

MINUTE ITEM

23

11/19/87
W 40531
Kruger

CONSIDERATION OF A PROSPECTING PERMIT FOR MINERALS
OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES,
SAND AND GRAVEL, INYO COUNTY

Calendar Item 23, attached, was pulled from the agenda prior to the meeting.

Attachment: Calendar Item 23.

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CONSIDERATION OF A PROSPECTING PERMIT FOR MINERALS
OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES,
SAND AND GRAVEL, INYO COUNTY

APPLICANT: United States Borax
and Chemical Corporation
3075 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90010

AGENT: Michael H. Rauschkolb
United States Borax
and Chemical Corporation
1802 W. Grant Road, Ste. 108
Tucson, Arizona 85745

REQUESTED AUTHORIZATION:
Approval of a prospecting permit for precious
metals and other valuable minerals other than
oil, gas, geothermal resources, sand and gravel
on 640 acres of State property, more or less,
located in Inyo County.

CONSIDERATION: Filing fee of \$25, processing fee of \$250 and
an acreage deposit of \$640, for a total of \$915

TYPE OF LAND AND LOCATION:
Ungranted, State owned school land and further
described as follows: Section 36, Township 8
South, Range 38 East, Mount Diablo Base and
Meridian, northern Inyo County.

PROPOSED PROJECT:
U. S. Borax proposes to drill two exploratory
holes, six inches in diameter, to a maximum
depth of 2,000 feet to search for gold, silver,

lithium, clay, borates and valuable minerals other than oil, gas, geothermal resources, sand and gravel. The drilling will be accomplished by a truck mounted drilling rig. Mud pits, 4 feet wide by 10 feet long by 8 feet deep, may be required at each site. The drill holes will be sampled at 10 feet intervals. Each sample will consist of 2 to 5 pounds of subsurface material, and will be assayed offsite. The total amount of excavated material, should both holes be drilled to a total depth of 2,000 feet, is approximately 30 cubic yards.

SURFACE DISTURBANCE:

Both drill sites will be no more than 50 feet from an existing, unimproved dirt road along the west side of the property. Each of the proposed drill sites is on sloping terrain and will require levelling about one-tenth (0.1) of an acre. The total surface disturbance for the proposed project is estimated to be two-tenths (0.2) of an acre. Clearing and smoothing with a grader on State property will be restricted to the minimum required to insure safety for personnel and equipment.

RECLAMATION:

Each drill site will be returned to its original contour to the extent feasible. Removed top soil will be stored on site and will be replaced upon abandonment of each drill site. While clearing each drill site, perennial vegetation will be crushed rather than bladed in order to promote rapid recovery. Mud pits will be backfilled with drill cuttings upon completion of drilling and each site will be cleaned of all trash and debris. Drill holes if dry will be abandoned by backfilling each hole, from the surface to total depth, with drill cuttings. Upon abandonment, if casing cannot be removed, the casing shall be cut five feet below ground-level and a 20' plug of impervious material shall be placed at the top of the hole. If water bearing strata is encountered, the permittee shall notify the Inyo County Health Department. Upon encountering water, a

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drilling mud will be utilized consisting of naturally occurring bentonite. Drill holes penetrating water will be abandoned by placing a cement plug above the water zone and backfilling the remaining hole with drill cuttings.

If commercial mining operations are proposed, appropriate environmental documents will be prepared and certified prior to the issuance of a mineral extraction lease.

TERMS: 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 will be twenty percent of the gross value of the minerals secured from the permitted area, and sold or otherwise disposed of or held for sale or other disposition.

PREREQUISITE ITEMS:

1. Required statutory filing fee, processing fee and acreage deposit have been submitted by the applicant.
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 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 and set forth in said lease.

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

- A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Section 6891.
 - B. 14 Cal. Adm. Code: Title 2, Section 2200.
- AB 884: 12/16/87.

CALENDAR ITEM NO 23 (CONT'D)

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 421, State Clearinghouse No. 87062924, 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]).

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

2. Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6895, upon establishing to the satisfaction of the Commission that commercially valuable deposit of minerals have been discovered within the limits of the permit, the applicant will have a preferential right to a lease for a maximum of 640 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.
3. Permit shall provide for a performance bond or other security device of \$3,000 in favor of the State.

4. The permit lands are located within BLM Wilderness Study Area 117 near Death Valley National Monument. The surrounding lands are also within the lands which Senator Alan Cranston, by his "California Desert Protection Act" (S.7), seeks to make into a national park. Similar legislation has also been introduced by Congressman Levine (H.R.371) and Congressman Lehman (H.R.361 and H.R.729). Thus the permit lands, within two years, could be surrounded by either a federal wilderness area or by a national park. The State Department of Fish and Game expressed concerns about the issuance of this permit for these reasons and on grounds that full-scale mining will disrupt bighorn sheep habitat. If a permit is issued and if a commercial discovery is made, these concerns can be considered prior to any leasing and full-scale mining. The permit will specifically state that a lease may be denied for environmental reasons, including the inclusion of the surrounding lands in a federal wildlife area, national park or national monument.

ALTERNATIVES:

There appear to be at least three alternatives for consideration in this case:

1. Deny this and other applications for prospecting permits for areas contemplated under pending federal legislation for inclusion in a national park, national monument or wilderness area for five years or until a measure is enacted whichever comes first.
2. Approve the application for a prospecting permit with specific language added to the permit establishing clearly the Commission's concern over impacts on any proposed national park, monument or wilderness area, and reserving the right

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not to approve a mineral lease if there are environmental concerns about the project's impacts on lands proposed for national reservation status.

3. Approve the application for a prospecting permit with specific language added that should a commercial discovery be made, the Commission would attempt to have the boundaries of any proposed federal park, monument or wilderness area adjusted to exclude the State lands. If successful, a mineral lease would be issued, otherwise no permit would be allowed.

Staff recommends alternative 2 or 3. Should the terms proposed be acceptable to the Applicant, the Commission would know with some certainty whether the State parcel contained valuable minerals. If it does not contain commercial amounts, the matter ends. If it does, the Commission could then, using this information, seek a boundary adjustment which would permit development of the discovered minerals. Absent a boundary adjustment the information will be valuable in any subsequent exchange or purchase negotiated with the Department of the Interior for inclusion of the State parcel in the federal enclave.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6890, the subject permit application and form have 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.

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IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT NEGATIVE DECLARATION EIR ND 421, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 87062924, 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 DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT ARE NOT PRESENTLY KNOWN TO CONTAIN COMMERCIALY VALUABLE DEPOSITS OF MINERALS.
4. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF A MINERAL PROSPECTING PERMIT TO U. S. BORAX AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, FOR ALL MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES, SAND AND GRAVEL ON SECTION 36, T8S, R38E, MDB&M, INYO COUNTY, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 640 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD FORM OF PERMIT, SUBJECT TO THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IF A COMMERCIAL DISCOVERY IS MADE, THE LEASE MAY BE DENIED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS, INCLUDING THE INCLUSION OF THE SURROUNDING LANDS IN A FEDERAL WILDERNESS AREA, NATIONAL PARK, OR NATIONAL MONUMENT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER THE PERMIT SHALL BE TWENTY 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 40531

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

Section 36, T8S, R38E, MDM.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED JULY 6, 1987, BY BIU J.

0513b

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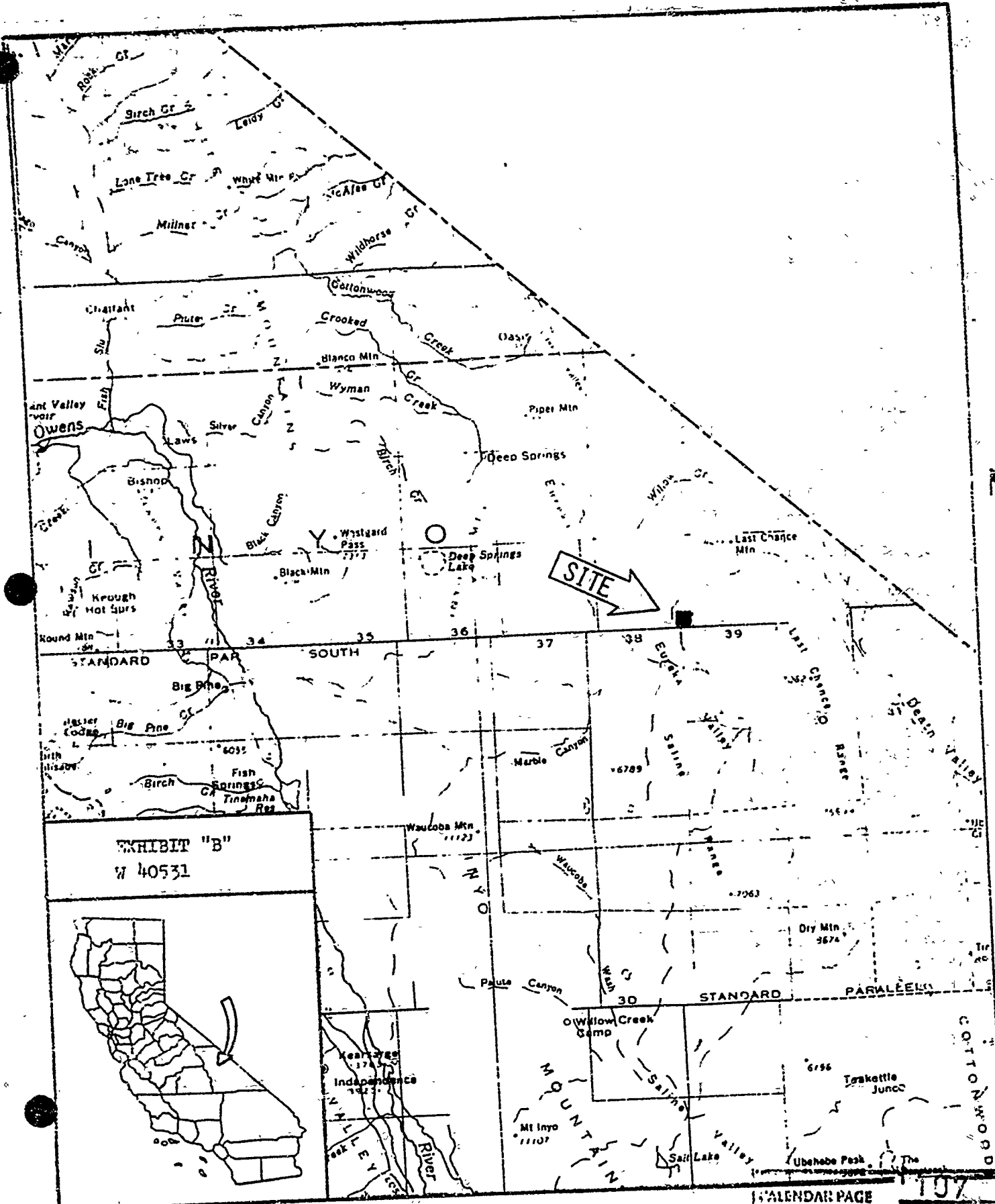


EXHIBIT "B"
W 40531



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Exhibit "C"

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
1807 - 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95811

Date: August 19, 1987

File Ref.: W 40531

SCH No.: 3706 2924

E.L. Kruger - 4.8.

TO:

SUBJECT: Review of Negative Declaration Pursuant to Section 15073 of the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Adm. Code)

An application is currently being processed by the staff of the State Lands Commission for the following described project:

Project Title: "Lila Project" - Eureka Valley Area

Project Proponent: U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation

Project Location: Section 36, T.8 S., R.38 E., M.D.M., approximately 30 miles east of Big Pine, Inyo County.

Project Description: The proposed project consists of drilling two exploratory holes, six inches in diameter, to a maximum depth of 2,000 feet. The drilling will be accomplished by a truck mounted drill rig such as a Failing 1500 or an equivalent. The drill holes will be sampled at approximately ten feet intervals. Two to five pound samples will be collected from the intervals for off-site assaying. Both drill sites will be along an existing road on the west side of the property. The exploratory holes will be properly abandoned upon completion of drilling.

A Negative Declaration has been prepared for the project pursuant to the requirements of Section 15070 of the State CEQA Guidelines and is attached for your review. Your comments are requested by September 21, 1987. Please address your comments to the State Lands Commission office shown above, with attention to the undersigned. Should you have any questions, you may call me at (916) . Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

ATTACHMENT


TED T. FUKUSHIMA
Division of Research &
Planning

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STATE LANDS COMMISSION
1807 13TH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR ND 421

File Ref.: W 40531

SCH#: 8706 2924

Project Title: "Lila Project" - Eureka Valley Area

— Project Proponent: U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation

Project Location: Section 36, T.8 S., R.38 E., M.D.M., approximately 30 miles east of Big Pine, Inyo County.

Project Description:

The proposed project consists of drilling two exploratory holes, six inches in diameter, to a maximum depth of 2,000 feet. The drilling will be accomplished by a truck mounted drill rig such as a Failing 1500 or an equivalent. The drill holes will be sampled at approximately ten feet intervals. Two to five pound samples will be collected from the intervals for off-site assaying. Both drill sites will be along an existing road on the west side of the property. The exploratory holes will be properly abandoned upon completion of drilling.

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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MITIGATION MEASURES

Proposed for incorporation into the Project Description:

1. Improvement of any public access road other than on State property should not be performed until authorization is received from the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Ridgecrest Office at (619) 375-7125.
2. Clearing and smoothing with a grader on State property will be restricted to the minimum required to insure safety for equipment and personnel.
3. If water-bearing strata is encountered, drilling permits will have to be obtained from the Inyo County Health Department, City Administration Center, Independence, CA.
4. If mud pits are required at either drill site, each pit will have dirt berms to restrict wildlife entry.
5. No vegetation will be removed from State property. Surface disturbance will be kept to a minimum.

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

State of California

The Resources Agency

Memorandum

To: E. L. Kruger
Associate Mineral Resources Engineer
State Lands Commission
245 W. Broadway, Suite 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

Date: July 15, 1987

From: Department of Fish and Game - 245 W. Broadway, Suite 350, Long Beach

Subject: Mineral Prospecting Permit Application (K 40531), T&S, R30E,
Section 36 MDB&M, Inyo County

This is in response to your June 25, 1987 letter to Mr. Tom Blankinship of our Bishop office regarding the U.S. Borax application to drill two exploratory holes up to 2,000 feet deep in Section 36, T8S, R30E in connection with the Eureka Valley Lila Project. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

1 As you pointed out, this section of land is classified as "Class A - Restricted Use" in a document prepared by your agency in 1975 describing State lands that possess significant environmental values. Restricted use lands are defined as "areas where public use should be minimized to preserve the integrity of the natural environment as a whole." For this parcel, the document lists bighorn sheep as a species of concern. However, reports available for this area relative to bighorn sheep indicate that this section is probably not used by them. Also, it appears that the document classified bighorn as an endangered species. However, the bighorn occurring in this part of California are not the subspecies listed as threatened or endangered.

2 The California Natural Diversity Data Base files list two classified plants that occur near this location (Genothera ovata curvicaulis and Suaeda alexandria, both State "threatened", federal "endangered"). Even though an exploratory operation will cause a minimum of surface disturbance, the presence of valuable mineral deposits would result in an open pit mine. Such a mine could have a substantial impact on an endangered plant species. We therefore recommend that the site be surveyed by a qualified botanist to determine the presence of any of the above or other listed species. In addition, we recommend that you check with the Bureau of Land Management's Ridgecrest office to be certain that access across their lands will not pose a problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Kris La. of our Environmental Services staff at (415) 990-5137.

Fred Mortaley
Fred Mortaley
Regional Manager
Regional

1. Comment noted.

2. See attached letter from Mark Bagley.

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COMMENTS

RESPONSES



Roger DeHart
Planning Director

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

DRAWER L • INDEPENDENCE • CALIFORNIA 93234
PHONE 878 2111 (56-2263)

County of
INYO

July 22, 1967

E. L. Kruger
State Lands Commission
245 West Broadway, Suite 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: SCH# 87062924 (W 40531)

Dear Mr. Kruger:

The Inyo County Planning Department has reviewed the proposal for U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation to drill two (2) mineral exploratory holes in Eureka Valley in Inyo County..

We feel that a Negative Declaration would be the appropriate environmental document to prepare pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

1 The only other comment we wish to make at this time is that if water bearing strata is encountered, drilling permits will have to be obtained from the Inyo County Health Department, Drawer II, Independence, CA, 93526, Attention Robert Kennedy.

Sincerely,

Roger De Hart
Planning Director

cc: Robert Kennedy (Health Department)
Keith Bright (4th District Supervisor)

1. See Mitigation Measures No. 3.

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COMMENTS

Mark Bagley
Consulting Biologist

Post Office Box 1431
Bishop, Calif 93514
619/073-5276

August 4, 1987

E. L. Kruger
Associate Mineral Resources Engineer
State Lands Commission
245 W. Broadway, Suite 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Kruger:

I have reviewed the materials you sent: the Initial Study for the "Lila Project" proposed by U.S. Borax and Chemical Corp. in the Eureka Valley, Inyo County, T.35, R.38E., Sec. 36, HDBCR1 (File Ref. No. W40531) and the memo to you regarding that project from the Department of Fish and Game, Region 5, dated July 15, 1987.

I have been to Eureka Valley and Dunes many times in the past four years and have conducted some studies for the Bureau of Land Management on the sensitive plant species found on the dunes (see enclosed resume). Regarding the concerns expressed in the Fish and Game memo about the presence of listed plant species on the project area, I do not think it necessary that I visit the site. I have driven the road through the proposed project area many times and it is clear that the proper habitat for the listed and candidate species found on the dunes (*Penstemon evansi* ssp. *eurekaensis*, *Suaeda alexandrea* and *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *micans*) does not occur on this site.

There are several other sensitive plant species, including the state listed *Dedactylis eurekaensis*, which are known to occur in the Last Chance Range near to the project site. These species occur on limestone cliffs and canyons and none would be expected to occur on the bajada slopes and washes of the project area. The eastern half of Section 36 is steeper than the western half and there is a slight possibility that some sensitive species could occur there as outliers from the canyons to the east. But since the proposed exploratory drilling will take place in the western half of Section 36, I do not see a need to survey the site.

In short, no sensitive plant species (as listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game, or the Calif. Native Plant Society) are known or expected to occur on the kind of habitat found on the western half of Section 36.

I have a couple of other comments to make on the initial study. First, on page 9, Environmental Setting, A, fourth paragraph, the vegetation is described as "primarily

sagebrush and greasewood." This is a rather inadequate description using ambiguous common names. Sagebrush is often used by the layman to mean any of a number of aromatic gray shrubs. Botanists use sagebrush to mean shrubby species of *Artemisia*, of which there are none on the project area. Greasewood may mean *Sarcobatus vermiculatus*, which does not occur on the project area, or *Larrea tridentata*, more commonly known in California as creosote bush. The vegetation on the project area is more correctly described as Creosote Bush Scrub dominated by *Larrea tridentata* (see F. G. Harbour and J. Major, *Terrestrial Vegetation of California*, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1977, p. 837-850).

3 On page 11, Impacts, Item 2, I would disagree that the project will not impact scenic views. Eureka Valley and Dunes are used by many people for recreational purposes and one of the attractions is the unique scenic beauty of the area. The project area is along the only access route to the Eureka Dunes and the presence of drill rigs will certainly have a visual impact. This is just one of the environmental costs of the project. Some mitigation could be achieved by not drilling during the most popular times for recreational use of the Eureka Dunes.

Sincerely,

Mark Bagley

Mark Bagley

cc: Michael H. Rauschkoib, U.S. Borax and Chemical Corp

RESPONSES

1. Comment noted.
2. Comment noted.
3. The Environmental Assessment on page 11 of the Initial Study was prepared by the Applicant, however, your comment is noted and Item R1 on page 15 has been amended.

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Comments

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

LAGUNA NIGUEL FIELD OFFICE -
24000 Avila Road
Laguna Niguel, California

August 26, 1987

Ted T. Fukushima
Division of Research and Planning
State Lands Commission
1407 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Review of Negative Declaration Pursuant to Section 15073 of the
California Environmental Quality Act (Midlunas-Lila Project, Inyo
County - State Clearing House No. 8706 2924

Dear Mr. Fukushima:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the referenced document. The proposed project, which is located in the Eureka Valley area of Inyo County, consists of drilling two exploratory holes, six inches in diameter to a maximum depth of 2,000 feet. The holes would be drilled along an existing road with a truck mounted drill rig and result in one-tenth acre of disturbance each.

1. The mitigation measure described in the Negative Declaration should aid in reducing the project's impacts to the area's wildlife resources. We also recommend that any topsoil which needs to be removed be stored and replaced upon abandoning the sites. Finally, crushing perennial vegetation rather than blading the sites when clearing would probably result in more rapid recovery of the area's vegetation.

The Fish and Wildlife Service appreciates the opportunity to participate in your planning process. If you have any questions, please contact Ray Bransfield at (714) 643-4270.

Sincerely,

Wayne D. Harper

for Nancy H. Kaufman
Field Office Supervisor

cc: California Department of Fish and Game, Bishop, California

Responses

1. Comments noted; the permittee will be advised to store and replace the removed top soil and to crush rather than blade perennial vegetation in order to promote rapid recovery.

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File Ref.: W 40531
SCH No.: 87062924
Date: July 9, 1987

INITIAL STUDY

"Lila Project": T8S, R38E, Sec. 36 MDBM

Introduction

U. S. Borax and Chemical Corporation has applied to the State Lands Commission for a mineral prospecting permit on a State property in east-central Eureka Valley, about 30 miles east of the northern Inyo County community of Big Pine, California. When issued, the mineral prospecting permit will be in effect for a two year period, and may be extended for a maximum of one more year.

The proposed project consists of drilling two, six-inch diameter exploratory holes to a total depth of 2,000 feet to explore for gold, silver, borates, lithium, clay and minerals other than oil and gas and geothermal resources. Both drill sites will be along on existing dirt road on the west side of the property.

This Initial Study consists of the following items:

1. Mailing List.
2. A small-scale map of the general vicinity of the project area.
3. A large-scale map of the immediate vicinity of the project area.
4. Project description.
5. Environmental setting.
6. Applicant's assessment of environmental impacts, discussion, mitigating measures and certification.
7. State Lands Commission's assessment of environmental impacts, discussion and additional mitigating measures.

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Mailing List - W 40531

Ann Geraghty
Air Resources Board
1131 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dennis O'Bryant
Department of Conservation
1416 Ninth Street, Rm 1326-2
Sacramento, CA 95814

Charlotte Oakes
Department of Health
714 P Street, Rm 1253
Sacramento, CA 95814

William A. Johnson
Native American Heritage Commission
915 Capital Mall, Rm 288
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hans Kreutzberg
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296

James M. Doyle
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296

Ed Anton
State Water Resources
Control Board
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95801

Tom Dayak
Dept. of Transportation
Dist. 9
500 S. Main St.
Bishop, CA 94514

Fred A. Worthley, Jr.,
Regional Manager
Department of Fish & Game
245 W. Broadway, Suite 350
Long Beach, CA 90802

Ted Hilton
Inyo County Planning Department
City Administration Center
Independence, CA 93526

Peter Milne
Bureau of Land Management
112 E. Dolphin Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Verne Blake/Tom Blankenship
Department of Fish and Game
407 W. Line Street, Room 8
Bishop, CA 95614

Regional Water Quality
Control Board
15371 Bonanza Road
Victorville, CA 92392

Scott Simons
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 1062
Phelan, CA 92371

Bill Havert
Sierra Club
568 N. Mountain View Ave., Suite 130
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Jeff Sharpe
Sierra Club
14944 Luna Road
Victorville, CA 92392

Dr. Kristen Berry
California Desert District
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Evelyn St. Amant
Desert Tortoise Council
5319 Cerritos Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90805

Greg Ouellette
Western Mining Council
2051 Pacific Avenue
Norco, CA 91760

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Mailing List - W 40531 (Cont'd)

Michael H. Rauschkolb
U.S. Borax & Chemical Corporation
1802 W. Grant Road, Suite 108
Tucson, AZ 85745

Robert Collins
Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
3580 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010

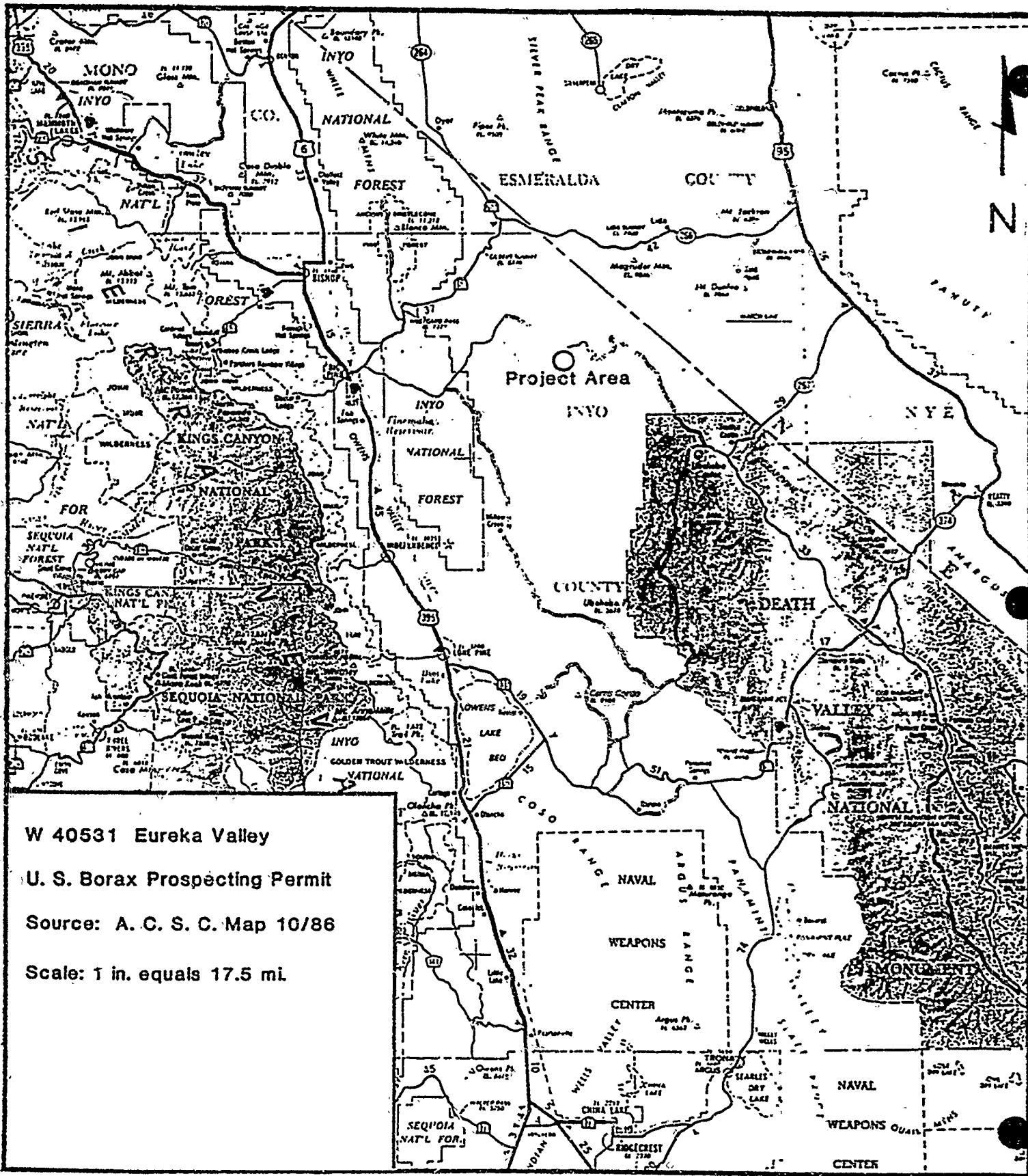
Cheryl Coleman
Big Pine Reservation
P.O. Box 384
Bishop, CA 93513

Vernon Miller
Fort Independence Reservation
P.O. Box 67
Independence, CA 93526

Nedden Naylor
Lone Pine Reservation
P.O. Box 917
Lone Pine, CA 93545

Paul Chavez
Bishop Reservation
P.O. Box 548
Bishop, CA 93514

STAGE 117
STAGE 4020

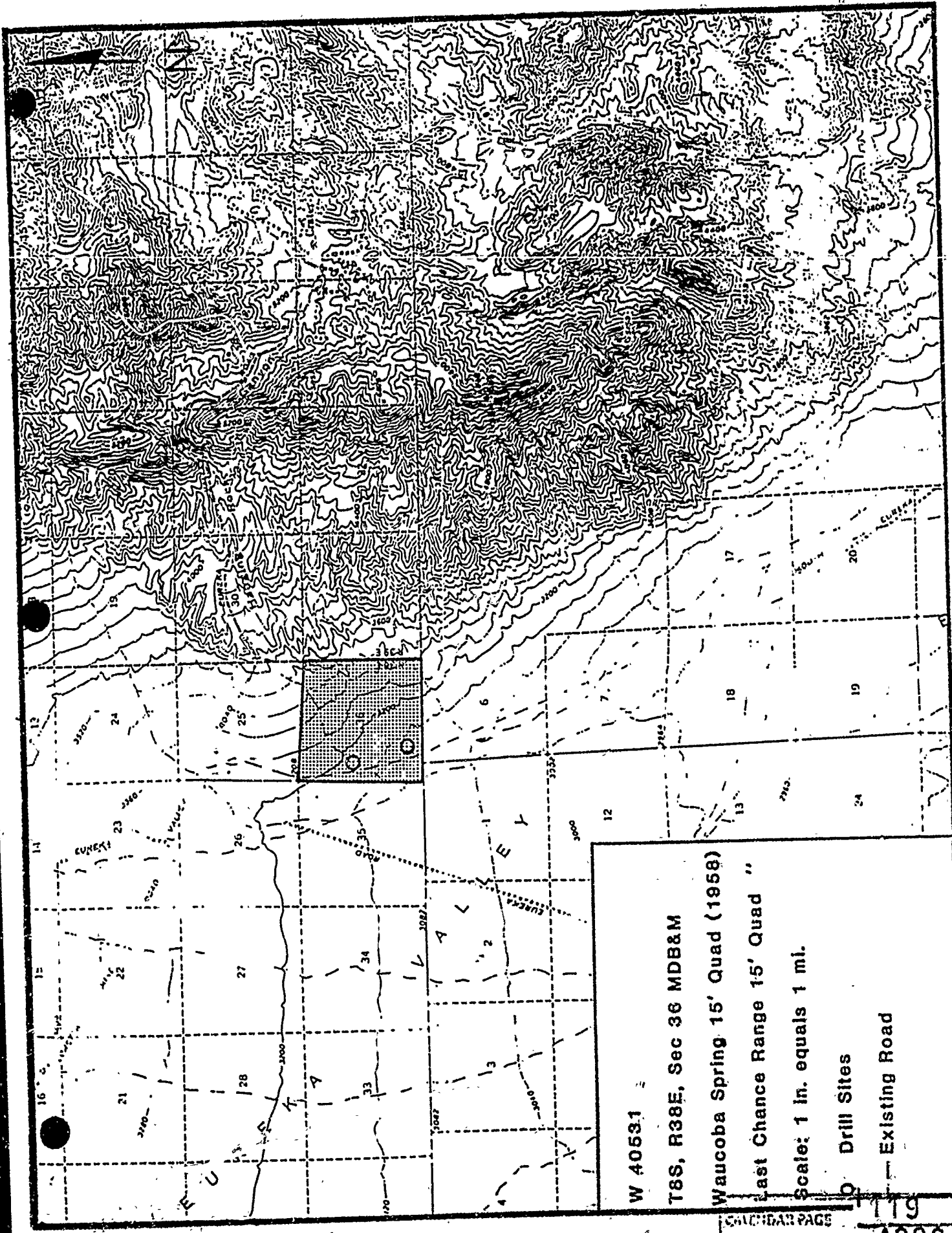


W 40531 Eureka Valley

U. S. Borax Prospecting Permit

Source: A. C. S. C. Map 10/86

Scale: 1 in. equals 17.5 mi.



W 40631

T8S, R38E, Sec 36 MDB&M

Waucoma Spring 15' Quad (1958)

Last Chance Range 15' Quad "

Scale: 1 in. equals 1 mi.

○ Drill Sites

— Existing Road

QUADRANT PAGE
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File Ref.: W 40531
SCH No.: 87062924
Date: July 9, 1987

Project Description

1. U.S. Borax proposes to conduct mineral exploration in the permitted area by drilling two exploratory holes, six inches in diameter, to a total depth of 2,000 feet.
2. Both drill sites will be along an existing road on the west side of the property. The sites will require some leveling. The leveling of a drill site will result in the temporary surface disturbance of about one-tenth of an acre. Upon completion, the site will be returned to its original contour. Surface disturbance will be kept to a minimum.
3. Drilling will be accomplished by a truck mounted drill rig such as the Failing 1500 or an equivalent. Besides a truck mounted drill rig, accessory equipment will include a truck mounted water tank, a utility truck and trucks for personnel transport.
4. Drilling will be initiated with a percussion air unit and drilled to total depth unless water is encountered. Upon encountering water, a drilling mud will be utilized, and drilling will resume using standard rotary drilling techniques.
5. If a drilling mud is required, it will consist of naturally-occurring bentonite. If drilling encounters significant quantities of swelling clays, a polymer-based drilling mud will be utilized. Any chemical additives will be non-toxic and biodegradable.
6. A drilling mud pit will be required at each site with dimensions of 4 feet wide by 10 feet long by 8 feet deep, to hold any necessary drilling fluids and to retain drill cuttings.
7. Mud pits will be backfilled and the area returned to its original contour upon completion of drilling.
8. The exploratory holes will be properly abandoned upon completion of drilling.
9. Drill holes will be sampled by a geologist at approximate ten foot intervals. Two to five pound samples will be collected from the intervals and taken off site for assaying of minerals.

10. Each hole, if drilled to a total depth of 2,000 feet, amounts to the removal of a total of 15 cubic yards of material. Therefore, the maximum excavated volume for the entire project will be 30 cubic yards.
11. Only minor road modification will be necessary to insure safe access for drilling equipment and personnel.
12. The project area and the surrounding vicinity are designated "Open Space - 40 Acres" by the Inyo County Planning and Zoning Department. The surrounding area is used predominantly for mining. The project area is partially bordered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Saline Valley Wilderness Study Area (WSA-117).

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File Ref.: W 40531
SCH No.: 87062924
Date: July 8, 1987

Environmental Setting

- A. Applicant's description of the project area as it exists before commencement of the proposed project:

The project area is a gradually sloping alluvial surface covered mainly by coarse sands, cobbles and boulders.

The project area is in a desert type of environment typified by extremes in temperature, and by low levels of humidity and precipitation.

Vegetation is primarily sagebrush and greasewood. According to BLM's California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980 there are no sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals occurring in the project area.

There are no special cultural, historical or scenic aspects to the project area. There are no existing structures in the project area, and the only improvement is a graded dirt road on the west side of the parcel.

- B. Applicant's description of the surrounding area:

The surrounding area is a gradually sloping alluvial surface covered mainly by coarse sands, cobbles and boulders.

The surrounding area is in a desert type of environment typified by extremes in temperature, and by low levels of humidity and precipitation.

According to BLM's California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980, there are no sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals in the surrounding area.

There are no special cultural, historical or scenic aspects to the surrounding area. There are no existing structures in the surrounding area, and the only improvements are several graded dirt roads.

The surrounding area is actively being explored for sulfur, gold and other minerals. Currently, at least two companies have exploration programs there. Mining is the major type of land use of the surrounding area.

C. Statement of proposed waste disposal methods,

1. Liquid waste disposal: if the drill holes penetrate water-bearing strata, a cement plug will be placed above the water-bearing zone and the remainder of the hole will be backfilled with drill cuttings.
2. Solid waste disposal: drill cuttings and drilling mud will be retained in the mud pits on site, and upon completion of drilling the pits will be backfilled and the area returned to its original contour; sites will be cleaned of all trash and debris and trash containers will be used during drilling operations.

APPLICANT'S ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

All phases of a project, such as planning, acquisition, development and operation, shall be considered when evaluating its impact on the environment. Please answer the following questions by placing a check in the appropriate box. Discuss all items checked "yes" or "maybe" on additional sheet(s).

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. A change in scenic views 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 the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. A change in ocean, bay, lake, stream or ground water quality or quantity, or an altering 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Construction on filled land or on a 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 (e.g., police, fire, water, sewage)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. Increase in fossil fuel consumption (e.g., electricity, oil, natural gas)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. A larger project or a series of projects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- Item 6. Some dust will be present in the immediate vicinity of the drill rig during the actual drilling operation.
- Item 8. Some noise will be present in the immediate vicinity of the drill rig during the actual drilling operation.
- Item 13. In the event of a significant mineral discovery, an open pit or underground mine might be located on the parcel.

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APPLICANT'S PROPOSED MITIGATING MEASURES

1. Existing roads, trails and washes will be utilized for access to drill sites.
2. Vehicular traffic will be kept to a minimum and at a speed limit of 20 miles per hour.
3. Drill sites will be located along existing roads or in desert washes. No sites will be located on desert pavement.
4. Upon abandonment, if casing cannot be removed from the hole for any reason, the casing shall be cut 5' below ground level and a 20' plug of impervious material shall be placed at the top of the hole. Suitable impervious materials include neat cement, sand-cement grout, concrete and bentonite clay.
5. Access routes and areas of surface disturbance shall be inspected to determine if burrowing animals are present and would be adversely affected. If potential impacts could occur, prospecting activities shall be located where burrows and wildlife would not be adversely affected. The project operator should specifically avoid burrowing areas of the desert tortoise, a State protected species.
6. Diversion of the natural flow or changes in the channel, bed or banks of any river, stream, or lake will require notification to the Department of Fish and Game as called for in the Fish and Game code. This notification (with fee) and the subsequent agreement must be completed prior to initiating any such changes. Notification should be made after the project is approved by the lead agency.
7. Applicant shall perform all activities so as to minimize impact on vegetation. No vegetation may be removed.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that all information and materials furnished in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I recognize that this application and the project it addresses are subject to all laws of the State of California, and the regulations and discretionary policies of the State Lands Commission.

Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

Agent M. L. A. Paul Hill Date May 6, 1981

Title: Land Agent, Land Department

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST - PART II

Form 13.20 (7/82)

File Ref.: W 40531

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. Applicant: U. S. Borax & Chemical Corporation
1802 W. Grand Road, Suite 109
Tucson, AZ 85745
(602) 884-8983
- B. Checklist Date: 07 / 08 / 87
- C. Contact Person: E. L. Kruger
 Telephone: (213) 590-5201
- D. Purpose: Prospect for gold, silver, borates, lithium, clay
and minerals other than oil and gas and geothermal resources.
- E. Location: Lila Project, Eureka Valley, T8S, R38E, Sec. 36 MDR&M
- F. Description: Drill two, six-inch diameter exploratory holes to a depth
of 2,000 feet; both drill sites will be along an existing
dirt road on the west side of the property.
- G. Persons Contacted:
- Tom Blankenship, Associate Wildlife Biologist
Department of Fish & Game (619) 872-1171
407 W. Line St., Room 8
Bishop, CA 93514
- Paul Happel, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Bureau of Land Management (619) 375-7125
112 E. Dolphin Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

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

- | A. <i>Earth.</i> 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 overcovering 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 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"/> |

B. *Air.* Will the proposal result in

- | | Yes | Maybe | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input 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"/> |

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		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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
K. Population. Will the proposal result in:				
1.	The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
L. Housing. Will the proposal result in:				
1.	Affecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
M. Transportation/Circulation. Will the proposal result in:				
1.	Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Affecting existing parking facilities, or create a demand for new parking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.	Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.	Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.	Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.	Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.	Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.	Parks and other recreational facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.	Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.	Other governmental services?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
O. Energy. Will the proposal result in:				
1.	Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P. Utilities. Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:				
1.	Power or natural gas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Communication systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.	Water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.	Sewer or septic tanks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.	Storm water drainage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.	Solid waste and disposal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Q. Human Health. Will the proposal result in:				
1.	Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Exposure of people to potential health hazards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
S. Recreation. Will the proposal result in:				
1.	An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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?

III. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION (See Comments Attached)

A2. The drill sites will require some leveling. The leveling of a drill site will result in the temporary surface disturbance of about one-tenth of an acre. Upon completion, the site will be returned to its original contour.

A5. Some increase will take place in wind and water erosion of disturbed soil at the drill sites.

F1. The operation of a drilling rig and ancillary activities will temporarily increase existing noise levels.

R1. Drill rig may impact scenic views, but impact will be temporary. Additional mitigating measures:

1. The permittee will notify the staff of State Lands Commission two weeks prior to commencing operations.
2. The permittee will notify the staff of State Lands Commission one week prior to completing operations.

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: 8 / 18 / 87

Scott J. Schubert
For the State Lands Commission

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OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

September 18, 1987

Ted Fukushima
State Lands Commission
1807 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814Subject: Lila Project-Eureka Valley Area
SCH# 87062924

Mr. Fukushima:

RECEIVED
STATE LANDS COMMISSION
DEC 11 11:38 AM '87

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named environmental document to selected state agencies for review. The review period is closed and none of the state agencies have comments. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call Keith Lee at 916/445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. When contacting the Clearinghouse in this matter, please use the eight-digit State Clearinghouse number so that we may respond promptly.

Sincerely,

David C. Nimenkamp
Chief
Office of Permit Assistance

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