MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 16 was approved as Minute Item No. 16 by the State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 1/23/84 meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

16

1/23/84
W 23285
Graber
Marsh
PRC 6551

DREDGING PERMIT

APPLICANT: Oxnard Harbor District
P. O. Box 608
Port Hueneme, California 93041-0608

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:
State-owned tide and submerged lands waterward of the 1939 mean high tide line in Port Hueneme Harbor Entrance Channel, Ventura County, California.

LAND USE: Dredge a total of 300,000 cubic yards of sediments, approximately 100,000 yards of which are within State lands jurisdiction to maintain safe navigation into the harbor.

Spoils taken from the State-owned lands are to be deposited on Hueneme Beach Intertidal Surf Zone and material within the Harbor, not from State-owned lands, will be placed on an upland site near Liquid Natural Gas Company terminal. No spoils are to be placed south or west of the Ventura County Railroad. Spoils are to be sampled during dredging and dredging is not to be carried out after April 1, 1984, in accord with Fish and Game stipulations made a part of the Corps of Engineers "Specifications to Project Contractor for Dredging at Port Hueneme Harbor".

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TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:

Initial period: One year from December 1, 1983.

CONSIDERATION: No royalty is to be charged for spoils taken from State-owned lands and placed on publicly owned lands and beaches. A royalty of $0.25 per cubic yard will be charged for spoils placed on private property or sold for commercial benefit.

PREREQUISITE TERMS, FEES AND EXPENSES:

Filing fee has been received.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

A. PRC 6303, 6370 and 21065.

B. 14 Cal. Adm. Code 15304(g), CEQA Guidelines, 2 Cal. Adm. Code 2905, 2951 - 2954.

OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS:

United States Army Corps of Engineers "Specifications to Project Contractor for Dredging at Port Hueneme Harbor".

AB 884: 10/18/84.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Oxnard Harbor District has applied for a dredging permit to dredge 300,000 cubic yards of material of which approximately 100,000 cubic yards will be from State-owned lands waterward of the mean high tide line in Port Hueneme Harbor Entrance Channel. A hydraulic dredge will remove the material and transport it by pipeline to the disposal sites.

2. An environmental assessment was conducted for this project by the Commission's staff pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. Based upon such assessment, the staff has prepared and circulated a "Proposed Negative Declaration" identified as ND 353; State Clearinghouse No. 83110913. Concerns raised by the Department of Fish and Game during the public review period have been incorporated into

United States Army Corps of Engineers Contract to Contractor "Specifications to Project Contractor for Dredging at Port Hueneme Harbor", a copy of which is on file in the Sacramento Office of the State Lands Commission.

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

EXHIBITS:
A. Site Map.
B. Land Description (Map).
C. Neg. Dec. 353.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION, ND 353, HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CEQA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.

2. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT AS AUTHORIZED BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

3. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE, TO OXNARD HARBOR DISTRICT, OF A ONE-YEAR DREDGING PERMIT FROM DECEMBER 1, 1983, WITH NO ROYALTY CHARGED FOR SPOILS PLACED ON PUBLIC LANDS AND A ROYALTY OF $C.25 PER CUBIC YARD FOR SPOILS PLACED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY OR SOLD FOR COMMERCIAL BENEFIT.

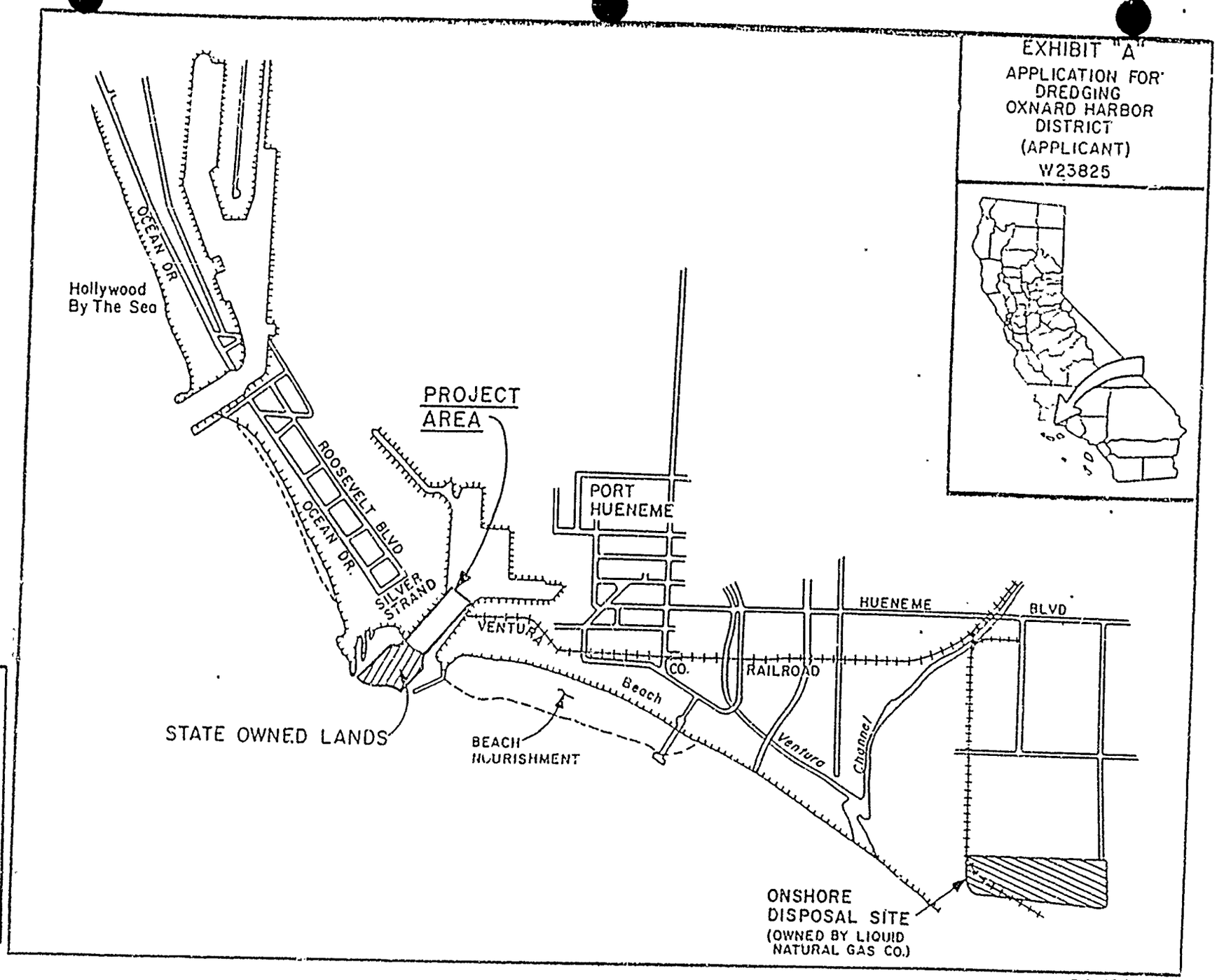
EXHIBIT "A"
APPLICATION FOR DREDGING
OXNARD HARBOR DISTRICT
(APPLICANT)
W23825
Hollywood By The Sea
OCEAN DR
ROOSEVELT BLVD
OCEAN DR.
SILVER STRAND
PROJECT AREA
PORT HUENEME
HUENEME
BLVD
VENTURA
CO.
RAILROAD
Beach
Ventura
Channel
STATE OWNED LANDS
BEACH NOURISHMENT
ONSHORE DISPOSAL SITE
(OWNED BY LIQUID NATURAL GAS CO.)
N
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66
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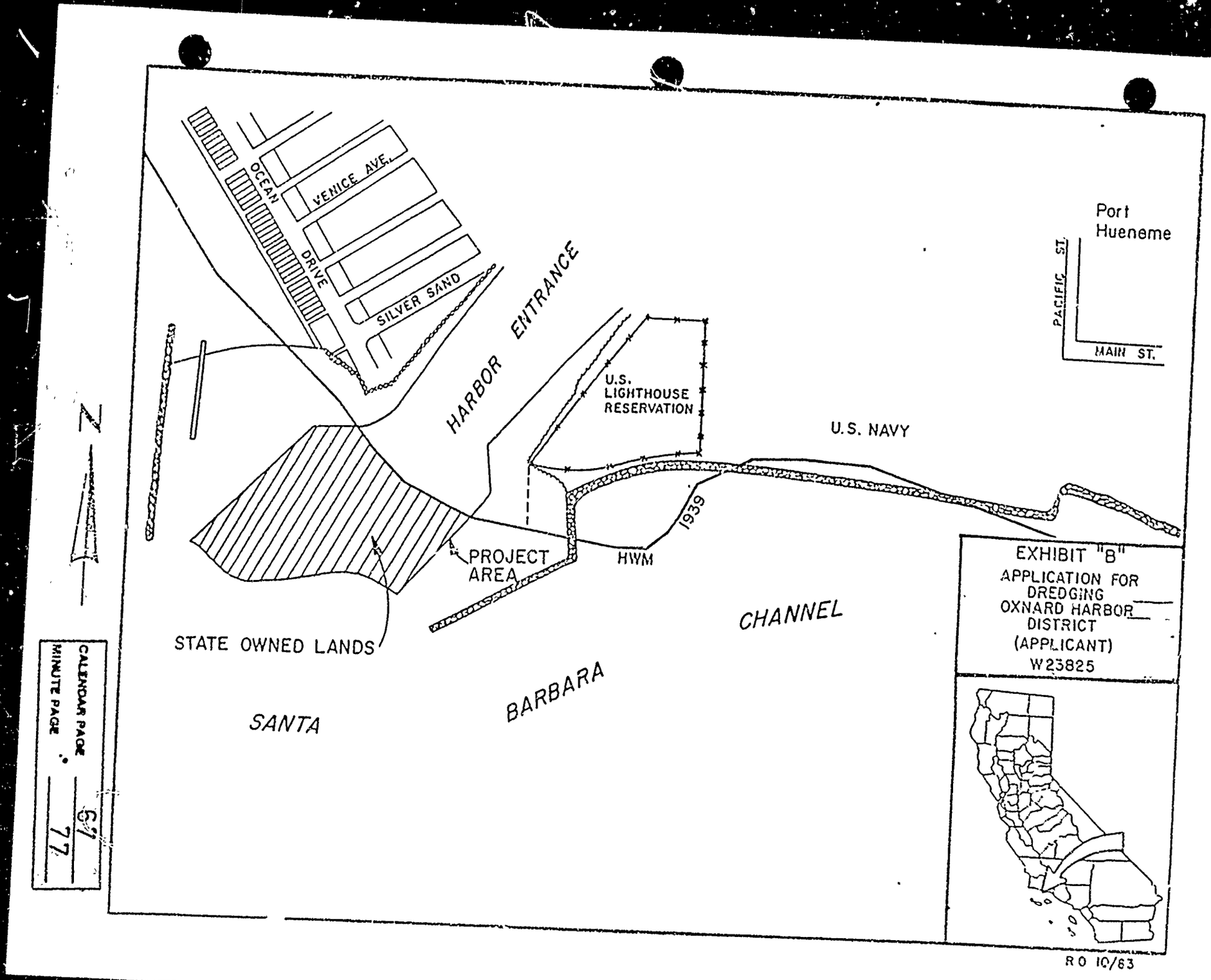
R O 10/83


OCEAN DRIVE
VENICE AVE.
SILVER SAND
HARBOR ENTRANCE
U.S. LIGHTHOUSE RESERVATION
U.S. NAVY
Port Hueneme
PACIFIC ST.
MAIN ST.
1939
HWM
PROJECT AREA
STATE OWNED LANDS
CHANNEL
SANTA BARBARA
N
EXHIBIT "B"
APPLICATION FOR DREDGING
OXNARD HARBOR DISTRICT
(APPLICANT)
W23825
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
1807 - 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

EXHIBIT "C"

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR ND 353

File Ref.: W 23285

SCH#: 83110913

Project Title: Port Hueneme Dredging Project

Project Proponent: Oxnard Harbor District

Project Location: Port Hueneme Harbor, Ventura County

Project Description: Dredging to remove up to 300,000 cubic yards of material from the harbor basin and entrance channel to Port Hueneme Harbor of which approximately 100,000 cubic yards will be removed from State tide and submerged lands. The spoils will be deposited on Hueneme Beach and the Western Liquid Natural Gas Terminal upland site.

Contact Person: Ted T. Fukushima Telephone: (916)322-7813

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

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

[X] the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

[ ] mitigation measures included in the project will avoid potentially significant effects.

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Form 15.17 (8/80)

File Reference: W 23285

INITIAL STUDY COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Department of Fish and Game

1. Comment: No spoil to be deposited onshore southwest of the Ventura County railroad tracks.

   Response: Contacted John Elmore, Oxnard Harbor District, who verified that spoils disposal will not occur in the zone southwest of the railroad tracks.

2. Comment: No dredging activity will occur after April 1, 1984, or if Terns show up prior to April 1, 1984.

   Response: Contacted John Elmore, Oxnard Harbor District, who verified that activity will not be undertaken after April 1, 1984, or if Terns appear prior to April 1, 1984.

3. Comment: Water quality samples and dredge spoils will be taken, prior to dredging, for heavy metals and pollutants present, especially in the day type soils which are to be deposited on the onshore disposal site.

   Response: Contacted John Elmore, Oxnard Harbor District, who verified that the requirement to sample water quality and spoils content for heavy metals and pollutants is made a condition of the dredging contract.

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

Date Filed: 11/3/83

File Ref.: W 23285
SD-83-8-22
W 23285

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM – Part I

(To be completed by applicant)
FORM 69.3(11/82)

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name, address, and telephone number:

a. Applicant

Oxnard Harbor District
P.O. Box 608
Port Hueneme, Calif. 93401-0608
(805) 488-3677

b. Contact person if other than applicant:

Mr. Edward J. Millan, Genera Manager
Oxnard Harbor District
P.O. Box 608 Port Hueneme, Calif. 930
06
(805) 488-3677

2. a. Project location (Please reference to nearest town or community and include county)

Port Hueneme
Ventura County, California

b. Assessor's parcel number: This parcel located under 35 feet of water is not part of the Ventura County Assessor's map but is adjacent to parcel 206-02-22 which is a military reservation.

3. Existing zoning of project site: U. S. Navy Base

4. Existing land use of project site: U. S. Navy Military Ship operations

5. Proposed use of site Military ships

6. Other permits required: Coastal Commission, Cal. Regional Water Quality Control Board, City of Oxnard, California, City of Port Hueneme, California, and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. For building construction projects, complete "ATTACHMENT A".

2. For non-building construction projects: Describe fully, the proposed activity, its purpose and intended use, e.g. for proposed mineral prospecting permits, include the number of test holes, size of holes, amount of material to be excavated, maximum surface area of disturbance, hole locations, depth of holes, etc. Attach plans or other drawings as necessary.

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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.
See attached Enviromental Assessment (E.A.)
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.).
See attached Enviromental Assessment (E.A.)

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	NO
1. a change in existing features of any bays, tidelands, beaches, lakes, or hills, or substantial alteration of ground contours? Temporary impact - see E.A.	☒	☐	☐
2. a change in scenic views or vistas from existing residential areas or public lands or roads? Temporary impact - See E.A.	☒	☐	☐
3. a change in pattern, scale, or character of the general area of project?	☐	☐	☒
4. a 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? Temorary - During dredging	☒	☐	☐
7. a change in ocean, bay, lake, stream, or ground water quality or quantity, or alteration of existing drainage patterns? Temporary impact - see S.A.	☒	☐	☐
8. a change in existing noise or vibration levels in the vicinity? Temporary - during dredging	☒	☐	☐
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, . .)?	☐	☐	☒
12. an increase in follis fuel consumption (electricity, oil, natural gas, etc.)? Temporary - During dredging	☒	☐	☐
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: 5 OCT. 1983

Signed: C.A. Mallgren

CARL A. MALLGREN
Chief, Acquisition Branch
Real Estate Division
US Army Engineer District, Los Angeles

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File Ref.: W 23285
SCH#.
November 9, 1983

INITIAL STUDY INTRODUCTION

The Oxnard Harbor District has applied to the State Lands Commission for a dredging permit on State lands on the west end of the entrance channel to Port Hueneme Harbor, Port Hueneme, Ventura County, California.

The proposed project consists of dredging up to 300,000 cubic yards of material from the harbor basin and entrance channel. The intent of the project is to improve navigability and access into the harbor. A portion of this project involves State-owned lands within the entrance channel, waterward of the 1939 high water mark.

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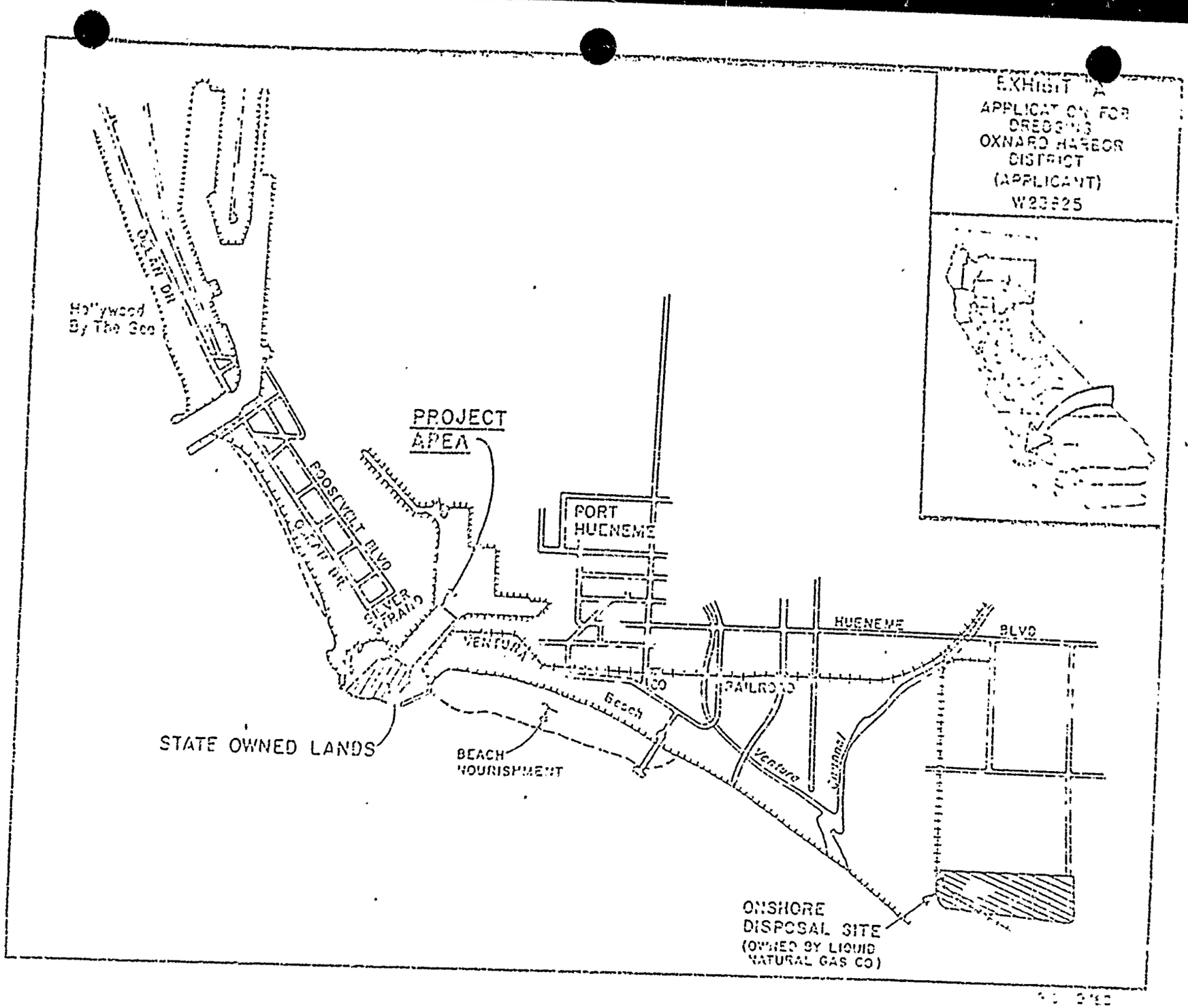

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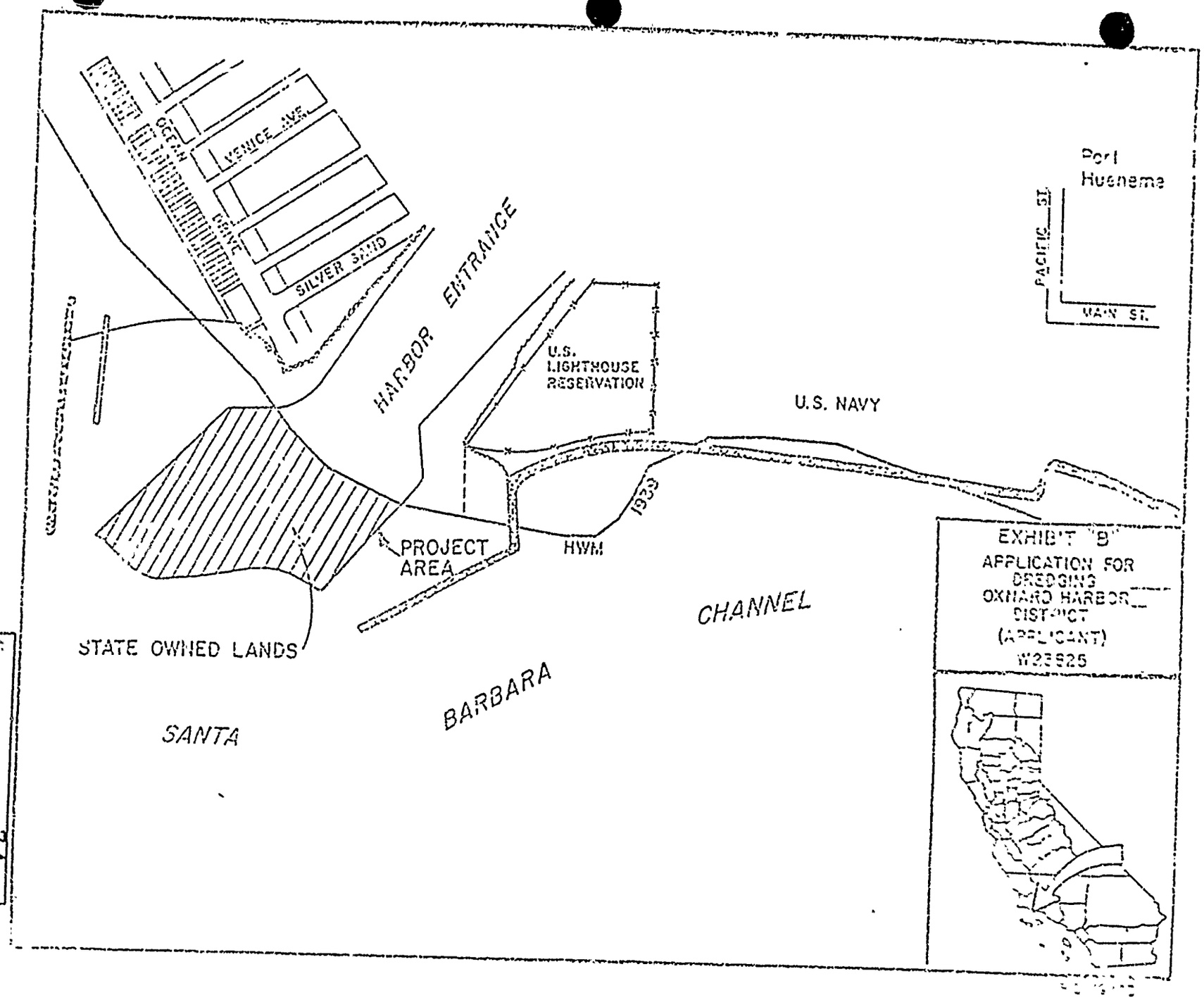

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STATE LANDS COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST - PART II.

Form 13.20 (7/82)

File Ref.: W 23095

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Applicant: Ormond Harbor District
P. O. Box 608
Port Hueneme, CA 93041-0608

B. Checklist Date: 11 / 4 / 83

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

Telephone: (916) 323-7709

D. Purpose: The intent of the project is to remove 300,000 cubic yards± from the entrance channel and harbor basin of Port Hueneme Harbor to improve navigation safety.

E. Location: Port Hueneme Harbor, City of Port Hueneme, Ventura County, California

F. Description: Dredging to remove 300,000 cubic yards of bottom sediments from the entrance channel and harbor basin in Port Hueneme Harbor. Material to be transported from a hydraulic dredge to Ormand and Hueneme Beaches for good sand spoils and to the Western Liquid Natural Gas Terminal for silty, muddy spoils.

G. Persons Contacted: 1. Ormond Port Dist.

2. Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles

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

A. *Earth* Will the proposal result in:	Yes	Maybe	No
1. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures?	☐	☐	X
2. Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil?	☐	☐	X
3. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?	☐	☐	X
4. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?	☐	☐	X
5. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?	☐	☐	X
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?	X	☐	☐
7. Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure or similar hazards?	☐	☐	X

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	Yes	Maybe	No
B. *Air.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality? SEE ITEM 6	☐	☒	☐
2. The creation of objectionable odors? SEE ITEM 6	☐	☐	☐
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 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? SEE ITEM 7	☐	☐	☐
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)? SEE ITEM 8	☐	☐	☐
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)? SEE ITEM 8	☐	☐	☐
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. Increases in existing noise levels? SEE ITEM 8	☐	☐	☐
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 resource?	☐	☐	☒

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[illegible] Will the proposal result in:

	Yes	Maybe	No
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? S. S. R. A. M. 2	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

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3. *Cultural Resources*

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

4. *Mandatory Findings of Significance.*

a. 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?	☐	☐	☒
b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?	☐	☐	☒
c. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?	☐	☐	☒
d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION *(See Comments Attached)*

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation

[X] 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: 11/13/85

For the State Lands Commission

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DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Port Hueneme Harbor is located about one mile southeast of Channel Islands Harbor near the cities of Port Hueneme and Oxnard, approximately 65 miles north of Los Angeles Harbor. The harbor has been deepened once in 1975. Sand collecting in the Port Hueneme Harbor entrance channel is brought in by littoral drift from the Pacific Ocean and is deposited. This material is made up of clean sand. Material collected in the inner harbor is derived primarily from inflow from storm drains and effluent from the naval reservation adjacent to the harbor; it is comprised of silts, muds and poorer grade sand.

The harbor is established in a 'Y' like configuration with the entrance channel (bottom of the 'Y') oriented in a southwesterly direction. A large turning and docking basin is located at the convergance of the channel and dock channels (Exhibit 'A'). Dredging will be conducted in the central turning basin and the entrance channel.

The applicant plans to dredge a total of 300,000 cubic yards of material from Port Hueneme Harbor. 200,000 cubic yards of material will be removed from the entrance channel. This material is suitable for beach nourishment and will be placed onto Hueneme Beach. The material from the inner harbor will be dredged and placed at the Western Liquid Natural Gas Terminal (LNG) east of the harbor. 100,000 cubic yards of this material will be placed at the LNG disposal site. The inner harbor material is comprised of clays, silts and muds not suitable for beach nourishment. This material will be transported from the dredge site to the LNG site by pipeline along Hueneme and Oxnard Beach. Dikes around the disposal site will retain the slurry until the sediments settle out. The water will be pumped from the holding dikes to the ocean after passing through at least two sets of weirs.

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DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

1. Change in Features

There will be an alteration of existing features of 31 acres of uplands adjacent to the Western Liquid Natural Gas Terminal east of Port Hueneme. The proposed dredging action would permanently remove the 31 acres of land from use as farmland for agricultural production. The land is currently zoned for utility use and the current landowner intends to develop this land. The land would be removed from agricultural production without this project.

The project is not expected to directly impact wetlands adjacent to the Western Liquid Natural Gas disposal site. The disposal site would be diked, with two feet of freeboard. Influent and effluent would be piped to and from the disposal site across an existing dirt road, to not impact the wetland.

2. Impact on Views and Recreation

There would be some impact on recreation and esthetics while the dredging was being done. The discharge pipeline would cause some temporary disruption of recreation activities and the visual quality of beaches in the project area. However recreation usage of the beaches does decline after Labor Day. Additionally, the pipeline would be buried along Silver Strand Beach which would reduce its impact on views and beach accessibility.

4. Affect on Animal Life

The project might have an affect upon plant and animal life during dredging and for a brief period following. The project is scheduled to reduce its impacts.

The dredging is scheduled to begin after September 1, (including mobilization prior to operation) and would be completed before April 1, 1984. The California Least Tern is not expected to be impacted as the Tern nesting season ends August 30, approximately, with the birds migrating south afterward. The Tern returns approximately April 1.

The nest site will be inspected to confirm all resident Terns have left prior to dredging.

The scheduled period of dredging coincides with the period when the California Grunion is not spawning. The Grunion spawns from March through August while the dredging is scheduled between September and March. The impact is not expected to be significant.

The project is not anticipated to impact dune vegetation behind Ormond Beach. The dune vegetation has been identified as significant and should not be disturbed. The discharge pipeline to the upland disposal site will follow along Ormond Beach and will not be placed on dune vegetation. Where the pipeline must cross the dunes to reach the upland disposal site, it will be placed over an already disturbed area. It is further stipulated that the dredging Contractor will be allowed onto the dunes only with the written permission of the Contracting Officer. With these conditions impact to dune vegetation should be minimal, if impact is significant, then the Corps, in consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will revegetate the dunes.

The dredging activity will temporarily affect the Benthic (bottom living) and fish populations in the vicinity of dredging. The removal of material from the harbor bottom will temporarily eliminate the bottom living community in the dredged area. This area will be recolonized after dredging is complete.

Suspended sediments from the dredging activity may also clog the gills or impair proper respiratory, excretory or feeding functions of organisms in adjacent filter feeding communities. The impact will be temporary, limited during dredging and restricted to the project area.

The fish population could be affected by the turbidity associated with the dredging and disposal activities. Suspended sediment may clog the gills of fish impairing proper respiratory function or causing susceptibility to disease. The activity is planned to be temporary and of short duration to minimise this impact.

6. Change in Air Quality

There may be a change in the quality during the dredging project. The dredge is a diesel-powered system. The engines supplying power for the electric pump system will generate some exhaust odor and airborne particulate pollutants. With the presence of extensive ship traffic in the project area, the impact should not be significant. The diesel emissions will last during the dredging operations.

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7. Change in Water Quality

There will be a change in the water quality during dredging. There will be a short term increase in turbidity levels in the area immediately adjacent to the dredge intake and beach disposal sites. Suspension of bottom sediments would also reduce dissolved oxygen concentrations. Use of a hydraulic dredge should reduce and localize suspended materials to the immediate vicinity of the cutterhead and beach disposal sites.

Inland disposal operations could also potentially impact water quality in the project area. This would occur if contaminants in the disposal material were released into the water column. This could result in pollution of either return water from the disposal site to be piped back into the ocean or seepage into the groundwater system below the disposal site. Sediment samples were taken from the inner harbor and the results indicate the return flows to be piped into the ocean should not significantly alter water quality. Quantities of pollutants which may enter the water column through percolation are expected to be much less since most of the pollutants are bound to the sediments.

Return water flows will be monitored to insure applicable water quality standards are met and that return flows are not toxic to marine life.

The dredged material contains high amounts of sandy silts and some clay. These sediments are expected to seal the disposal site reducing leakage of run off water into the underlying water table.

8. Increase in Noise

There may be an increase in noise level within the vicinity of the dredging project. The dredge is diesel powered and may generate increased noise. The dredge will be equipped with mufflers to reduce noise. The distance of the craft from nearby shores will also help reduce the noise impact. Sea and harbor ambient noise will further reduce impact at the project site.

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