

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. C5  
is approved as Minute Item  
No. 5 by the State Lands  
Commission by a vote of 3  
to 0 at its 9/28/83  
meeting.

CALNDAR ITEM

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9/28/83  
W 6005  
Willard/  
Livenick  
PRC 6490

APPROVAL OF THE  
PROPOSED SOIL BORING PROGRAM

PERMITTEE: United States Geological Survey  
Branch of Marine Geology  
345 Middlefield Road  
Menlo Park, California 94025  
Attention: Mike Field - MS-99

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:  
Tide and submerged lands lying off the  
mouth of the Salinas River near Moss Landing,  
Monterey County.

PROPOSED PROJECT:  
The USGS proposes to take samples of the  
shallow sediments by soil boring with a  
rotary drill rig from a floating vessel.  
Samples will be obtained by pushing or  
driving a two-inch diameter, 18-inch-long  
hollow sampler into the sea floor inside  
the larger diameter rotary drill pipe.  
The purpose of the program is to collect  
geologic information relating to the strati-  
graphy and evolution of the Continental  
Shelf. A secondary purpose is to gain infor-  
mation on aquifers in the Salinas Valley  
which are undergoing extensive seawater  
intrusion.

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The USGS plans to take a soil boring from one site within State-owned lands, offshore the mouth of the Salinas River (1.75 miles offshore). The depth of the boring will be no more than 300 feet, and it is anticipated it will be terminated before a subsurface depth of 200 feet. The boring will not penetrate more than 50 feet into consolidated rock.

Because of the small size and shallow depth of the borings, and the "punched" method to be used, little if any cuttings will be created.

Geophysical records indicate no shallow gas in the area. The shallow borings will not be entering any oil bearing strata. Ship traffic is very light. The operations will require between 24 and 48 hours use of the site. The USGS plans to conduct the boring program at some time between October 18 and October 26, 1983.

The project is situated on State lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6370.1 and is classified in a use category, Class "B" which authorizes Limited Use. Staff has coordinated this project with those agencies and organizations who nominated the site as containing significant environmental values. They found this project to be compatible with their nomination.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

1. Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6826, the Commission may permit geological and geophysical surveys on State lands. Section 6826.1 excludes Monterey Bay and other lands from core drilling operations but exempts such operations by the USGS and other specified agencies so long as the work performed is for the purpose of scientific studies other than oil and gas exploration.

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2. Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 21080 and 21084, certain classes of projects are categorically exempt from CEQA. The issuance of this permit is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA under 14 Cal. Adm. Code 15306, Class 6 (The collection of data for information purposes which will not result in a serious or major disturbance of an environmental resource).

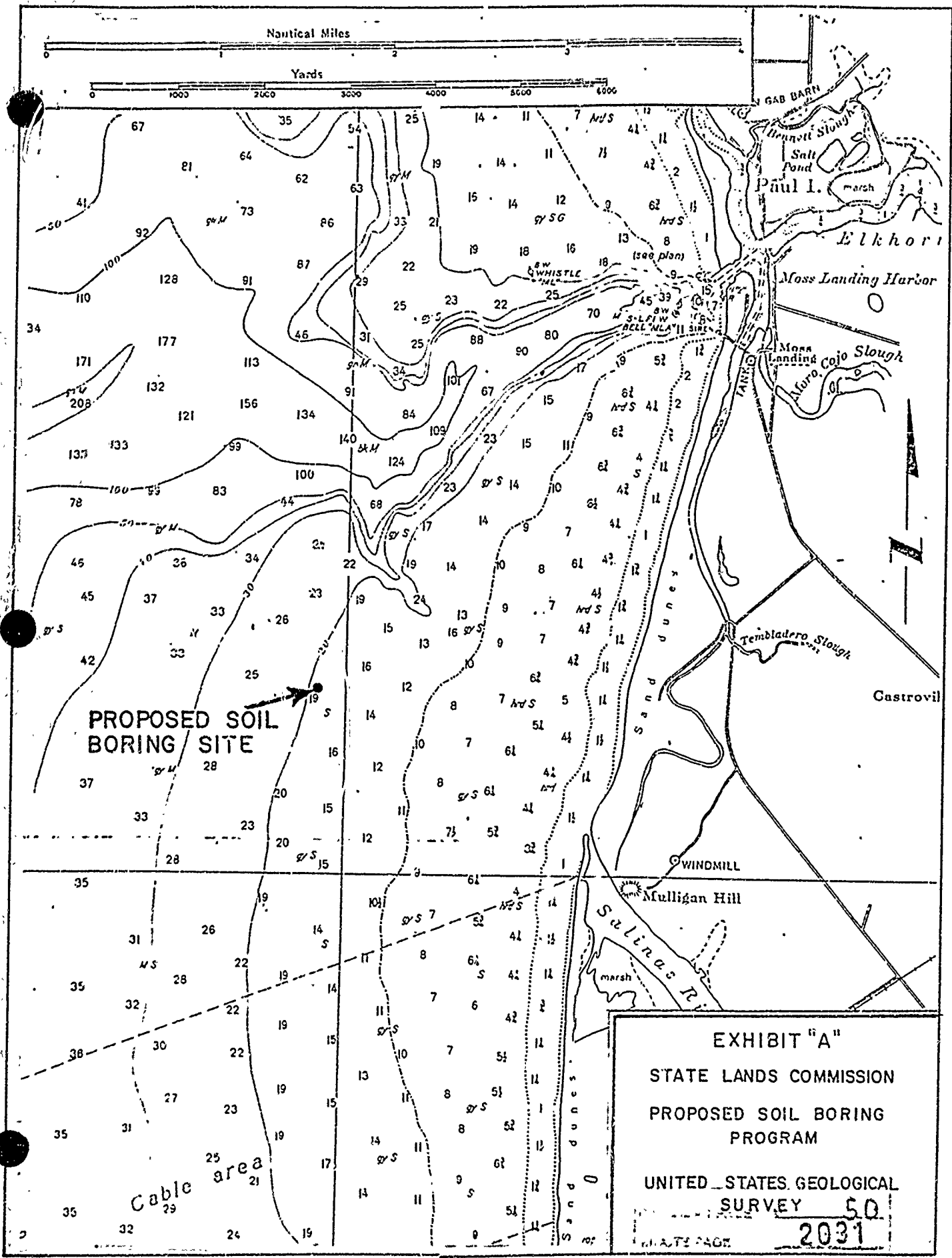
AB 884: N/A.

EXHIBIT: A. Project Location.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT IS NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS ACTIVITY IT HAS BEEN EXEMPTED FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF CEQA AS A CATEGORICALLY EXEMPTION, CLASS 6 (P.R.C. 21084; CAL. ADM. CODE 15300 ET SEQ.).
2. FIND THAT THE APPROVAL OF THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED WILL HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS UPON THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS AS DEFINED PURSUANT TO P.R.C. 6370.1.
3. AUTHORIZE APPROVAL OF THE SOIL BORING PROGRAM PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ON TIDE AND SUBMERGED LANDS OFFSHORE THE MOUTH OF THE SALINAS RIVER, MONTEREY COUNTY. ANY SOIL BORINGS SHALL BE CONDUCTED AFTER ALL APPROPRIATE PERMITS ARE OBTAINED FROM OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES.

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REVISED 9/23/83