

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 34
was approved as Minute Item
No. 34 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 11/29/84
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A 34

S 25

34

11/29/84
W 40392 PRC 6754
Hart

APPROVAL OF A PROSPECTING PERMIT FOR
MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL
RESOURCES, SAND AND GRAVEL, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

APPLICANT: Floyd M. Whitson
913 11th Street
Golden, Colorado 80401

PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION:

Approval of a Prospecting Permit for two years
to prospect for gold and silver and other
valuable minerals, other than oil, gas,
geothermal resources, sand and gravel on 640
acres of land located in San Bernardino County.

CONSIDERATION: Filing fee of \$25, expense deposit of \$100 and
an acreage deposit of \$640.

TYPE OF LAND AND LOCATION:

State school land - Sec 16, T18N, R13E, SBM,
San Bernardino County, 15 miles north of
Mountain Pass.

PROPOSED PROJECT:

The applicant proposes to conduct a two-phased
exploration for valuable minerals with the
execution of phase II dependent upon the
achievement of success in phase I.

Phase I:

Drill by auger four, six-inch diameter holes to
a depth not exceeding 100 feet each. The auger
samples will be assayed for gold, silver,
platinum group metals, gypsum, and other
elements. The holes will be augered with an
augering device attached to a small
self-propelled vehicle. The support vehicles,

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will consist of two 4-wheel drive vehicles. Fluid will not be used in the augering of the holes and they will be back-filled immediately after sampling.

Access to the State parcel will be from the Old Traction Road. Cross country travel to the sampling sites will eliminate the need for road construction on Section 16.

Phase II:

If the results of Phase I are favorable, less than 250 tons of sediments will be excavated by a backhoe/loader at each of the four auger sites. The bulk samples will be transported off the State parcel by a dump truck for testing and processing out of State. The bulk sample excavations will be back-filled and contoured to the original land surface.

The applicant shall contact the staff of the State Lands Commission if any Native American remains are uncovered during the project.

Any proposed activity not authorized by this permit will not proceed without prior approval of a project amendment processed pursuant to the requirements of CEQA. If commercial mining operations are proposed, appropriate environmental documentation will be prepared and certified prior to issuing a mineral extraction lease.

TERM:

The primary term of a Prospecting Permit is two years. The Commission may, in its discretion, extend the term for one additional year.

ROYALTY:

Royalty payable under the permit shall be 20 percent of the gross value of the minerals secured from the permit area and sold or otherwise disposed of or held for sale or other disposition.

PREREQUISITE ITEMS:

1. Required statutory filing fee, expense deposit and acreage deposit have been submitted by the applicant.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 34 (CONT'D)

2. Subject parcel is not known to contain a commercially valuable deposit of minerals.
3. Royalty payable under any preferential lease issued shall not be less than 10% of the gross value of all mineral production from the leased lands, less any charges approved by the Commission made or incurred with respect to transporting or processing the State's royalty share of production. The determination of said royalty and charges shall be at the discretion of the Commission and set forth in said lease.

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Section 6891.

B. Cal. Adm. Code: Title 2, Section 2200.

AB 884:

12/08/84.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15025), the staff has prepared and circulated for public review a proposed Negative Declaration identified as EIR ND 362, State Clearinghouse 84013011 pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. A copy of this environmental document is attached as Exhibit "C".

Based upon the initial study, the proposed Negative Declaration, and the comments received in response thereto, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15074 (b)).

2. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370 et. seq. Based upon the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the CEQA review process, it is the staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

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SERIALIZED FILED	2756

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 34 (CONT'D)

3. Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6895, upon establishing to the satisfaction of the Commission that commercially valuable deposits of minerals have been discovered within the limits of the permit, the applicant would have a preferential right to a lease for a maximum of 160 acres embraced within the permit. Said right shall be subject to all necessary environmental approvals. The issuance of the permit shall not affect the discretion of the Commission in granting or denying such lease because of environmental considerations.
4. Permit shall provide for a performance bond of \$7,000 in favor of the State.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

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

EXHIBITS:

- A. Land Description.
- B. Site Map.
- C. Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION EIR ND 362, STATE CLEANINGHOUSE 84013011, WAS PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CEQA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN. THE PROJECT SHALL INCLUDE THIS PROSPECTING PERMIT AND ANY EXTENSION THE COMMISSION MAY GRANT IN ITS DISCRETION FOR THE SAME PROJECT DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT. ANY EXTENSION SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR.
2. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS PROPOSED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. FIND THAT THIS ACTIVITY AS PROPOSED IS CONSISTENT WITH THE USE CLASSIFICATION DESIGNATED FOR THE LAND PURSUANT TO P.R.C. 6370 ET SEQ.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 3 (CONT'D)

4. DETERMINE THAT THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT ARE NOT PRESENTLY KNOWN TO CONTAIN COMMERCIALY VALUABLE DEPOSITS OF MINERALS.
5. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF THE PROSPECTING PERMIT TO FLOYD M. WHITSON FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, FOR ALL MINERALS, OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES, SAND AND GRAVEL ON SEC 16, T18N, R13E, SBM, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 640 ACRES; IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD FORM OF PERMIT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER THE PERMIT SHALL BE 20 PERCENT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER ANY PREFERENTIAL LEASE ISSUED UPON THE DISCOVERY OF COMMERCIALY VALUABLE DEPOSITS OF MINERALS SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE GROSS VALUE OF ALL MINERAL PRODUCTION FROM THE LEASED LANDS, LESS ANY CHARGES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION MADE OR INCURRED WITH RESPECT TO TRANSPORTING OR PROCESSING THE STATE'S ROYALTY SHARE OF PRODUCTION. THE DETERMINATION OF SAID ROYALTY AND CHARGES SHALL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSION.

EXHIBIT "A"

LAND DESCRIPTION

W 40392

A parcel of California State school lands in San Bernardino County, California,
described as follows:

Section 16, T 18N, R13 E, SBM.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED OCTOBER 4, 1984, BY BOUNDARY AND TITLE UNIT.

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2759

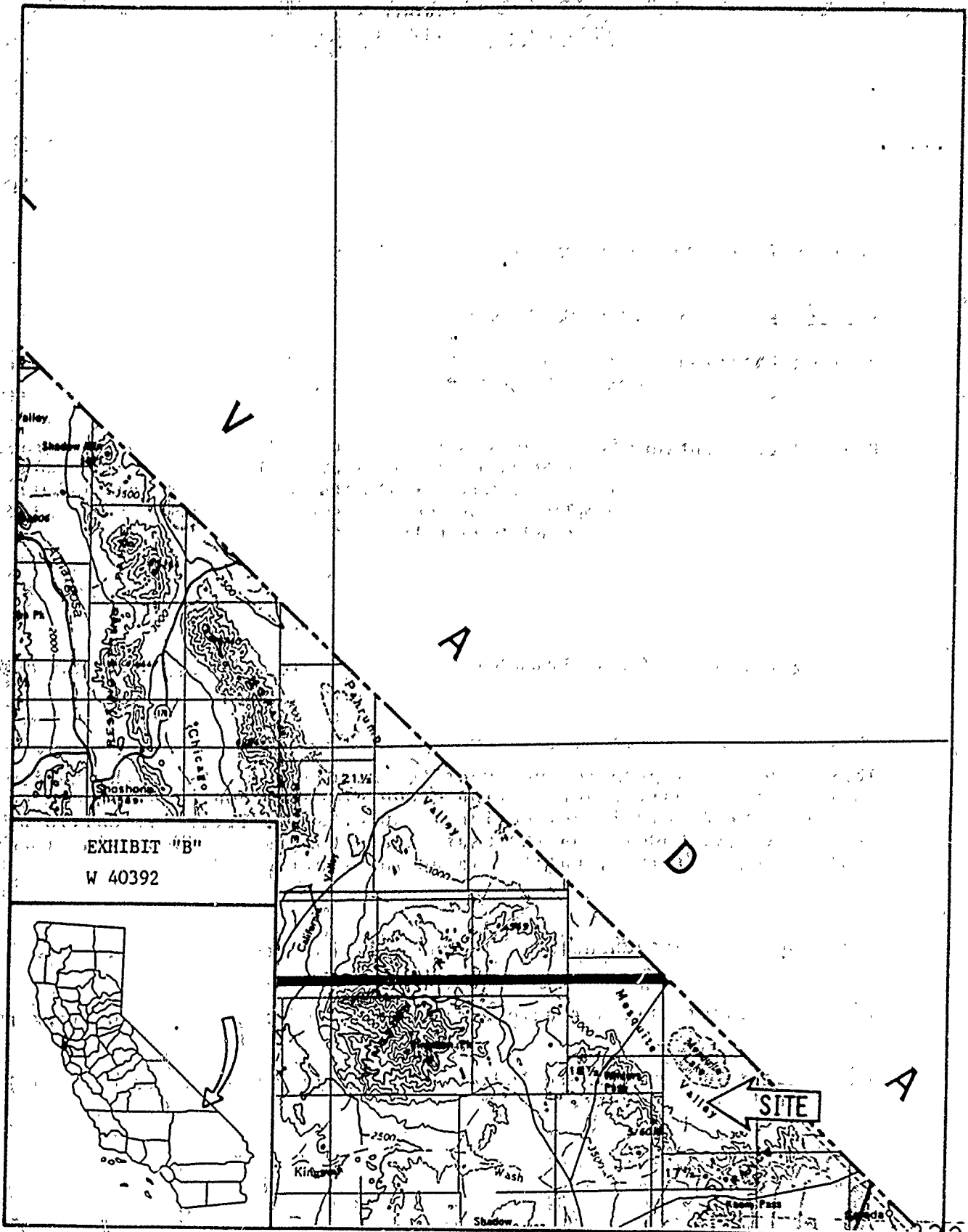


EXHIBIT "C"
PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR ND 362

File Ref.: W 40392

SCH#: 84013011

Project Title: Mineral Prospecting Permit - Mesquite Lake

Project Proponent: Floyd M. Whitson

Project Location: Section 16, T. 18 N., R. 13 E., SBEM, approximately 15 miles north of Mountain Pass, San Bernardino County.

Project Description: The applicant will auger four holes to a depth not exceeding 100 feet each. If the assay results of the auger samples are favorable, less than 250 tons will be excavated for bulk sampling at each of the auger sites to discover and delineate any possible orebody.

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:

☐ 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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File Ref.: W 40392
SCH# 84013011

MITIGATION MEASURE

The applicant shall contact the staff of the State Lands Commission's Long Beach office if any Native American human remains are discovered during any activity on State Lands.

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File Ref.: W 40392
SCH# 84013011

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON INITIAL STUDY
AND RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

1. Native American Heritage Commission

Comments:

"The Commission is mandated to identify and catalog places of special religious or social significance to Native Americans pursuant to Section 5097.94 (a) of the Public Resources Code. The Commission is further instructed to request and utilize the advice and service of all federal, state, local, and regional agencies in the protection and preservation of sacred places.

This responsibility can be accomplished by adding a stipulation to the Negative Declaration on the above project. We request that the Native American Heritage Commission be contacted if human remains of Native American origin be encountered during the project. The Heritage Commission will then assist in expediting their preservation and protection in a respectful manner. The enclosed form may then be used to record the site."

Response:

See Mitigation Measure.

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File Ref.: W 40392
SCH# 84013011

April 17, 1984

INITIAL STUDY
INTRODUCTION

Floyd M. Whitson has applied to the State Lands Commission for a prospecting permit on State lands located in Mesquite Valley in northeastern San Bernardino County. The proposed project consists of augering four holes to a depth not exceeding 100 feet each. If the assay results of the auger samples are favorable, less than 250 tons will be excavated for bulk sampling at each of the auger sites to discover and delineate any possible orebody. The permit, when issued, is for a two-year period and may be extended for a maximum of one year.

This Initial Study consists of an environmental impact assessment checklist, information form responses, and maps.

STATE LANDS COMMISSION
April 1984

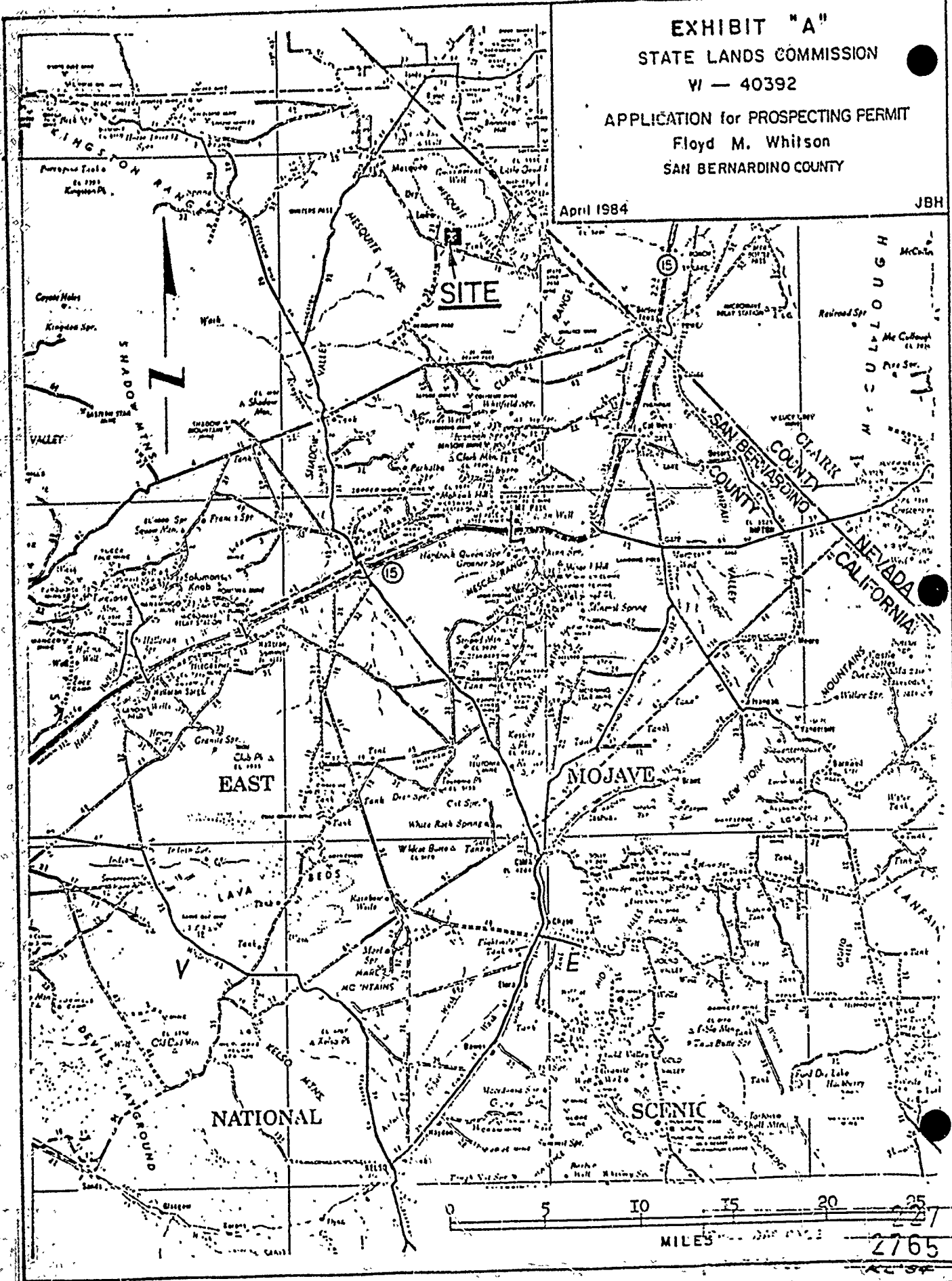
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EXHIBIT "A"
STATE LANDS COMMISSION
VI - 40392

APPLICATION for PROSPECTING PERMIT
Floyd M. Whitson
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

April 1984

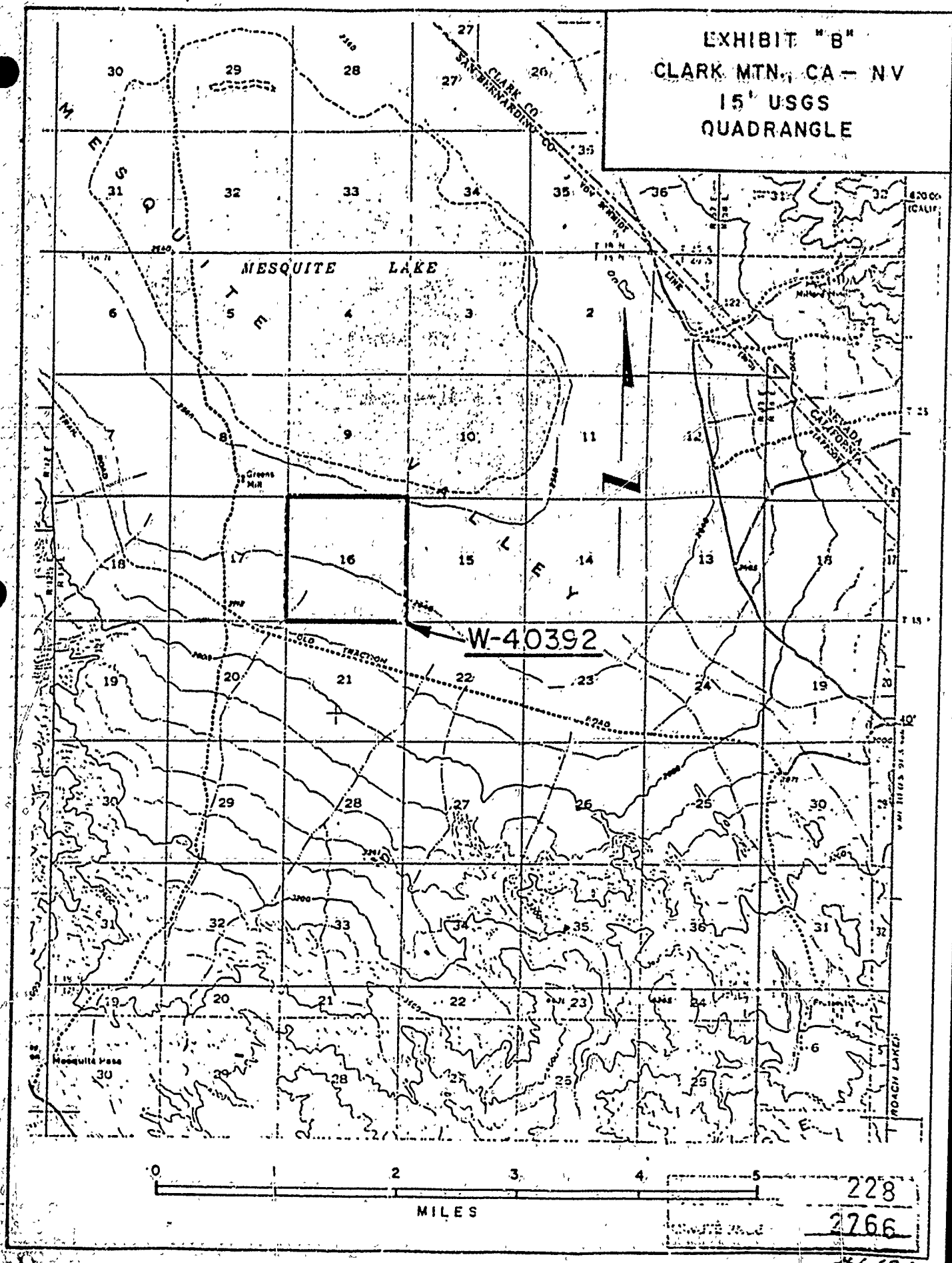
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MILES

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EXHIBIT "B"
CLARK MTN., CA - NV
15' USGS
QUADRANGLE



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STATE LANDS COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST - PART II

Form 13.20 (7/82)

File Ref.: W 40392

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. Applicant: Floyd M. Whitson
913 - 11th Street
Golden, Colorado 80401
- B. Checklist Date: 4 / 9 / 84
- C. Contact Person: James B. Hart, State Lands Commission
 Telephone: (213) 590-5201
- D. Purpose: Prospect for valuable minerals.
- E. Location: Section 16, T. 18 N., R. 13 E., SBB&M, San Bernardino
County. See attached maps.
- F. Description: Applicant will auger four holes and excavate less than 250
tons for bulk sampling at each auger site to discover and
delineate any possible orebody.
- G. Persons Contacted: See detailed project description.

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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or uncovering of the soil? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Change in topography or ground surface relief features? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Exposure of all people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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

- 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? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
2. Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
- K. **Population.** Will the proposal result in:
1. The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
- L. **Housing.** Will the proposal result in:
1. Affecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
- M. **Transportation/Circulation.** Will the proposal result in:
1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
2. Affecting existing parking facilities, or create a demand for new parking? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
3. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
4. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
5. Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
6. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
- 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? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
2. Police protection? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
3. Schools? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
4. Parks and other recreational facilities? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
5. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
6. Other governmental services? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
- O. **Energy.** Will the proposal result in:
1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
2. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
- P. **Utilities.** Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:
1. Power or natural gas? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
2. Communication systems? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
3. Water? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
4. Sewer or septic tanks? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
5. Storm water drainage? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
6. Solid waste and disposal? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
- Q. **Human Health.** Will the proposal result in:
1. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
- 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? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No
- S. **Recreation.** Will the proposal result in:
1. An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☒ No

Yes Maybe No

T. Cultural Resources.

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? ☐ ☐ ☒

III. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION (See Comments Attached)

See attached Detailed Project Description, Discussion of Environmental Evaluation, and Form 69.3.

IV. 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: 5 / 8 / 84

James R. Hart
For the State Lands Commission
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Form 13.20 (7/82)

DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Floyd M. Whitson proposes to conduct two-phased exploration in the permit area with the execution of phase II dependent upon the achievement of success in phase I. The project consists of two phases of increasing magnitude and expense. This permits an orderly compilation of information and holds expenses and surface disturbance to a minimum if the results do not justify proceeding further.

The State parcel is within the drainage area of several past productive mining districts. Erosion of the mining areas resulted in the transportation and deposition of valuable minerals within the basin of Mesquite Valley. An exploration program to evaluate the mineral potential of this area is proposed as follows:

Phase I:

The applicant will auger four, six-inch diameter holes to a depth not exceeding 100 feet each (refer to Map C). The auger sample will be assayed for gold, silver, platinum group metals, gypsum, and other elements.

The holes will be augered with an augering device attached to a small self-propelled vehicle. The support vehicles will consist of two 4-wheel drive vehicles. Fluid will not be used in the augering of the holes and they will be back-filled immediately after sampling.

Access to the State parcel will be from the old traction road (refer to Map C). Cross country travel to the sampling sites will be practiced, thereby eliminating the need for road construction on Section 16.

Phase II:

If the results of Phase I are favorable, less than 250 tons of sediments will be excavated by a backhoe/loader at each of the four auger sites. The bulk samples will be transported off the State parcel by a dump truck for testing and processing out of State. The bulk sample excavations will be back-filled and contoured to the original land surface.

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Surface Disturbance

The estimated maximum excavated sample volume for Phases I and II is 453 cubic yards of material. The estimated maximum surface area disturbance of the four auger hole and bulk sampling sites is 1 acre.

If a commercially valuable mineral deposit is discovered through prospecting efforts under authorization of a prospecting permit, a comprehensive environmental impact report will be required on the future impacts of mining the deposit.

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III. Discussion of Environmental Evaluation

- A 2. Disruption, displacement, compaction, and over-covering of the soil will occur in the immediate vicinity of the sampling sites. All auger holes and excavations will be restored to the natural ground contour, as nearly as possible.

A minimal amount of disruption and compaction of the soil will occur when the sampling equipment is moved on and off a site.

- A 5. An increase in wind and water erosion of the disturbed soil at subsurface sampling sites will take place during wind and rain storms. Erosion will be minimal if Phase II is not carried out.

- C 6. Augering may penetrate one or more aquifers with a subsequent flow path through the drill hole; however, it is anticipated that no water bearing formations will be penetrated. If ground water is encountered, the auger hole will be plugged with cement upon abandonment.

- F 1. The operating backhoe and auger rig and accessory activities will temporarily increase the existing noise levels.

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:

Floyd M. Whitson

913 - 11th Street

Golden, CO 80401

(303) 277-0180

b. Contact person if other than applicant:

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

50 miles northwest of Needles, California.

Sec. 16, T18N, R13E, S8M, San Bernardino County, approximately 1 mile south
of Mesquite Lake

b. Assessor's parcel number: Unknown

3. Existing zoning of project site: Agricultural

4. Existing land use of project site: Leased for grazing

5. Proposed use of site: Mineral prospecting

6. Other permits required: No requirements known

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.
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 | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. a change in existing features of any bays, tideland, beaches, lakes, or hills, or substantial alteration of ground contours? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. a change in scenic views or vistas from existing residential areas or public lands or roads? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. a change in pattern, scale, or character of the general area of project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. a significant effect on plant or animal life? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. significant amounts of solid waste or litter? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. a change in dust, ash, smoke, fumes, or odors in the vicinity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. a change in ocean, bay, lake, stream, or ground water quality or quantity, or alteration of existing drainage patterns? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. a change in existing noise or vibration levels in the vicinity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. construction on filled land or on slope of 10 percent or more? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials, such as toxic or radioactive substances, flammables, or explosives? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. a change in demand for municipal services (police, fire, water, sewage, etc.)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. an increase in fossil fuel consumption (electricity, oil, natural gas, etc.)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. a larger project or a series of projects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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:

August 25, 1983

Signed:

Robert H. Whitton

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The area, including the land for the project, is a valley surrounded by mountains and contains the dry lake known as Mesquite Lake. A small community known as Sandy Valley is located a few miles to the north, in the State of Nevada. The residential area of Sandy Valley consists almost entirely of mobile homes and other rather temporary buildings. There is a small airstrip and a commercial cyanide leaching mill in the area, which services local mines on a custom-mill basis. Operating mines in the area are generally confined to the mountain areas; but placer claims are being bulk-sampled in the immediate area, and at least one operator has announced plans to build a mill and to placer mine on claims one mile from the proposed permit land. The area is typical desert land with some cactus, mesquite and sagebrush and sparse grass. The nearby lake area ranges from completely denuded lake bed to small dunes with mostly mesquite bushes. Wild animals include jack rabbit, owls, desert rodents and a few small birds. No rare or unique environmental resources are known to exist in the area, nor is it believed that there are any historical artifacts existing in or near the area.

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MAILING LIST - LETTERS
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San Bernardino, CA 92415

Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 1976
Chemehuevi Valley, CA 92363

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MAILING LIST - MEMOS
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Regional Water Quality
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Lahontan Region 6
Attn: Roy C. Hampson,
Executive Officer
2092 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA 95702

Department of Parks & Recreation
Attn: James M. Doyle
P.O. Box 2390
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Attn: Robert Pote
247 West Third Street
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Native American Heritage Commission
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State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Technical Services-
Environmental Services
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