

MINUTE ITEM

12

4/25/85  
PRC 6697  
Kiley  
Stevenson

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND  
LEASE PRC 6697 TO INCLUDE THE PLACEMENT  
OF NEW RIP-RAP AT 4 SITES  
SACRAMENTO RIVER, BUTTE AND GLENN COUNTIES

During consideration of Calendar Item 12 attached, the following people appeared in support of the item:

Ray Barsch, General Manager  
State Reclamation Board

G. Donald Melxner  
Flood Management Division  
Department of Water Resources

Jerry Elliott  
Consulting Civil Engineer

Dave Anderson, Counsel  
State Reclamation Board

Marc Faye  
Reclamation Board Member

Don Anderson, President  
Sacramento Valley Land Owners

George Basye, Attorney  
California Central Valley Flood Control Association  
Parrott Ranch Company

Bill Conan  
Resident of Road 29 Area

The following person appeared in opposition to the item:

Walter Cook, Attorney  
Representing himself and Sutter-Butte Chapter,  
National Audubon Society

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Representatives for the Reclamation Board spoke to the reasons for approving this item as an emergency project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The representatives of the Reclamation Board described the work to be done at the 4 sites, progressive shifting of the River's location, and the potential effects of a flood in the 1985-86 season should the proposed work not be completed.

The representatives for private parties and public groups discussed the past and potential harm occasioned by the River's movement in the area of the 4 sites. These representatives indicated their support for the issuance of the permit on an emergency basis.

Mr. Walter Cook, Attorney, representing himself and the Sutter-Butte Chapter of the National Audubon Society, urged the Commission to reject the item as not within the emergency exemption to CEQA. Among other topics, Mr. Cook referred to and entered into the record the Interim Plan for Flood Control.

Throughout the hearing of item 12, the Commissioners expressed serious concern that the facts before them did not constitute an emergency within the meaning of CEQA.

Upon conclusion of extensive testimony, and there being no motion for approval, the application in Calendar Item 12 was denied. Chairman Cory advised the Reclamation Board of the Commission's willingness to assist the Board in satisfying the requirements of the CEQA process. Chairman Cory further advised the applicant of the Commission's willingness to hold a special meeting to consider approval once CEQA requirements were met.

Attachment: Calendar Item 12

CALENDAR ITEM

12

A 1, 4

S 1, 4

4/25/85  
PRC 6697  
KILEY/  
STEVENSON

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO  
AMEND LEASE PRC 6697 TO INCLUDE NEW  
RIP-RAP SITES; SACRAMENTO RIVER;  
BUTTE AND GLENN COUNTIES

At its June 21, 1984, meeting, the State Lands Commission authorized a permit (PRC 6697.9) to the Reclamation Board to maintain the present extent of rock rip-rap on the existing Sacramento River levees between Chico Landing and Collinsville. The Commission found the levee work, as described above, to fall within the CEQA exemptions for maintenance of existing structures and repair of levees. Thus, the Commission did not require any additional environmental documentation prior to its decision.

The Reclamation Board, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has proposed to proceed on an emergency basis with federally-authorized bank protection work between May and November of this year along the Sacramento River between the Butte County line and Chico Landing. This bank work is to be at four sites and will include placing rock rip-rap on prepared bank slopes where no rip-rap had existed before. The proposed project does not involve work on levee slopes. The four sites as proposed by the Reclamation Board are shown on Exhibit B (attached to this calendar item and incorporated by reference) as:

- (1) River Mile (RM) 188.5 right bank (Monroeville Bend);
- (2) RM 187.1 left bank (Murphy's Plug);
- (3) RM 179.4 right bank (Camp 2 Bend (1)); and
- (4) RM 178.5 left bank (Camp 2 Bend (2)).

Together, the four sites comprise approximately 15,000 linear feet of new rip-rap on the River banks.

The work planned for these four sites is not authorized under the scope of the present permit. The staff has informed the Reclamation Board that any placement of new bank rip-rap will require compliance with CEQA prior to the start of the project.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 1.2 (CONT'D)

The four sites shown on Exhibit B are part of a more extensive rip-rap plan which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State Reclamation Board have proposed for the Sacramento River banks between Colusa and Chico Landing (Sacramento River Bank Protection Project). The entire Project, comprising approximately 49,000 linear feet of bank protection, has generated considerable controversy within the environmental community and various State and Federal agencies. The Sacramento River Preservation Trust (Trust), representing numerous groups concerned with fisheries and riparian habitat, threatened to sue the Reclamation Board to force the Board to prepare an EIR on the entire 49,000 linear foot project. The Trust has recently reached a settlement with the Reclamation Board which contemplates some work to be done on the River this year. As a part of this settlement, the Board voted unanimously at its April 18 meeting to have its staff prepare a full EIR for any work to be done after November, 1985, as part of the Corps Sacramento River Bank Protection Project.

On April 12, 1985, the Reclamation Board applied to the State Lands Commission for a permit to allow placement of new rip-rap for bank protection at the sites shown on Exhibit B. The sites have been represented as critical to maintain the designed split in flow during high flow periods between the main river channel and overflow into the Butte Basin, which is an integral part of the Sacramento River's bypass system. Rip-rapping at these sites is directed towards maintaining an adequate head of water to keep flows into the Basin at levels which assure that the levees downstream will not be put under undue pressure.

On April 12, 1985, the Reclamation Board filed a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse stating that this year's work on the sites shown on Exhibit B is required to prevent or to mitigate an emergency. In summary form, the facts offered by the Reclamation Board to support the position that the work for each site is necessary to prevent or to mitigate an emergency are as follows:

1. RM 188.5, right bank - Monroeville Bend (approximately 4,460 linear feet) - This is the most active site in the area as far as actual lateral movement. The river moved westward and southward 350' in the two year period 1982 and 1983. This erosion took out County Road both years and isolated and flooded local property. Further erosion could take out privately placed rock work and then will direct the flow back across the River at an angle

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 12 (CONT'D)

which could affect the rock work protecting the downstream side of the Murphy Slough Plug. This condition could occur in a single flood event or a series of smaller flood events. This site will help stabilize Monroeville Bend and acts as a system with the previous work done in this area as well as at site 187.1 Lt. The Glenn County Board of Supervisors has declared this site a local emergency.

2. RM 187.1, left bank - Murphy's Plug (approximately 3,405 linear feet) - Continued erosion at this site will jeopardize the Murphy Slough Plug. The Plug has been reconstructed over the years since 1970 at several million dollars in expense by the Corps of Engineers and is critical to the operation of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project. During times of floodflows, there is an 8-foot differential in water surface elevations above and below the Plug. A cutoff at the Plug will shorten the river by three miles. Failure of the Plug would cause widespread damage to downstream property and severely impact the Sacramento River Flood Control Project. This cutoff of the significant River meander at the Plug could overload the levee system or put too much water into Butte Basin.
3. RM 179.4, right bank - Camp 2 Bend (1) (approximately 2,355 linear feet) - A cutoff at this point would move the River away from the left riverbank and lower the water profile. This would require higher stages in the River before overtopping of the left bank would occur and would overload the downstream project levees. Rip-rapping at this site will also protect the 90 acre riparian growth on the right bank of the River. This riparian growth is needed to stabilize a significant River bend.
4. RM 178.5, left bank - Camp 2 Bend (2) (approximately 5,067 linear feet) - Camp 2 Bend has been moving in an easterly direction over the last few years. Continued erosion will cause the river to be redirected into an existing headcut (old oxbow) and the ability to get floodflows into Butte Basin will be lost. Also, there is a natural gas pipeline crossing between the River and the headcut which would be lost.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 12 (CONT'D)

The Staff has received information from the Board in support of the Board's position that the work must be done this season. The Staff has also met with Joseph Burns and Jerry Elliott, private hydrologists who have been frequent consultants to this Commission's staff. The staff has received various opinions on site 1 (Monroeville Bend) as to its status as an emergency site. Additional information to be provided by the Reclamation Board would better enable the Commission to concur with their characterization of this site. Based upon the information gathered, the staff concludes that work at the sites on Exhibit B is warranted. The Staff therefore recommends that the Board's permit for maintenance of levee rip-rap be amended to allow previously unauthorized new rip-rap work for bank protection at the sites shown on Exhibit B. However, it will be necessary for the applicant to return to this Commission if any other new bank protection rip-rapping activity is to take place at any other site in the Sacramento River between Collinsville and Chico Landing.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Site Map.
- B. Aerial photograph showing four proposed bank protection rip-rap sites in their approximate locations.
- C. Description of location of four sites.

OTHER PERTINENT ACTIVITIES

Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15061), the staff has determined that this activity is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a statutorily exempt project. The project is exempt because it involves a specific action to prevent or mitigate an emergency (Sites 1, 2, 3 and 4) and to effect emergency repairs to public service facilities necessary to maintain service (Site #2).

Authority: P.R.C. 21080(b)-(2) and (4) and 14 Cal. Adm. Code 15269(b) and (c)

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 12 (CONT'D)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THIS ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. ADM. CODE 15061 AS A STATUTORILY EXEMPT PROJECT PURSUANT TO P.R.C. 21080(b)(2) and (4) and 14 CAL. ADM. CODE 15269(b) and (c).
2. AUTHORIZE THE AMENDMENT OF LEASE PRC 6697.9 TO INCLUDE NEW RIP-RAPPING AT BANK SITES SHOWN ON EXHIBIT B. THIS NEW RIP-RAPPING IS TO BE AT SITES 1-(MONROEVILLE BEND); 2-(MURPHY'S PLUG); 3-(CAMP 2 BEND (1)); AND 4-(CAMP 2 BEND (2)) AND IS TO BE COMPLETED BY 11/1/85. THE AMENDMENT SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE NON-DISTURBANCE OF THE RIPARIAN GROVE AT RM 179.4, RIGHT BANK UNLESS SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF THIS COMMISSION IS OBTAINED.
3. FIND THAT PLACEMENT OF NEW RIP-RAP AT ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS ALONG THE SACRAMENTO RIVER OTHER THAN AT THE SITES LISTED ABOVE WILL REQUIRE A NEW OR AMENDED PERMIT FROM THIS COMMISSION AND THE PREPARATION OF AN EIR.

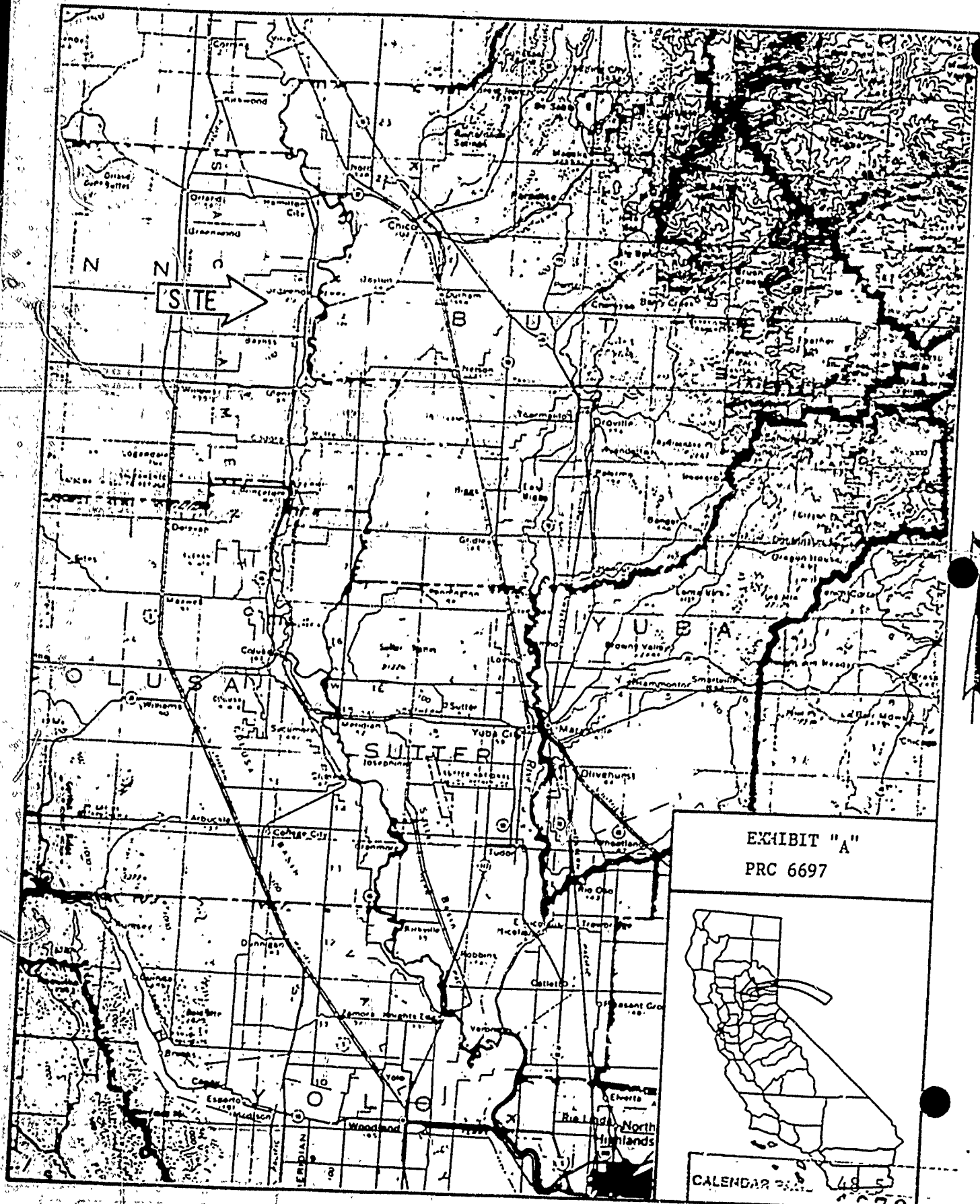


EXHIBIT "A"  
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CONSTRUCT H TYPE RAMP AND ACCESS ROAD 24' WIDE.  
TO BE STAKED IN THE FIELD BY CONTRACTING OFFICER.  
AT COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION RESURFACE TO 12' WIDE.

(2)  
SITE MILE 187.1 LT  
3405 FEET  
MURPHY'S  
PLUG

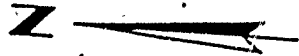
CONSTRUCT ACCESS ROAD PARALLEL TO  
EXISTING ROAD TO BE UTILIZED BY LOGGING  
VEHICLES.

BORROW (GRAVEL ROAD)

Road 29

ACCESS ROAD

(1)  
MONROEVILLE BEND  
SITE MILE 188.5 RT.  
4460 FEET



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Exhibit B-1



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(3)  
CAMP 2 BEND (1)  
SITE MILE 179.4 R  
2355 FEET

(4)  
CAMP 2 BEND (2)  
SITE MILE 178.5 LT  
5067 FEET

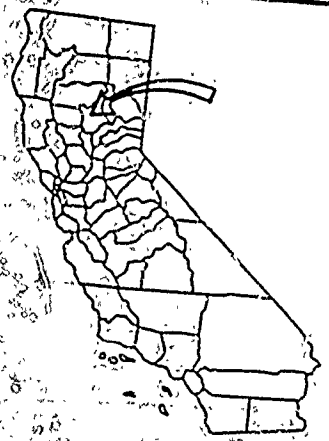
CONSTRUCT ACCESS ROAD TO SITE

EXCAVATOR DISPOSAL AREAS  
(SEE PLAN SHEETS FOR LIMITS)

UNDERGROUND HIGH PRESSURE GAS LINE

NEARBY DISPOSAL AREA

PRC 6697  
Exhibit B-2



GRAPHIC SCALE

EXHIBIT C

LAND DESCRIPTION

PRC 6697

Four strips of California State sovereign land of variable width in the bed of the Sacramento River, Butte and Glenn Counties, California, said strips being located at Site Miles 178.5 Lt. (5067 feet in length), 179.4 Rt. (2355 feet in length), 187.1 Lt. (3405 feet in length), and 188.5 Rt. (4460 feet in length), as shown on the Department of the Army, Sacramento District, Corps of Engineers Drawing, File No. 50-4-5723, Sheets 1 through 42, Specifications No. 7377, on file in the office of the State Lands Commission.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED APRIL 17, 1985 BY BOUNDARY SERVICES UNIT, M.L. SHAFER, SUPERVISOR

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