

MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. 22
was approved as Minute Item
No. 22 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 2
to 0 at its 6/30/88
meeting.

MINUTE ITEM

22

06/30/88
PRC 7203
Valentine
Louie
Sanders

STATE RECLAMATION BOARD

During consideration of Calendar Item 22, attached, the following people appeared to support staff's recommendation and urged the Commission to remain steadfast in ensuring that the Reclamation Board follow through with required mitigation efforts:

Bill Yeates
Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Association

Daniel Taylor
National Audubon Society

Corey Brown
Planning and Conservation League

Rich DeHaven
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Scott Clemons
Department of Fish and Game

Executive Officer Claire Dedrick advised the Commission that staff would put together a proposal to report back to the Commission on the status of Reclamation Board activities.

Ms. Dedrick expressed staff's appreciation to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish and Game for their efforts.

Acting Chairman Jim Tucker thanked staff for their efforts in putting together a proposal acceptable to all parties.

Without objection, Calendar Item 22 was approved as presented by a vote of 2-0.

Attachment: Calendar Item 22.

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CALENDAR ITEM

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06/30/88
PRC 7203
Valentine
Louie
Sanders

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO MASTER LEASE,
PRC 7203, GENERAL PERMIT - PUBLIC AGENCY USE

APPLICANT: State Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street, Room 455-4
Sacramento, California 95814

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:
State sovereign land in the Sacramento River,
Georgiana, Steamboat, and Sutter Sloughs and
the Feather River in Sacramento, Yolo, Butte
and Sutter counties.

LAND USE: Construction of new bank protection at nineteen
sites under Contract Unit 42 (including sites
previously under Unit 41B) and six sites under
Contract Unit 43 of the Sacramento River Bank
Protection Project (SRBPP).

TERMS OF MASTER LEASE:

Initial period: Term of maintenance of
existing structures - 30
years beginning May 1, 1988.

Term for new construction -
Five years beginning May 1,
1988, or upon completion of
Phase II Part 2 of the SRBPP,
whichever is longer.

Consideration: Public benefit.

-1-

(Added 6-29-88)

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. 22 (CONT'D)

TERMS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

The State Reclamation Board has applied for an amendment to Master Lease PRC 7203, to construct new bank protection at nineteen sites under Contract Unit 42, and six sites under Contract Unit 43 of the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project. The nineteen sites currently proposed for Contract Unit 42 include sites previously included under Contract Unit 41B. The proposed method of bank protection is to utilize rock riprap at these sites.

APPLICANT STATUS:

The master lease is conditioned on the Reclamation Board having title to or entitlement to use the adjacent upland for access if such access is required.

PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:

The master lease provides that amendments to include additional sites will not require a filing fee or processing costs.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Parts 1 and 2; Div. 13.
- B. Cal. Adm. Code: Title 2, Div. 3; Title 14, Div. 6.

AB 884:

N/A.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. A master lease for the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project was authorized by the State Lands Commission on May 9, 1988. The master lease authorizes maintenance of existing bank protection structures and the construction of new bank protection structures as specific construction sites become known. The master lease requires the Reclamation Board to seek an amendment of the lease to include the new sites as they become known.

2. The Reclamation Board has applied for an amendment to the master lease to include 19 new construction sites proposed for Contract Unit 42 (which includes sites previously under Unit 41B) and six new construction sites under Contract Unit 43. The bank protection will utilize the installation of rock riprap at the locations shown on Exhibits "A-1" and "A-2" attached.
3. This activity involves lands identified pursuant to P.R.C. 6370, et seq. as possessing significant environmental values. It is staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.
4. An Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review for Contract Unit 42 (including 41B) and Unit 43 was prepared and adopted for these projects on June 27, 1988 by the State Reclamation Board. (SCH No. 88042201 and SCH No. 88051301.) Incorporated into the Reclamation Board's findings for Contract Unit 42 is a Conceptual Mitigation Plan, which has two components. The first is a series of field trials to test and evaluate methods to restore heavily shaded riverine aquatic habitat affected by the project. The tests will result in the creation of earthen berms or islands which will be vegetated and maintained by the Reclamation Board. After reliable mitigation methods become known, but in no case later than December 1, 1996, all feasible construction and planting work needed to mitigate the impacts of heavily shaded riverine aquatic habitat to a level of insignificance will be performed by the Board. This delay in implementation of this part of the mitigation for the project is caused by the facts that reliable mitigation methods for this type of habitat and the amount of a habitat values lost are not yet known.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 22 (CONT'D)

EXHIBITS: A-1. Land Description Unit 42.
 A-2. Land Description Unit 43.
 B-1 Location Map Unit 42
 B-2 Location Map Unit 43
 C-1 CEQA Findings - Unit 42
 C-2 CEQA Findings - Unit 43

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT AN EA/SSR WAS PREPARED AND ADOPTED FOR CONTRACT UNIT 42 (INCLUDING UNIT 41B) AND UNIT 43 BY THE STATE RECLAMATION BOARD AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION THEREIN.
2. ADOPT THE FINDINGS MADE BY THE RECLAMATION BOARD FOR BOTH EA/SSRS AS CONTAINED IN EXHIBITS "C-1" AND "C-2".
3. AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE TO THE STATE RECLAMATION BOARD OF AN AMENDMENT TO MASTER LEASE PRC 7203, EFFECTIVE THIS DATE; IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BANK PROTECTION AT NINETEEN SITES UNDER CONTRACT UNIT 42 (INCLUDING SITES PREVIOUSLY UNDER UNIT 41B) AND AT SIX SITES UNDER CONTRACT UNIT 43, ON THE LAND DESCRIBED ON EXHIBITS "A-1" AND "A-2" ATTACHED AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.

EXHIBIT "A-1"

LAND DESCRIPTION

PRC 7203 .

UNIT 42 (INCLUDES UNIT 41B)

SACRAMENTO RIVER BANK PROTECTION PROJECT

All the state-owned land in the bed of the Sacramento River, Steamboat Slough, Sutter Slough and Georgiana Slough in Sacramento and Yolo Counties, California, lying immediately beneath proposed bank protection at the following sites:

<u>Location</u>	<u>River/Slough Site Mile</u>	<u>Approximate Length (Linear Feet)</u>
Sacramento River	56.7R	423
"	56.5R	555
"	43.5R	625
"	42.7R	670
"	36.1L	585
"	33.3L	584
"	26.7R	765
"	23.6R	195
"	20.2L	540
"	15.35R	414
Steamboat Slough	25.9L	426
"	23.2L	775
"	22.1R	1335
"	19.8L	400
Sutter Slough	22.2L	2300
Georgiana Slough	11.7L	445
	8.1R	385
	7.9R	336
	4.8L	1300

as shown on Department of the Army Sacramento District, Corps of Engineers plans for Bank Protection - Contract 42, Spec. 8259, File No. 50-4-5784, on file with the State Lands Commission.

END OF DESCRIPTION

REVIEWED MAY 19, 1988 BY BIU 1.

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EXHIBIT "A-2"

LAND DESCRIPTION

PRC 7203

UNIT 43
SACRAMENTO RIVER BANK PROTECTION PROJECT

All the state-owned land in the bed of the Feather River in Butte and Sutter Counties, California, lying immediately beneath proposed bank protection at the following sites:

<u>Location</u>	<u>River Site Mile</u>	<u>Approximate Length (Linear Feet)</u>
Feather River	0.9 L	1000
	1.5 L	2700
	5.6 L	400
	5.9 L	450
	6.4 L	700
	51.1 R	1100

as shown on Department of the Army Sacramento District, Corps of Engineers plans for Bank Protection - Contract 43, Spec. 8367, File No. 50-4-5798, on file with the State Lands Commission.

END OF DESCRIPTION

REVIEWED MAY 27, 1988 BY BIU 1.

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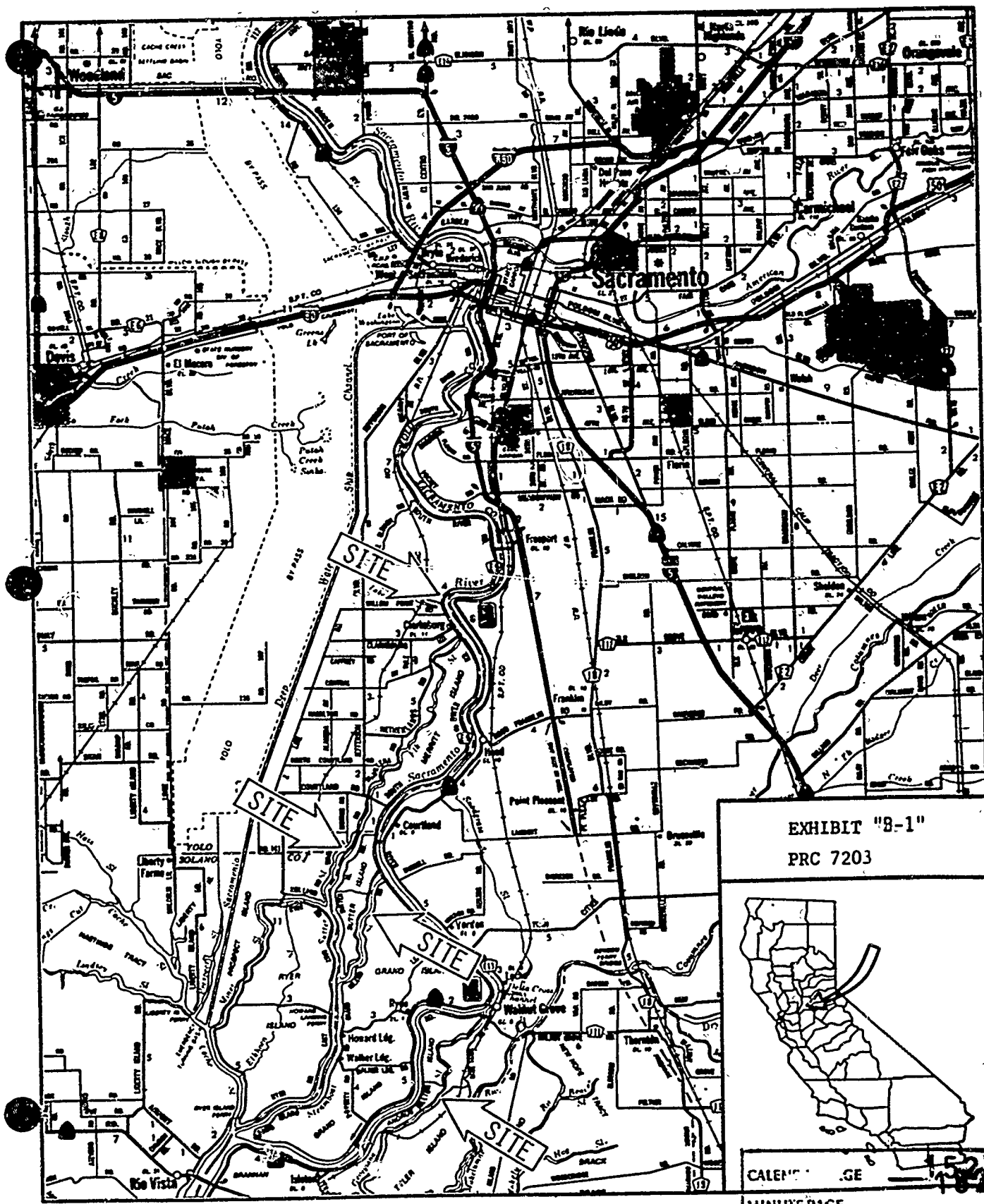


EXHIBIT "B-1"
PRC 7203



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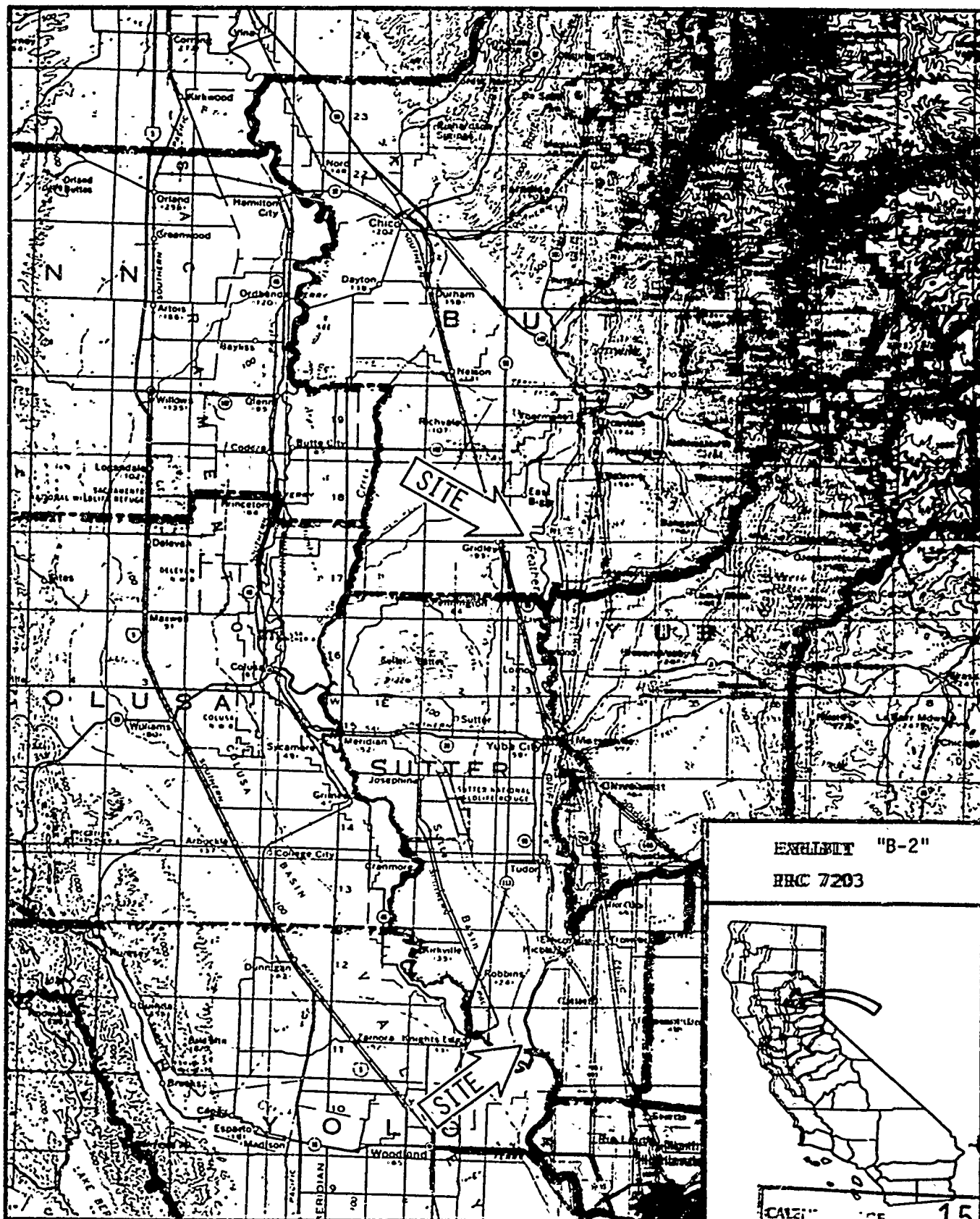


EXHIBIT "B-2"

HRC 7203



SCALE 1:50,000
MINUTE PAGE 1823

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: x Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, California 95814

FROM: The Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

x County Clerk
Counties of Sacramento and Yolo

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review, Sacramento River Bank Protection Project, Contract 41B/42

Project Title

88042201	George Qualley	(916) 445-8984
State Clearinghouse Number	Contact Person	Telephone Number

Various sites on the Sacramento River & Georgiana, Steamboat, & Sutter Sloughs in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.
Project Location

The project consists of constructing 13,100 linear feet of riprap bank protection to correct erosion problems on levees and immediately adjacent banks.

Project Description

This is to advise that The Reclamation Board has approved the above-described project on 6-27-88 and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project x will, ___ will not have a significant effect on the environment (esthetics only).
2. x An Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
___ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures x were, ___ were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations x was, ___ was not adopted for this project (esthetics only).

This is to certify that the final EA/SSR with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at: The Reclamation Board, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 455-6, Sacramento, CA 95814-4794.

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR

JUN 28 1988

Raymond E. Barsch
Raymond E. Barsch, General Manager
The Reclamation Board

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THE RECLAMATION BOARD

1416 Ninth Street, Room 455-8
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-9454

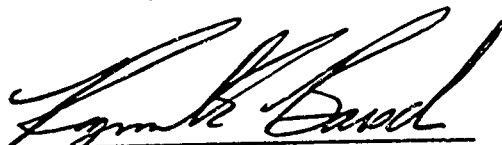


APPROVAL OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SITE SPECIFIC REVIEW (EA/SSR)
FOR CONTRACT 41B/42

The Reclamation Board declares that it has reviewed the Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review prepared for Contract 41B/42 and hereby approves the document. The Board further approves the determination in the document that the work proposed in the contract is within the scope of Program EIR/EIS IV prepared for the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project and that no subsequent EIR will be required pursuant to Sections 15162 and 15168 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The reasons for these determinations are:

1. There will be no new significant effects on the environment caused by the proposed work beyond the significant effects identified in Program EIR/SEIS IV and EA/SSR.
2. The mitigation measures identified in Program EIR/SEIS IV and EA/SSR will be sufficient to substantially lessen the potential significant effects except for the significant effect on aesthetics which the Program EIR/SEIS IV and EA/SSR determined could not be mitigated feasibly.
3. The work plans for the sites covered by Contracts 41B/42 will incorporate the relevant mitigation measures identified in Program EIR/SEIS IV and EA/SSR as shown in Table A of the Findings.

I certify that The Reclamation Board approved the EA/SSR, and adopted the attached Findings and Reaffirmation of the Statement of Overriding Considerations at a meeting of the Board on June 27, 1988.


RAYMOND E. BARSCH
General Manager

Attachment

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FINDINGS

The Reclamation Board makes the following findings concerning the significant and potentially significant environmental effects of bank protection work included in Contract 41B/42:

1. With regard to the potentially significant effect on the threatened Swainson's Hawk, changes have been incorporated into the project which avoid the environmental effect identified in Program EIR/SEIS IV. Field inspections found that three of the work sites would be located within one-half mile of Swainson's Hawk nesting trees. These sites are identified on Table A (attached). The potential significant effect on this threatened species will be avoided by delaying work at those three sites until July 15, 1988, the end of the nesting season.
2. With regard to the significant effect on the woody riparian vegetation, changes or alterations have been incorporated into the project which substantially mitigate the environmental effect as identified in Program EIR/SEIS IV and in the Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review. As shown on Table A, approximately 7200 linear feet of low rock berms will be constructed, and will then be replanted by separate contract after the bank protection construction is completed. Further, the Cache Slough/Yolo Bypass mitigation area will be constructed and developed to provide replacement mitigation for 11.2 acres of impact. The Cache Slough development work will involve cutting channels and replanting.
3. With regard to the significant effect on the Heavily Shaded Riverine Aquatic (HSRA) habitat, changes or alterations have been incorporated into the project which mitigate the environmental effects to a level of insignificance by the implementation of the plan described in Appendix F of the EA/SSR - a Conceptual Mitigation Plan for HSRA Habitat. Additionally, the low berm restoration and replanting measures described in Table A may replace a portion of the HSRA habitat lost or impacted.
4. With regard to the significant effect on aesthetics, it is not feasible to make changes in the project that would substantially lessen the effect. All forms of levee protection involve disturbance of native vegetation during construction. Where riprap is placed on the banks or levees, there will be a long term degradation of aesthetics. To date, no other form of levee protection has been found that would give the levees equal resistance to erosion with less of an impact on aesthetics.

Attachment

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TABLE A Selected Bank Protection Methods and Adopted Mitigation for Site Specific Impacts

River Mile	Length (feet)	Selected Method	MSRM (feet)	Acres of existing woody riparian habitat	Acres of impacted woody riparian habitat	Acres of existing riparian shrub habitat	Acres of impacted riparian shrub habitat	Adopted Mitigation for MSRM Credit	Adopted Mitigation for MSRM Credit
Sacramento River 13.5E R	414	Berm Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	414	414
20.2 L	540	Berm Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	540	540
23.6 R	195	Bank-fill to top of fill	0	0	0	0	0	195	195
24.7 R	766	Bank-fill to top of fill	400	0.08	0.22	0.20	0.21	366	366
25.2 L	594	Berm Restoration	550	0.13	0.23	0.40	0.26	44	44
26.1 L	595	Bank-fill to SHALM	200	0.03	0	0	0	395	395
42.7 R	670	Berm Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	670	670
43.5 R	636	Bank-fill to SHALM	600	0.07	0.63	0.34	0.24	36	36
54.5 R	555	Bank-fill to top of fill	0	0	0	0	0	555	555
56.7 R	423	Berm Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	423	423
Geardena Slough 4.8 L	1300	Berm Restoration	900	0.15	0	1.03	0.77	400	400
7.8 R	336	Berm Restoration	100	0.01	0	0.40	0.19	236	236
8.1 R	395	Berm Restoration	0	0	0	0.36	0.12	395	395
11.7 L	445	Bank-fill to top of fill	445	0.08	0.44	0.05	0	0	0
Steamboat Slough 11.8 L	400	Berm Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	400	400
21.1 R	1336	Berm Restoration	1200	0.51	1.2	0.33	0	136	136
21.2 L	775	Bank-fill to top of fill	120	0.02	0.43	0.31	0.26	655	655
22.9 L	486	Bank-fill to top of fill	426	0.13	0.51	0	0	66	66
22.8 L	2300	Bank-fill to top of fill	2300	0.85	1.67	0.79	0	0	0
Total	13,058		7,241	2.06	5.83	7.59	3.45	5,817	5,817

Steamboat Slough - Sustained High Water Line
Steamboat Slough - Heavily Shaded Riverine Aquatic
Plus an additional 813 linear feet of low berm at Steamboat Slough RM 21.15 (4200)
Total Length of Berm Restoration Sites - 7,200 Linear Feet

REAFFIRMATION OF THE STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

In approving Program EIR/SEIS IV for the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project, The Reclamation Board adopted a statement of overriding considerations. The Board determined at that time that although the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project had been modified to include many mitigation measures and prudent alternatives to greatly reduce the significant effects on the environment, the project would still have a residual significant effect on the environment. The greatest of the significant effects was determined to be the impact on aesthetics.

The Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review found that the effects on aesthetics identified in Program EIR/SEIS IV would occur at the work sites for Contract 41B/42. No mitigation was discovered that could feasibly cause a substantial reduction in the significant effect on aesthetics at those sites.

The Reclamation Board reaffirms the statement of overriding considerations made with the approval of Program EIR/SEIS IV as it applies to the aesthetic effects of the bank protection work planned under construction Contract 41B/42. The Board believes that the bank protection is necessary to protect the levees from further erosion at the work sites. Without the work, the levees would continue to erode and would increase the danger of levee failures. The work is necessary to protect lives and property in the areas currently receiving protection from the existing levees. The impact on aesthetics must be regarded as a regrettable but necessary cost of providing the protection to lives and property.

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APPENDIX F

CONCEPTUAL MITIGATION PLAN FOR HEAVILY SHADED RIVERINE AQUATIC (HSRA) HABITAT

I. GOAL

The purpose of this effort is to mitigate, within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the adverse environmental impacts to HSRA habitat of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project bank protection activities in the geographical area of Contract 41B/42. "Mitigation" in this context means the replacement of HSRA habitat that will be lost during project construction, through the creation of equal amounts of HSRA habitat within the project area. "Habitat" in this context means acreage, linearity and value.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of this plan will occur in two phases. First, field trials will be conducted to determine whether creating artificial berms or islands would be effective and feasible to replace the HSRA habitat to be lost. These field trial sites will be built, monitored and maintained as part of the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project, with costs shared by the Board and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Second, upon completion of the test period, the successful method(s) will be implemented in consultation with the Interagency Mitigation Team (IMT)¹ on those additional sites within the area of impact necessary to mitigate the impacts to HSRA habitat associated with the project to a level of less than significant. A more detailed description of this two-phase process follows.

III. PHASE I: EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM

The experimental program consists of a pilot mitigation study to test and evaluate alternative methods of restoring HSRA within the lower reaches of the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project. (It is recognized that the knowledge and experience gained in this effort also may be useful for mitigation in other reaches of the project.) The effort

¹The Interagency Mitigation Team consists of representatives of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District; U. S. Environmental Protection Agency; U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; State Reclamation Board; State Lands Commission; and State Department of Fish and Game. Other agencies may be added at a later date as appropriate.

will test the concept of constructing dredge berms, and/or islands, and other alternative methods.

- A. Dredge Berms or Islands. This test will result in the creation of earthen berms and/or islands which will be engineered and will be vegetated with woody riparian plant species. A general sense of the engineering and economic feasibility of the dredge berm concept will be obtained during the design and construction process. Some edge erosion of the berms or islands after plant establishment is expected and desirable. The design and implementation of these trials shall include all of the following requirements:

1. Completion Dates.

- a. The Reclamation Board shall be responsible for completion of a draft plan of action by September 1, 1988.
- b. After review by the IMT and by the public, a Final Plan of Action, concurred in by the IMT, shall be completed by The Reclamation Board and the Corps of Engineers by December 1, 1988.
- c. It is The Reclamation Board's intention that a contract for the work at the trial site(s) as proposed in this plan shall be advertised as a component of the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by May 1, 1989, and be let on or about June 1, 1989.
- d. The test sites shall be installed by October 1, 1989 and planted no later than December 1, 1989.

2. Site Specifications.

- a. Number and size of sites - at least three different sites, each of at least 300 feet in length. Width should be approximately 10-20 feet, determined on a site-by-site basis.
- b. Sites are to be within the Contract 41B/42 contract area as depicted in the EA/SSR and shall be:
 - ecologically equivalent to areas of impact; and
 - encompass a range of physical site conditions (e. g., current direction, velocity).

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3. Installation Specifications.

- a. The facilities will be designed to stay in place (other than minor edge erosion).
- b. Capable of supporting woody plant growth.
- c. Woody vegetation is to be established initially by planting--preferably by vegetative means (cuttings, wattles, etc.).
- d. Provision for maintenance of the three test sites (construction and plantings) for three years after installation, including replacement of plantings, and/or minor replacement of soil, and/or minor repair of structures, as necessary and economically feasible. NOTE: The maintenance provisions for replanting outlined here for the three-year test program are conceptually similar to the three-year revegetation contracts on the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project. The extent of maintenance to be done after each flood season will be recommended by the IMT, and subject to Reclamation Board and Corps approval.

4. Monitoring Program.

A monitoring program which includes evaluation shall be conducted for 5 years following installation by The Reclamation Board, with advice and review by the Interagency Mitigation Team. Written reports shall be completed within 45 days after each site inspection. An interim report will be prepared after 3 years, and a summary report covering the entire program will be completed after the final inspection at the end of the 5-year period.

- a. Monitoring Intervals.
 - (1) During first year, field inspections are to be done quarterly.
 - (2) In the following four years, field inspection is to be done twice yearly, before and after flood season.
- b. Monitoring issues to be addressed.
 - (1) Performance of the methods;
 - (2) Need for adjustments of installations;
 - (3) Any impacts of installations, e.g., down stream erosion, navigation hazards, water quality effects;

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- (4) Quantification of habitat values and amounts; and
- (5) Physical characteristics of the sites.

B. Other Biotechnical Mitigation Alternatives.

A second set of tests which would utilize alternative methods of restoring HSRA habitats, will be developed by the IMT. Any physical construction of the second set of tests will be carried out as part of the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project subject to the approval of the Corps. The following schedule will apply to these tests:

Draft Plan: September 1, 1990.
Final Plan: December 1, 1990.
Implementation: During 1991.

IV. PHASE II: MITIGATION IMPLEMENTATION

After reliable and justifiable mitigation methods become known, but no later than six months from December 1, 1994, the Interagency Mitigation Team will make recommendations to the Board and to the Corps concerning the most feasible mitigation methodologies and sites. The Board will produce a final plan by December 1, 1995 for installing selected method(s) to create HSRA habitat in an amount and value which will mitigate below the level of significance the losses incurred in Contract 41B/42. Such plan will be developed with the advice of the members of the Interagency Mitigation Team. All necessary installation and planting work at such new mitigation sites shall be performed by December 1, 1996. If no reliable methods result from the field trials, The Reclamation Board will meet and confer with the IMT to develop additional field trials. If necessary, an alternative course of action will be developed to address the remaining significant adverse environmental effects to HSRA of work done in Contract 41B/42.

The amount of final compensation necessary for mitigation will take into account the time elapsed between the project impacts and the restoration of HSRA during the assumed life of the project.

V. PUBLIC REVIEW

The plans and reports developed as a result of the field tests will be subject to public review in order to fully comply with: (1) the policy objectives of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines as expressed in Guidelines Section 15201; and (2) NEPA.

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NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: x Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, California 95814

FROM: The Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

x County Clerk
Counties of Sutter, Yolo, and Butte

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review, Sacramento River Bank Protection Project, Contract 43

Project Title

88051301	George Qualley	(916) 445-8984
State Clearinghouse Number	Contact Person	Telephone Number

Various sites along the Feather River, Sutter and Yolo Bypasses, and the Colusa Basin Drain
Project Location

The project consists of constructing 17,900 linear feet of riprap bank protection to correct erosion problems on levees and immediately adjacent banks.

Project Description

This is to advise that The Reclamation Board has approved the above-described project on 6-27-88 and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project x will, ___ will not have a significant effect on the environment (esthetics only).
2. x An Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
___ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures x were, ___ were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations x was, ___ was not adopted for this project (esthetics only).

This is to certify that the final EA/SSR with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General public at: The Reclamation Board, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 455-6, Sacramento, CA 95814-4794, Office of Planning and Research

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR

Raymond E. Barsch
Raymond E. Barsch, General Manager
The Reclamation Board

JUN 28 1988

152.17
1833

THE RECLAMATION BOARD

1416 Ninth Street, Room 455-8
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-9454



APPROVAL OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SITE SPECIFIC REVIEW (EA/SSR)
FOR CONTRACT 43

The Reclamation Board declares that it has reviewed the Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review prepared for Contract 43 and hereby approves the document. The Board further approves the determination in the document that the work proposed in the contract is within the scope of Program EIR/EIS IV prepared for the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project and that no subsequent EIR will be required pursuant to Sections 15162 and 15168 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The reasons for these determinations are:

1. There will be no new significant effects on the environment caused by the proposed work beyond the significant effects identified in Program EIR/SEIS IV and EA/SSR.
2. The mitigation measures identified in Program EIR/SEIS IV and EA/SSR will be sufficient to substantially lessen the potential significant effects except for the significant effect on aesthetics which the Program EIR/SEIS IV and EA/SSR determined could not be mitigated feasibly.
3. The work plans for the sites covered by Contract 43 will incorporate the relevant mitigation measures identified in Program EIR/SEIS IV and EA/SSR as shown in Table 2 of the EA/SSR.

I certify that The Reclamation Board approved the EA/SSR, and adopted the attached Findings and Reaffirmation of the Statement of Overriding Considerations at a meeting of the Board on June 27, 1988.

RAYMOND E. BARSCH
General Manager

Attachment

DATE	CE	152.18
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FINDINGS

The Reclamation Board makes the following findings concerning the significant and potentially significant environmental effects of bank protection work included in Contract 43:

1. With regard to the potentially significant effect on the threatened Swainson's Hawk, changes have been incorporated into the project which avoid the environmental effect identified in the Program EIR SEIS IV. Field inspections found that three of the work sites would be located within one-half mile of Swainson's Hawk nesting trees. These sites are identified on Table 2 of the EA/SSR. The potential significant effect on this threatened species will be avoided by delaying work at those three sites until July 15, 1988, the end of the nesting season.
2. With regard to the potentially significant effect of the direct loss of woody riparian vegetation, changes have been incorporated into the project which substantially mitigate the environmental effect as identified in the Program EIR/SEIS IV and in the Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review. Woody riparian vegetation will be replanted on 2.2 acres of preserved berms. An additional 1.9 acres will be provided in coordination with the IMT¹ for presumed changes on the number of trees to be left undisturbed, based on recent experience with Contract 41A. A total of 4.1 acres will be replanted.
3. With regard to the potentially significant effect on wildlife, changes have been incorporated into the project which substantially mitigate the environmental effect as identified in the Program EIR/EIS IV and in the Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review. Native species of plants will be replanted on the preserved berms to maintain the linear nature of the riparian habitat and to mitigate generally for project impacts.
4. With regard to the potentially significant effect on soils from disturbance and compaction, changes have been incorporated into the project which substantially mitigate the environmental effect as identified in the Program EIR/EIS IV and in the Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review. Following construction, soils adjacent to riprap and any other disturbed soils will be stabilized by

¹The Interagency Mitigation Team consists of representatives of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District; U. S. Environmental Protection Agency; U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; State Reclamation Board; State Lands Commission; and State Department of Fish and Game. Other agencies may be added at a later date as appropriate.

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revegetation with native herbaceous species and compacted soils will be disced to ensure the success of the revegetation effort.

5. With regard to the significant effect on aesthetics, it is not feasible to make changes in the project that would substantially lessen the effect. All forms of levee protection involve disturbance of native vegetation during construction. Where riprap is placed on the banks or levees, there will be a long term degradation of aesthetics. To date, no other form of levee protection has been found that would give the levees equal resistance to erosion with less of an impact on aesthetics.

TABLE 2
Selected Methods, Impacts and Mitigation

Site (RM)	Length (feet)	Selected Method	Riparian Habitat Existing (acres)	Habitat Eliminated (acres)	Adopted Mitigation ³ (acres)
Feather River 0.9 L	1,000	Berm Restoration ¹	.92	.50	.58
1.5 L	2,700	Berm Restoration ¹	2.50	.93	1.00
5.6 L	400	Berm Restoration ¹	.24	.11	.18
5.9 L	450	Berm Restoration ¹	.36	.18	.16
6.4 L	700	Berm Restoration ¹	.48	.46	.24
51.0 R	1,100	Bank fill to top of fill (on an existing riprap site)	0	0	0
Colusa Basin Drain 8.5 L	5,800	Rock against levee slope ¹	0	0	0
Sutter Bypass 64.0 R	3,000	Rock against levee slope ¹	1.94	0 ²	0
Yolo Bypass 54.1 L	2,700	Rock against levee slope ¹	.92	0 ²	0
Total:	17,850		7.36	2.18	2.16

¹ Environmentally Recommended Method

² No identified significant impact

³ Acres of mitigation provided by replanting restored berms

REAFFIRMATION OF THE STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

In approving Program EIR/SEIS IV for the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project, The Reclamation Board adopted a statement of overriding considerations. The Board determined at that time that although the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project had been modified to include many mitigation measures and prudent alternatives to greatly reduce the significant effects on the environment, the project would still have a residual significant effect on the environment. The greatest of the significant effects was determined to be the impact on aesthetics.

The Environmental Assessment/Site Specific Review found that the effects on aesthetics identified in Program EIR/SEIS IV would occur at the work sites for Contract 43. No mitigation was discovered that could feasibly cause a substantial reduction in the significant effect on aesthetics at those sites.

The Reclamation Board reaffirms the statement of overriding considerations made with the approval of Program EIR/SEIS IV as it applies to the aesthetic effects of the bank protection work planned under construction Contract 43. The Board believes that the bank protection is necessary to protect the levees from further erosion at the work sites. Without the work, the levees would continue to erode and would increase the danger of levee failures. The work is necessary to protect lives and property in the areas currently receiving protection from the existing levees. The impact on aesthetics must be regarded as a regrettable but necessary cost of providing the protection to lives and property.

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