MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. C27 was approved as Minute Item No. 27 by the State Lands Commission by a vote of 2 to 0 at its 6/23/83 meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

C 27

6/23/83
W 23147
Graber/
Gonzalez
PRC 6448

DREDGING PERMIT

APPLICANT: City of Oakland
Director of Public Works
14th and Washington Streets
Oakland, California 94612

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:
Submerged lands in the bed of Lake Merritt in the City of Oakland, Alameda County, California.

LAND USE: Dredge 410,000 cubic yards of material to carry out a program of water quality and recreation improvement to improve fishery and small boat sailing by removal of bottom sediments and widgeon grass infesting the lake. Spoils are to be deposited at the United States Army Corps of Engineers (C.O.E.) Disposal Site S.F. 11 near Alcatraz.

TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:
Initial Period: Five years.

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CONSIDERATION: No royalty will be charged for spoils placed on the C.O.E. Disposal Site S.F. 11 due to the public benefit from improved water quality and recreational use of Lake Merritt. A royalty of $0.25 per cubic yard will be charged for spoils placed on private property or sold for commercial benefit.

BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION:
Pursuant to 2 Cal. Adm. Code 2003.

PREREQUISITE TERMS, FEES AND EXPENSES:
The filing fee has been received.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:
A. P.R.C. 6303, 6370, 21065, 21084.

B. Cal. Adm. Code Title 2, Sections 2951, 2954, Title 14, Section 15100 et seq.

AB 884: 3/1/84.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The City of Oakland, Director of Public Works, has applied for a permit to dredge 410,000 cubic yards of material from the bed of Lake Merritt, using a hydraulic dredge to remove the material which will be conveyed to barges and the spoils transported to C.O.E. Disposal Site S.F. 11 near Alcatraz.

2. An Initial Study (SCH 83032903) and Negative Declaration (ND 335) were prepared by State Lands Commission staff, pursuant to CEQA and the State EIR Guidelines.

3. This project is situated on State-lands not identified as possessing significant environmental value. A Staff review of available environmental information indicates no reason to identify the subject parcel as having such values at this time.

4. The Commission, acting as lead agency under CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines

has prepared a Negative Declaration (ND) for this project. A copy of this environmental document is attached as Exhibit "C". As more fully set forth in the ND this project has the potential for having significant environmental effects within the meaning of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The general area of concern that has such potential is excessive noise produced by the dredging equipment. Below is a brief discussion of the environmental impacts and mitigation.

Excessive noise from the dredge will affect residents in the area.

This impact will be mitigated with proper muffling of the dredge to keep noise at a level no higher than 65 dba at the nearest receiver residence.

EXHIBITS:
A. Site Map.
B. Land Description (Map).
C. Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND 335) HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA, THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES AND THE COMMISSION'S ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN PRIOR TO THE APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT. A COPY OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT IS ENCLOSED AS EXHIBIT "C".

2. FIND THAT CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS HAVE BEEN REQUIRED IN, OR INCORPORATED INTO THE PROPOSED PROJECT WHICH MITIGATE OR AVOID THE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THEREOF AS IDENTIFIED IN THE COMPLETED NEGATIVE DECLARATION.

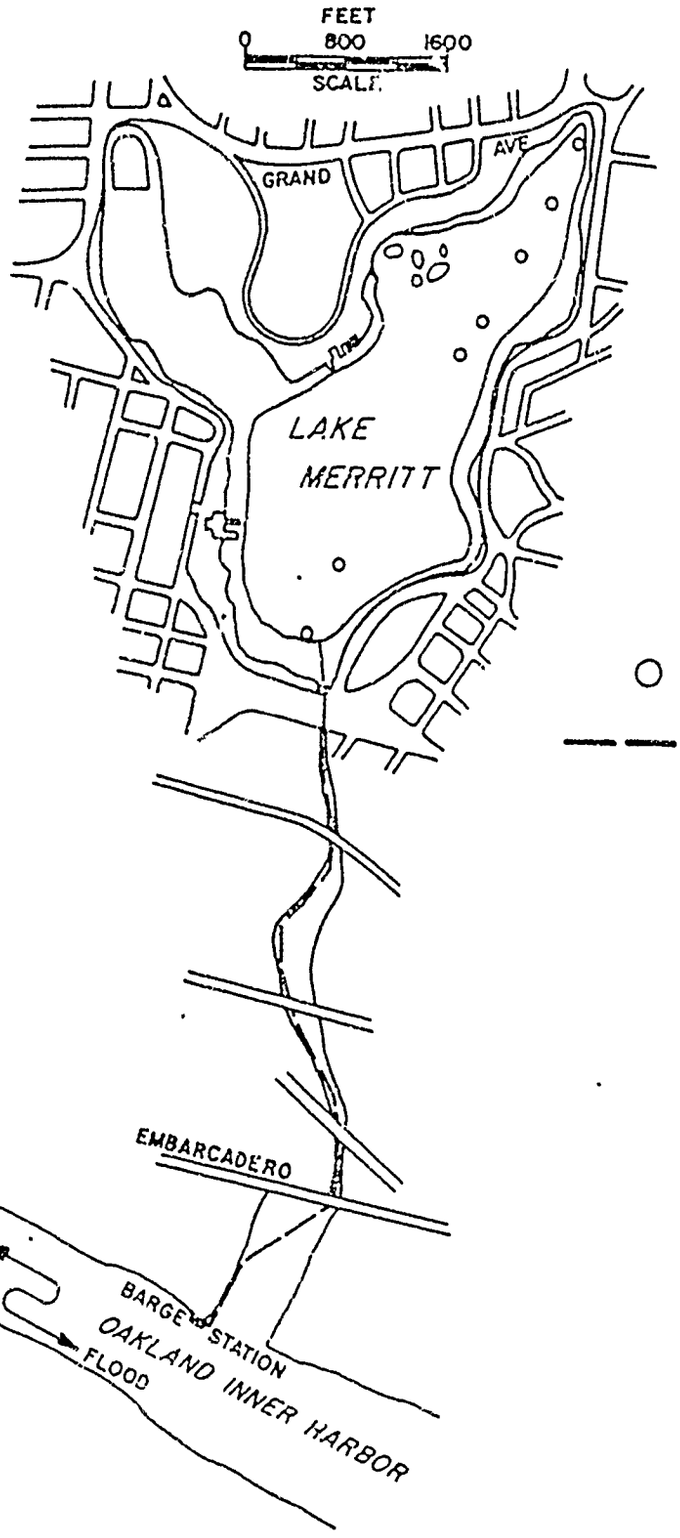
   IMPACT: NOISE LEVELS COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT RESIDENTS IN THE AREA WHILE DREDGING IS BEING CONDUCTED.

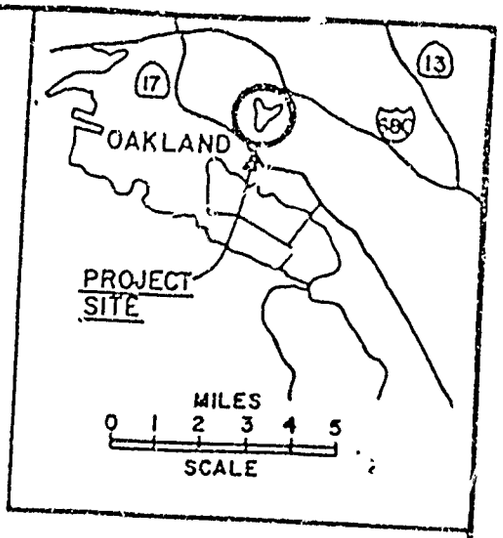
   THIS IMPACT WILL BE MITIGATED BY REQUIRING THE DREDGING EQUIPMENT TO HAVE MUFFLERS WHICH WILL KEEP NOISE LEVELS BELOW 65 dba AT THE NEAREST RECEPTORS RESIDENCE.

3. FIND THAT GRANTING OF THE PERMIT WILL HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT UPON ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS IDENTIFIED PURSUANT TO SECTION 6370.1 OF THE P.R.C.

4. AUTHORIZE THE STAFF OF THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION TO ISSUE TO THE CITY OF OAKLAND THE DREDGING PERMIT ON FILE IN THE OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION; NO ROYALTY WILL BE CHARGED FOR SPOILS PLACED AT THE C.O.E. DISPOSAL SITE S.F. 11; A ROYALTY OF $0.25 PER CUBIC YARD WILL BE CHARGED FOR SPOILS PLACED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY OR SOLD FOR COMMERCIAL BENEFIT.

SAID PERMIT WOULD BE FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS AND WOULD ALLOW THE DREDGING OF 410,000 CUBIC YARDS OF MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS AND GEOTHERMAL FROM AN AREA OF SUBMERGED LANDS ON THE BED OF LAKE MERRITT, CITY OF OAKLAND, ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA; SAID AREA IS SHOWN IN EXHIBIT "A" AND "B" ATTACHED HERETO AND BY THIS REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF; THE MATERIAL DREDGED SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN A DISPOSAL SITE APPROVED BY ALL APPLICABLE REGULATORY AGENCIES. THE COMPLETE PERMIT IS CONTAINED IN FILE W 23147 LOCATED IN THE COMMISSION OFFICES.





LEGEND

○ CORE SAMPLES

— — — TEMPORARY DISCHARGE PIPE

EXHIBIT "A"
APPLICATION FOR DREDGING
LAKE MERRITT
CITY OF OAKLAND
(APPLICANT)
W23147

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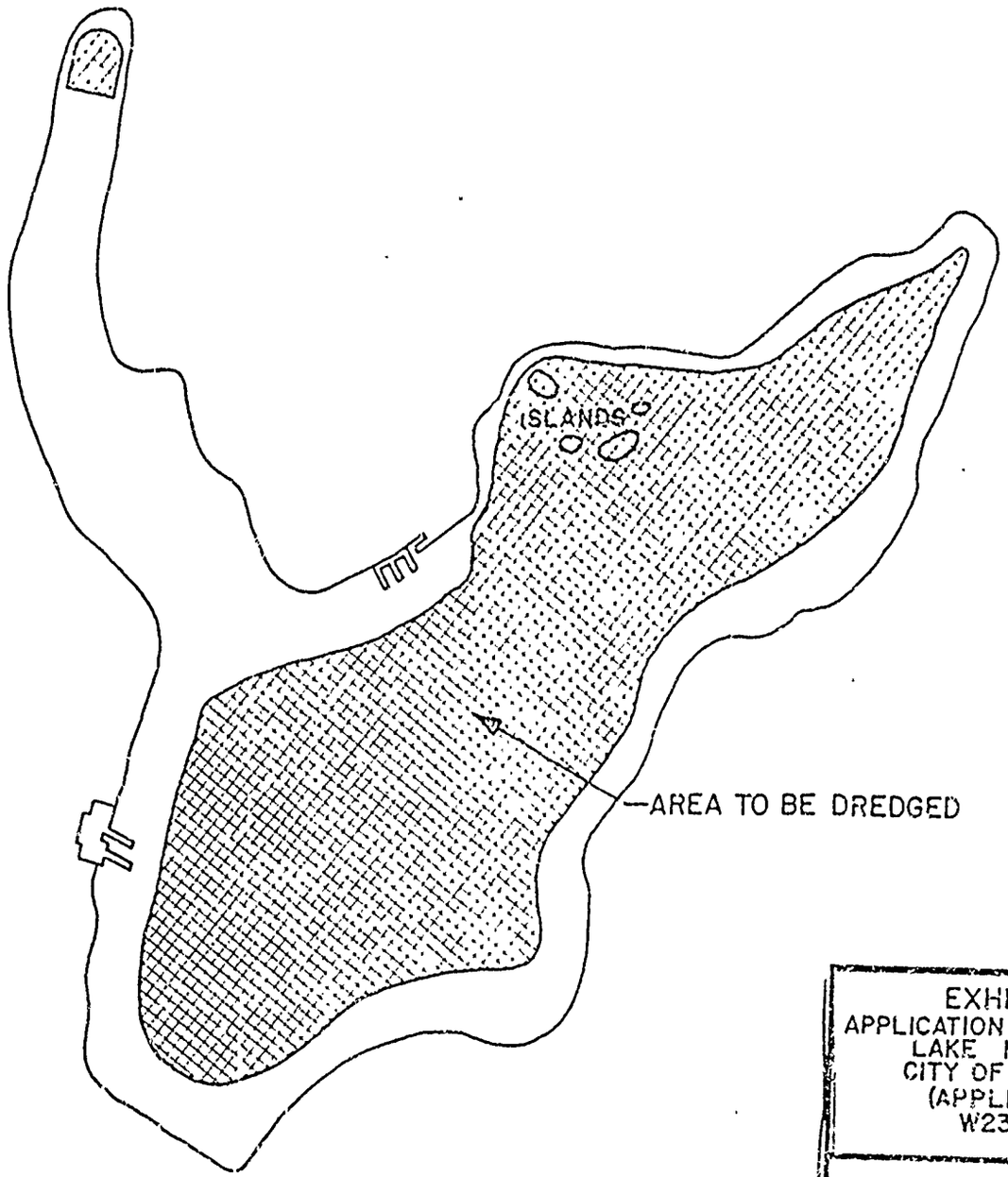

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EXHIBIT "B"
APPLICATION FOR DREDGING
LAKE MERRITT
CITY OF OAKLAND
(APPLICANT)
W23147

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OAKLAND M PAGE 8-7-85
MINUTE PAGE 1275

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
1807 - 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR ND 335

File Ref.: W 23147

SCH#: 83032905

Project Title: Lake Merritt Maintenance Dredging

Project Location: Lake Merritt, City of Oakland, Alameda County

Project Description: The dredging and removal of 410,000 cubic yards of material from the bottom of Lake Merritt.

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 CEQA 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 T. Fukushima
State Lands Commission
1807 - 15th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Telephone: (916) 322-7813

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Form 13.17 (2/82)

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COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

California Archaeological Inventory

A. Comment: Complete Avoidance of the Lake Merritt Wild Duck Refuge should be observed.

Response: The Wild Duck Refuge is located off the east arm of the Lake and will not be affected by the dredging project.

B. Comment: Should subsurface archaeological resources (artifacts, shell, bone) be encountered during disturbances associated with the project, work should be halted in the immediate area of the find and a qualified archaeologist contacted to evaluate the find.

Response: If archaeological resources are discovered during disturbances associated with the project, a qualified archaeologist from the Archaeological Inventory will be contacted to evaluate the significance of the find and to offer recommendations for mitigation of adverse impacts to archaeological resources.

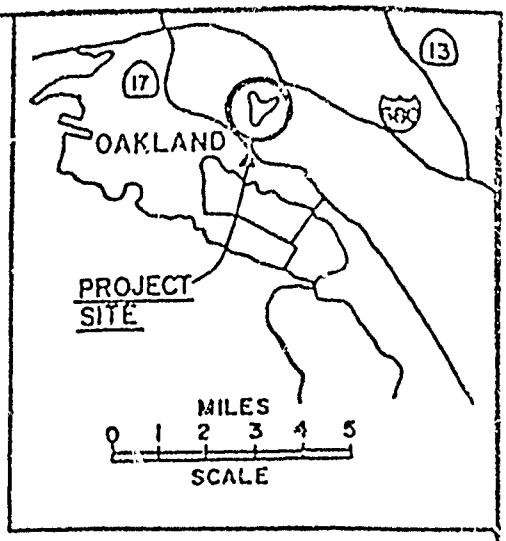
File Ref.: K 147
SCH. #83032903
April 19, 1983

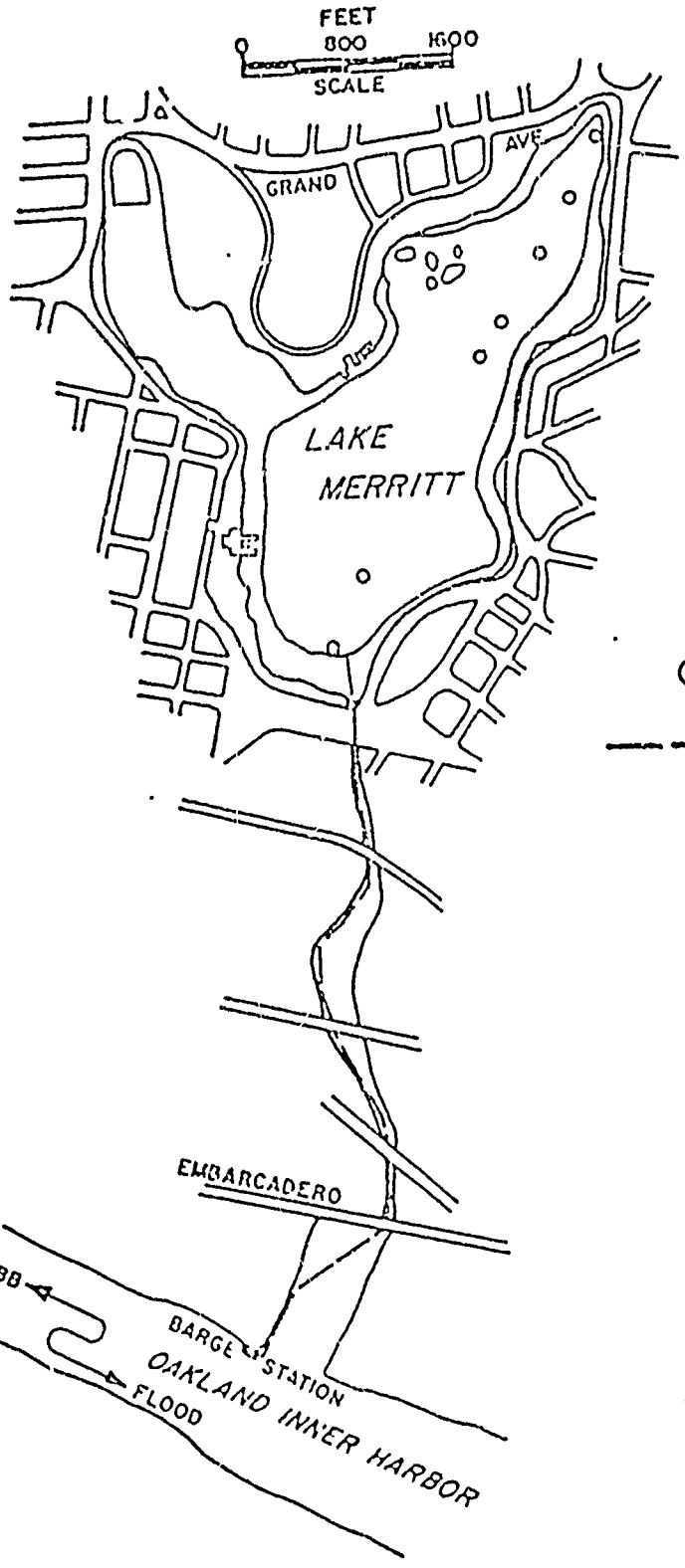
INITIAL STUDY

INTRODUCTION

The City of Oakland has applied to the State Lands Commission for a dredging permit on State lands in the bed of Lake Merritt in the City of Oakland, Alameda County, California. The proposed project consists of dredging up to 410,000 cubic yards of material from the bed of Lake Merritt. The intent of the project is to improve the water quality and recreational navigation of the lake by removing dense beds of widgeon grass and sediments, which have degraded the lake's usability.

This Initial Study is composed of an initial study checklist, information, forms, responses and maps.





LEGEND

○ CORE SAMPLES

— — — TEMPORARY DISCHARGE PIPE

EXHIBIT "A"
APPLICATION FOR DREDGING
LAKE MERRITT
CITY OF OAKLAND
(APPLICANT)
W23147

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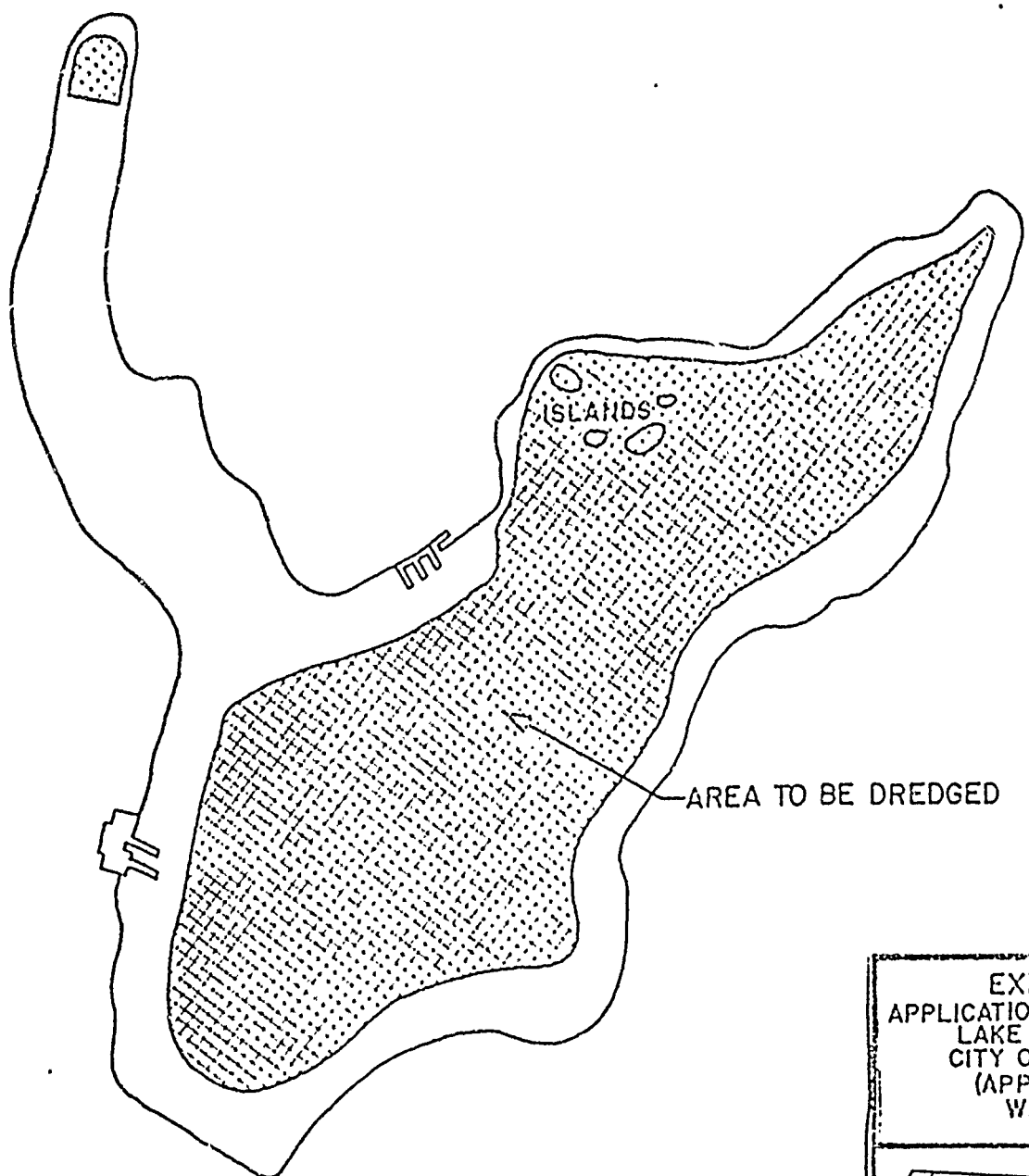

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EXHIBIT "8"
APPLICATION FOR DREDGING
LAKE MERRITT
CITY OF OAKLAND
(APPLICANT)
W23147

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STATE LANDS COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST – PART II

Form 13.20 (7/82)

File Ref.: W 23147

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Applicant: City of Oakland
Office of Public Works
1421 Washington Street
Oakland, CA 94612

B. Checklist Date: 3/17/83

C. Contact Person: Jacques A. Graber - State Lands Commission

Telephone: (916) 323-7209

D. Purpose: The intent of this project is to dredge up to 410,000 cubic yards of material from the bottom of Lake Merrit to improve water quality, fishing, recreational sailing and waterfowl sheltering.

E. Location:

Lake Merrit, City of Oakland, County of Alameda

F. Description: The dredging and removal of 410,000 cubic yards of material from Lake Merrit by suction dredge. Material will be transported by pipeline to a holding station, to be placed on barges and disposed of in the Corps of Engineers Disposal Site S.F. 11.

G. Persons Contacted: 1. City of Oakland, Office of Public Works
2. Department of Fish and Game - Yountville

II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. *(Explain all "yes" and "maybe" answers)*

	Yes	Maybe	No
A. *Earth* Will the proposal result in:			
1. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures?	☐	☐	☐
2. Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil?	☐	☐	☐
3. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?	☐	☐	☐
4. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?	☐	☐	☐
5. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?	☐	☐	☐
6. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet, or lake?	☒	☐	☐
7. Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards?	☐	☐	☐

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	Yes	Maybe	No
B. *Air.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. Substantial air emmissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?	☐	☒	☐
2. The creation of objectionable odors?	☒	☐	☐
3. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?	☐	☐	☒
C. *Water.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. Changes in the currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?	☐	☐	☒
2. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff?	☐	☐	☒
3. Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters?	☐	☐	☒
4. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?	☐	☐	☒
5. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?	☐	☒	☐
6. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters?	☐	☐	☒
7. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?	☐	☐	☒
8. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?	☐	☐	☒
9. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves?	☐	☐	☒
10. Significant changes in the temperature, flow or chemical content of surface thermal springs?	☐	☐	☒
D. *Plant Life.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?	☒	☐	☐
2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants?	☐	☐	☒
3. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?	☐	☐	☒
4. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop?	☐	☐	☒
E. *Animal Life.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)?	☐	☒	☐
2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?	☐	☐	☒
3. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?	☐	☒	☐
4. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat?	☐	☐	☒
F. *Noise.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. Increase in existing noise levels?	☐	☒	☐
2. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	☐	☐	☒
G. *Light and Glare.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. The production of new light or glare?	☐	☐	☒
H. *Land Use.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. A substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?	☐	☐	☒
I. *Natural Resources.* Will the proposal result in			
1. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources?	☐	☐	☒
2. Substantial depletion of any nonrenewable resources?	☐	☐	☒

	Yes	Maybe	No
J. *Risk of Upset.* Does the proposal result in:			
1. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?	☐	☐	☐
2. Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐
K. *Population.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area?	☐	☐	☐
L. *Housing.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. Affecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?	☐	☐	☐
M. *Transportation/Circulation.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?	☐	☐	☐
2. Affecting existing parking facilities, or create a demand for new parking?	☐	☐	☐
3. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?	☐	☐	☐
4. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?	☐	☐	☐
5. Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic?	☐	☐	☐
6. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians?	☐	☐	☐
N. *Public Services.* Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:			
1. Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐
2. Police protection?	☐	☐	☐
3. Schools?	☐	☐	☐
4. Parks and other recreational facilities?	☐	☐	☐
5. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	☐	☐	☐
6. Other governmental services?	☐	☐	☐
O. *Energy.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	☐	☐	☐
2. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources?	☐	☐	☐
P. *Utilities.* Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:			
1. Power or natural gas?	☐	☐	☐
2. Communication systems?	☐	☐	☐
3. Water?	☐	☐	☐
4. Sewer or septic tanks?	☐	☐	☐
5. Storm water drainage?	☐	☐	☐
6. Solid waste and disposal?	☐	☐	☐
Q. *Human Health.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?	☐	☐	☐
2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?	☐	☐	☐
R. *Aesthetics.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	☐	☐	☐
S. *Recreation.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?	☐	☐	☐

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T. *Cultural Resources.*

	Yes	Maybe	No
1. Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archeological site?	☐	☐	☒
2. Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object?	☐	☐	☒
3. Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	☐	☐	☒
4. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	☐	☐	☒

U. *Mandatory Findings of Significance.*

1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☒
2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short term, to the disadvantage of long term, environmental goals?	☐	☐	☒
3. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?	☐	☐	☒
4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒

I. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION *(See Comments Attached)*

See responses to form 69.3 on following pages.

. PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☒ I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

Date. / /

For the State Lands Commission

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STATE LANDS COMMISSION

Date Filed: / /

File Ref.:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM - Part I
(To be completed by applicant)
FORM 69.3 (7/82)

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name, address, and telephone number:

a. Applicant:

City of Oakland
1421 Washington Street
Oakland, CA 94612
(415) 273-3546 (J. D. Coolidge)

b. Contact person if other than applic

( )

2. a. Project location: Lake Merritt, Oakland, California

b. Assessor's parcel number: City-owned

3. Existing zone of project site: Unzoned (design review)

4. Existing land use of project site: Recreational (public park)

5. Proposed use of site: Recreational (no change)

6. Other permits required: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bay Conservation and Development Commission (both in regard to dredge spoils disposal)

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Non-building construction projects: Describe fully, the proposed activity, its purpose and intended use. (Attach plans or other drawings as necessary)

2. For building construction projects, complete attachment "A".

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1. Describe the project site as it exists before the project, including information on topography, soil stability, plants and animals, and any cultural, historical, or scenic aspects. Describe any existing structures on the site, and the use of the structures.

2. Describe the surrounding properties, including information on plants and animals and any cultural, historical, or scenic aspects. Indicate the type of land use (residential, commercial, etc.), intensity of land use (one-family, apartment houses, shops, department stores, etc.), and scale of development (height, frontage, set-back, rear yard, etc.).

D. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Answer the following questions by placing a check in the appropriate box. Discuss all items checked "yes" or "maybe". (Attach additional sheets as necessary)

Will the project involve:	Yes	Maybe	
1. a change in existing features of any bays, tidelands, beaches, lakes or hills, or substantial alteration of ground contours?	☐	☐	☐
2. a change in scenic views or vistas from existing residential areas or public lands or roads?	☐	☐	☐
3. a change in tterm, scale, or character of the general area of project?	☐	☐	☐
4. significant effect on plant or animal life?	☒	☐	☐
5. significant amounts of solid waste or litter?	☒	☐	☐
6. a change in dust, ash, smoke, fumes, or odors in the vicinity?	☒	☐	☐
7. a change in ocean, bay, lake, stream, or ground water quality or quantity, or alteration of existing drainage patterns?	☐	☐	☒
8. a change in existing noise or vibration levels in the vicinity?	☐	☐	☒
9. construction on filled land or on slope of 10 percent or more?	☐	☐	☒
10. use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials, such as toxic or radioactive substances, flammables, or explosives?	☐	☐	☒
11. a change in demand for municipal services (police, fire, water, sewage, etc)	☐	☐	☒
12. increase in fossil fuel consumption (eceltricity, oil, natural gas, etc.)?	☐	☐	☒
13. a larger project or a series of projects?	☐	☐	☒

E. CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this initial evaluation to the best of my ability, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 7-17-83

For City of Oakland

REVISED 6/20/83

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM 69.3

Following are responses to certain items listed on your Form 69.3:

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. NON-BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS: DESCRIBE FULLY, THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY, ITS PURPOSE AND INTENDED USE. (Attach plans or other drawings as necessary.)

The project is described in our response to Item 3 "General Description of the Project" of your Form 59.2. This and project plans are included in our enclosures.

2. FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, COMPLETE ATTACHMENT "A".

Not applicable

C. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1. DESCRIBE THE PROJECT SITE AS IT EXISTS BEFORE THE PROJECT, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON TOPOGRAPHY, SOIL STABILITY, PLANTS AND ANIMALS, AND ANY CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, OR SCENIC ASPECTS. DESCRIBE ANY EXISTING STRUCTURES ON THE SITE, AND THE USE OF THE STRUCTURES.

The project site is described in our response to Item 4(a) "Description of Environmental Setting" of your Form 59.2. This is included in our enclosures.

2. DESCRIBE THE SURROUNDING PROPERTIES, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON PLANTS AND ANIMALS AND ANY CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, OR SCENIC ASPECTS. INDICATE THE TYPE OF LAND USE (RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, ETC.), INTENSITY OF LAND USE (ONE-FAMILY, APARTMENT HOUSES, SHOPS, DEPARTMENT STORES, ETC.), AND SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT (HEIGHT, FRONTAGE, SET-BACK, REAR YARD, ETC.).

The lake and surrounding park land are in turn surrounded by a highly urbanized area with land use, primarily high density residential. There is virtually no vacant land in the vicinity.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4. SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON ANIMAL OR PLANT LIFE?

One of the major reasons for dredging is to help control the proliferation of Ruppia maritima (widgeon grass) which is progressively choking out the lake.

5. SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF SOLID WASTE OR LITTER?

It is hoped that up to 410,000 cubic yards of bottom material will be removed by hydraulic dredging.

6. A CHANGE IN DUST, ASH, SMOKE, FUMES OR ODORS IN THE VICINITY?

Odor problems from decaying Ruppia and algae will be sharply reduced.

DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Lake Merritt is a small natural lake located approximately one mile inland of the Oakland-Alameda Estuary. The lake is "V" shaped, each arm being approximately 4,000 feet long. A park (Lakeside Park) is located on the north margin of the lake in the junction of the arms of the "V". Three major thoroughfares border the lake: Lakeshore Avenue to the east, Lakeside Drive to the west, and Grand Avenue to the north. The neighborhood around the lake is urban, part of the city's business district, with high-rise buildings and heavy traffic. A natural stream feeds into the lake from the north, into the right arm of the "V". The lake is drained by an outlet to the south, where it leads into the Oakland-Alameda Estuary.

The lake is used by recreational fishermen, small-boat sailing regattas, and is viewed by picnickers and visitors to a small children's play park in Lakeside Park.

The applicant will dredge up to 410,000 cubic yards of material from the bottom of the lake from the southern end, northeast into the east arm of the "V". A small part will be dredged in the west arm. Dense beds of widgeon grass will be removed to improve the water quality and recreational navigation. The lake bottom will be deepened an average of three feet. Shoals built up around several islands used by waterfowl will be dredged out to re-isolate the islands. The dredge spoils will be removed with a hydraulic dredge with an 8-inch to 16-inch intake capacity and transported via pipeline along the draining stream course to a holding station at the mouth of the stream where it enters the Oakland-Alameda Estuary. The spoils will be loaded onto barges then towed and disposed of at the United States Army Corps of Engineers Disposal Site S.F. 11 near Alcatraz Island.

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DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

II.A.6 Alteration in Siltation, Deposition

As the intent of this project is the removal of large quantities of bottom sediments and bottom-attached aquatic plants on the lake bed, there is a potential for altered sedimentation patterns when the bottom material has been cleared. The lake will be deepened an additional three feet where shoaling has occurred, and portions of the lake bottom will be changed. Removal of the widgeon grass may allow less restricted water flow and reduce the rate of sedimentation in the lake. The sedimentation patterns may be altered.

II.B.2 Creation of Objectionable Odors

There may be some odor generated from the operation of the dredge, if diesel engines are used to power the equipment. The grass creates a strong odor as it decays in the lake and a reduction in objectionable odors is anticipated when the widgeon grass is removed.

II.C.5 Alteration of Water Quality

Part of the purpose of the project is to improve the water quality of the lake by the deepening of its bed and removal of the widgeon grass. Removal of widgeon grass will reduce decaying material and improve oxygen levels in the water. Deepening the lake will inhibit re-infestation by the grass, prolonging improved water quality.

II.D.1 Change in Plant Species

Part of the project's intent is to remove thick beds of widgeon grass presently in the lake. It is planned to remove all widgeon grass and deepen the lake to inhibit re-infestation by the grass. Other plant types on the lake bed also will be removed by the dredging.

II.E.1 Change in Diversity of Animal Species

The intent of the dredging project is to deepen the lake bed and remove widgeon grass thereby enhancing the lake environment. Fish populations may increase as the water quality is improved by the removal of the widgeon grass and sediments. Shoaling around several islands where wildfowl nests, has allowed predatory animals to cross to the islands, reducing the effectiveness of the islands

as shelter. The shoals will be removed by the dredging which will re-isolate the islands from predators and allow bird populations to breed and grow on the islands. There will be a reduction in bottom living organisms after dredging but natural re-occupation of the bottom should occur with in-migration from unaffected parts of the lake bed.

II.E.3 Barrier to Animal Movement

The dredging will remove shoaling which has built up around several "duck islands" in the lake. This shoaling made the islands accessible to land predators. The shoal removal will allow wild fowl to nest on the islands and eliminate access to land predators.

II.F.1 Increase in Noise Levels

There may be an increase in noise levels during the operation of the dredge. The dredging equipment will have proper mufflers to reduce this impact. The lake is located in urban Oakland where there is heavy traffic noise, reducing the apparent noise impact of the operations on the area. The lake is surrounded by city park land with large trees which may act as a sound attenuating barrier, reducing the impact of noise on the surrounding area.

II.S.1 Impact on Recreation

The dredging will remove widgeon grass beds and shoaling in the lake. This will improve the overall recreational quality of Lake Merritt. The removal of the grass will improve water quality which is hoped to increase fishery resources in the lake, thereby improving recreational fishing.

Many small-boat regattas are conducted on the lake; recreational sailing will be improved with removal of the grass and shoals where boaters become fouled and trapped at present. The removal of shoals around the islands will improve the waterfowl habitat, increasing the aesthetic quality of the lake for sightseers and picnickers.