, ground visibility was sufficient to allow visual inspection of 100% of the subject property.

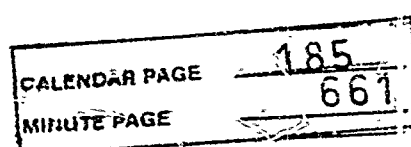
RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

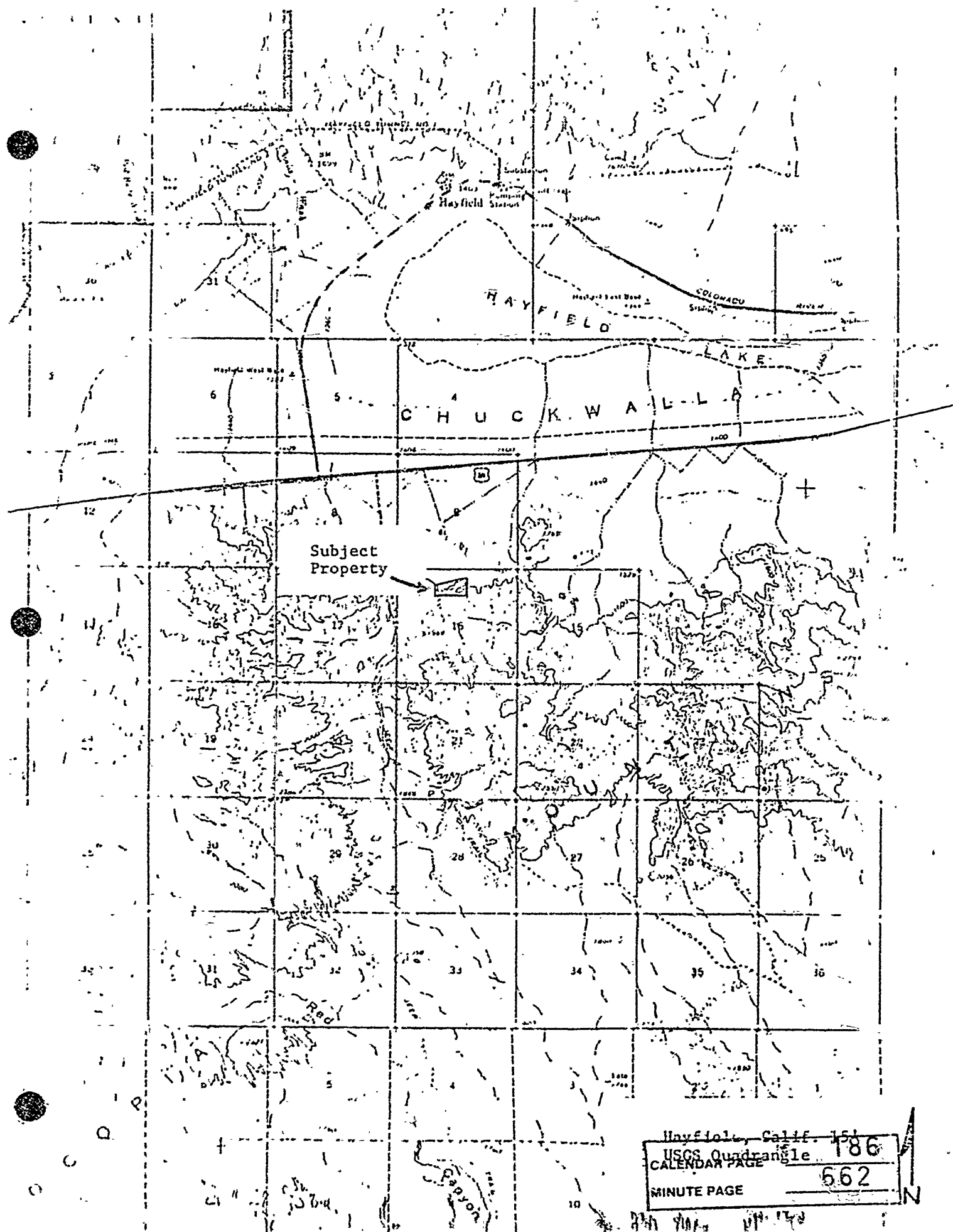
No archaeological or historic materials were located on the subject property during the course of this field investigation. Granting of the permit allowing the proposed mining activities to take place will have no adverse impacts to cultural resources.

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REFERENCES

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 1973 Chronological Ordering of Great Basin Prehistory. Berkeley: University of California Archaeological Research Facility Contributions 17.
- King, T. F.
 1975 Fifty Years of Archeology in the California Desert: An Archeological Overview of Joshua Tree National Monument. Tucson: USDI/National Park Service, Western Archeological Center.
- Laird, C.
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- Steward, J. H.
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USGS Quadrangle
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