

MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. 23
was approved as Minute Item
No. 23 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 11/17/1990
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A 61
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23

01/17/90
W 40568 PRC 7374
Kruger

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

APPLICANT: United States Borax & Chemical Corporation
3075 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010

AGENT: Michael H. Rauschkolb
United States Borax & Chemical Corporation
1802 West Grant Road, Suite 108
Tucson, Arizona 85745

PROPOSED PROJECT:

The Applicant proposes to conduct mineral prospecting for precious metals and other valuable minerals by drilling a maximum of nine exploratory holes from six various surface locations. The holes will be six inches in diameter and drilled to a proposed total depth of 2,000 feet from a truck mounted drillrig. Subsurface samples will be taken at regular intervals and assayed offsite.

There will be no new surface disturbance. The drillsites will be located along existing dirt roads and jeep trails. Preparation of a drillsite will not include levelling the area. Each of these sites will have a work area of about one-tenth of an acre.

Drillholes will be abandoned by backfilling the holes up to the surface with drill cuttings. The drillsites will be properly reclaimed and left in such a way as to minimize evidence of prospecting work.

(ADDED pgs. 144-144.33)

-1-

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. 23 (CONT'D)

Additional activities are not authorized under this permit. Any other proposed activities will not proceed without the prior approval of a project amendment. If commercial mining operations are proposed, an appropriate environmental document will be prepared and circulated for comment prior to issuance of a mineral extraction lease.

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:

Vacant, State owned school land further described as follows - Section 16, Township 2 North, Range 23 East, SBM, southeastern San Bernardino County, approximately 45 miles north of Blythe, California.

LAND USE:

Conduct mineral prospecting for precious metals and other valuable minerals on 639.52 acres of State school land located in San Bernardino County.

TERM OF THE PROPOSED PERMIT:

Initial period: Two years commencing on the first day of the month following the month in which it is executed by the Commission.

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

PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:

1. Required statutory filing fee, processing fee and acreage deposit have been submitted by the Applicant.
2. The subject parcel is not known to contain commercially valuable mineral deposits.
3. Royalty payable under any preferential lease will 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 incurred while transporting and processing the State's royalty share of production.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 23 (CONT'D)

CONSIDERATION: Filing fee of \$25.00, processing fee of \$250.00 and acreage deposit of \$640.00 for \$915.00 total.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

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

B. Cal. Code Regs.: Title 2, Sec. 2000.

AB 884: 12/05/89.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs. 15025), the staff has prepared a proposed Negative Declaration identified as EIR ND 492, State Clearinghouse No. 89071022, such proposed Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated for public review pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. A copy of this 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 (Cal. Code Regs. 15074(b)).

2. Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6895, upon establishing to the satisfaction of the Commission that commercially valuable mineral deposits have been discovered within the limits of the permit, the applicant would have a preferential right to a lease for a maximum of 640 acres embraced within the permit. Said right will be subject to all necessary environmental approvals. The issuance of this permit will not effect the discretion of the Commission in granting or denying such leases because of environmental considerations.
3. The mineral prospecting permit will provide for a performance bond or other security device of \$7,500.00 in favor of the State.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 23 (CONT'D)

4. The subject parcel is not within current S-11 boundaries and is not within a BLM Wilderness Study Area.
5. During World War II, the parcel was leased to the U.S. government and was part of a large area used for military training. It was subsequently quitclaimed back to the State. A site inspection of the parcel was conducted by staff on January 11, 1989. No ordnance was found on the parcel. There is no conclusive evidence that the parcel had ever been used for military purposes. Staff has informed the applicant of the past use of this parcel.

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.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION EIR ND 492, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 89071022, WAS PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF 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 APPROVED, 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.

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4. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF A MINERAL PROSPECTING PERMIT TO UNITED STATES BORAX & CHEMICAL CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, FOR ALL MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL AND GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES OR SAND AND GRAVEL ON SECTION 16, T2N, R23E, SBM, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CONTAINING 639.52 ACRES; IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD FORM OF PERMIT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER THE PERMIT SHALL BE TWENTY PERCENT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER ANY PREFERENTIAL LEASE ISSUED UPON THE DISCOVERY OF COMMERCIALY VALUABLE MINERAL DEPOSITS 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 WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSION.

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EXHIBIT "A"

W 40568

LAND DESCRIPTION

A parcel of state-owned school land in San Bernardino County, California, described as follows:

All of Section 16, T2N, R23E, SBM.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED JULY 13, 1989 BY BIU 1.

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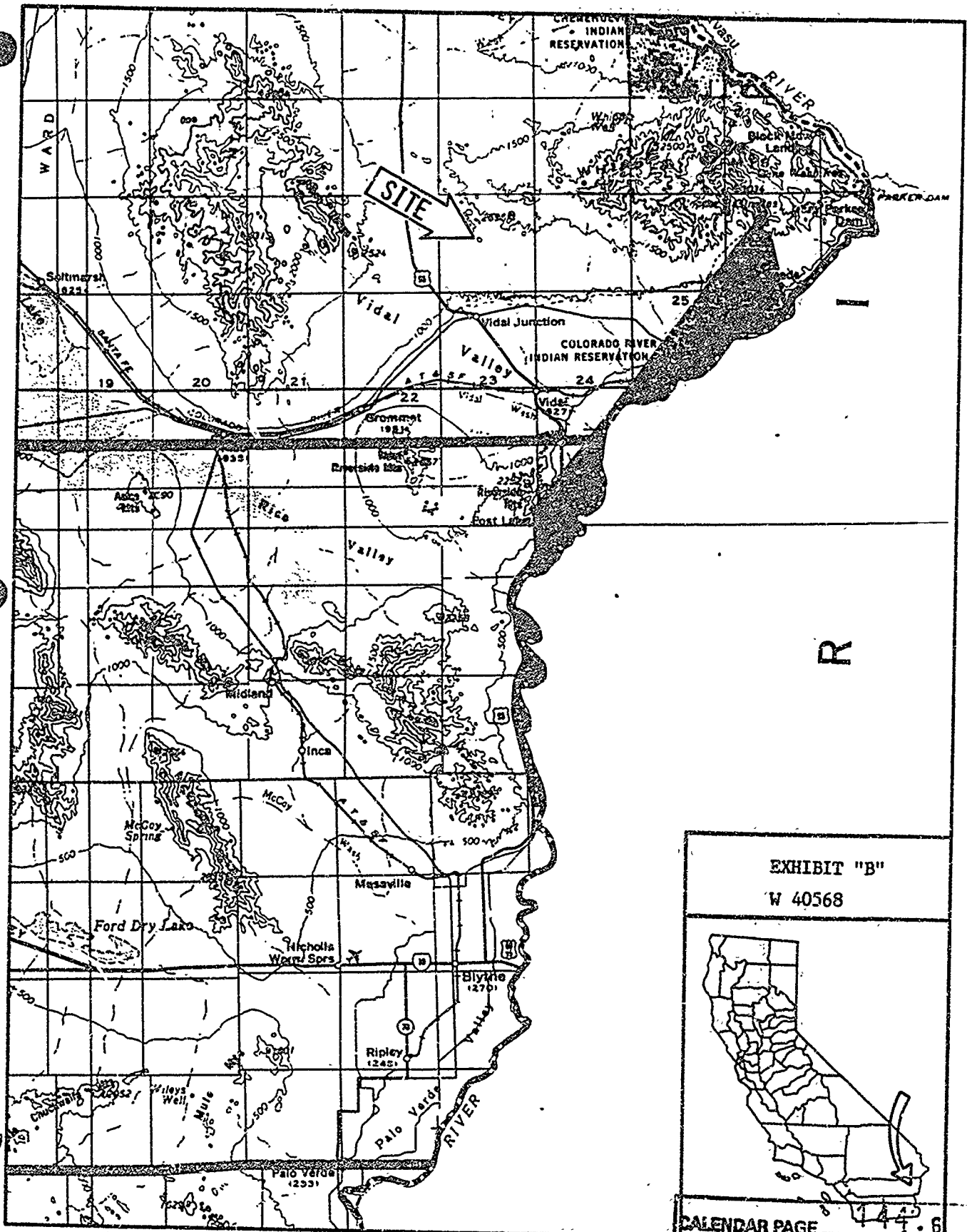


EXHIBIT "B"
W 40568



CALENDAR PAGE 44.6
MINUTE PAGE 134

STATE LANDS COMMISSION
1807 13TH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814



Eric Kruger - L.B.

File Ref.: W 40568

Date: October 5, 1989

NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW
OF A
PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
(Section 15073 CCR)

A Proposed Negative Declaration has been 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 Code Regulations), and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section 2901 et seq., Title 2, California Code Regulations), for a project currently being processed by the staff of the State Lands Commission.

The document is attached for your review. Comments should be addressed to the State Lands Commission office shown above, with attention to the undersigned. All comments must be received by November 7, 1989.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please call (916)322-7813.

ATTACHMENT

Ted T. Fukushima
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 492

File Ref.: W 40568

SCH#: 3907 1022

Project Title: SAVAHIA PROJECT

Project Proponent: United States Borax & Chemical Corporation

Project Location: Section 16, T.2 N., R.23 E., S.B.M., approximately 6 miles north of Vidal Junction, San Bernardino County.

Project Description:

The proposed project calls for drilling a maximum of nine exploratory holes from six various surface locations. The holes will be six inches in diameter and drilled to a proposed total depth of 2,000 feet. Subsurface samples will be taken at regular intervals and assayed offsite for precious metals and valuable minerals other than oil and gas, geothermal resources or sand and gravel. The proposed drillsites will be located along existing roads and jeep trails. Each drillsite will require about one-tenth of an acre of land use. There will be no new surface disturbance from the proposed prospecting activity.

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 Code Regulations), and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section 2901 et seq., Title 2, California Code Regulations).

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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Form 13.17 (3/89)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
400 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 400
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95833
TELEPHONE (916) 227-1000

Comments



Assembly California Legislature

PAUL A. WOODRUFF

ASSEMBLYMAN, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
REPUBLICAN CAUCUS SECRETARY
August 31, 1989

Mr. Eric Kruger
State Lands Commission
245 W. Broadway, Room 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Kruger:

Thank you for circulating the information on the Savahia Project in the Whipple Mountains via your file H40568,

1 The presence of eight other mines in the immediate vicinity of this project would indicate that the minor disturbance to the terrain is not a significant change from historical activities. A negative declaration would appear to be appropriate based upon the information currently available.

2 All of the access roads to the site appear to cross over the MWD Colorado River Aqueduct. You may want to check the weight restrictions, if any, on those bridges before the drilling rigs arrive.

Thank you again for keeping my staff informed on this project.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Woodruff
PAUL A. WOODRUFF

PH:tj/c

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COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER
EDUCATION
ELECTIONS AND
REAPPORTIONMENT
REVENUE AND TAXATION
IN HOUSING ASSEMBLY
RURAL CAUCUS

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Responses

1. Comment noted on Negative Declaration as appropriate environmental document.
2. Comment noted, will advise permittee.

Comments

Responses

STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 11501 N. 171st St., P.O. Box 231
 Long Beach, CA 90802
 (714) 383-6609

GEORGE DUBOIS


September 13, 1989

08-SDD-95-9.7
 BCH #89071032

SEP 13 1989

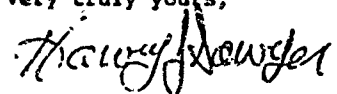
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Mr. Eric Kruger
 State Lands Commission
 245 West Broadway, Room 425
 Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Kruger:

- 1 We have reviewed an Initial Study for the Savahia Mining Project and recommend a Negative Declaration as the environmental document.
- 2 We urge early and continuous liaison with Caltrans on proposed plans as they affect State highways.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard Malacoff at ATSS 670-4550 or (714) 383-4550.

Very truly yours,


HARVEY J. SAWYER
 Chief, Transportation Planning
 Branch B

1. Comment noted on Negative Declaration as the environmental document.
2. Richard Malacoff and Carroll Harris of your department have been added to our mailing list.

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Comments
United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF MINES

WESTERN FIELD OPERATIONS CENTER
EAST 2430 AVENUE
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99212-1413 SEP 13 1989



Responses

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September 13, 1989

Mr. Eric Kruger
State Lands Commission
215 West Broadway, Room 425
Long Beach, California 90802

Dear Mr. Kruger:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SAVAHIA PROJECT IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

The U.S. Bureau of Mines possesses extensive knowledge of mineral exploration and specifically, drilling. Not only have we contracted and monitored drilling, but we have performed much of our own exploratory drilling. In our experience we find that a drilling project with simple logistics, and conducted properly, will create only minimal environmental impacts. Your initial study of U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation's Savahia Project indicates that the proposed work fits this category. Therefore, we conclude that a Negative Declaration is appropriate for this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Dunn

Michael D. Dunn, Geologist
Mineral Issue Involvement Section
Branch of Resource Evaluation

1. Comment noted on Negative Declaration appropriate for this project. Robert Pavlovich of your Bureau has been added to our mailing list.

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Comments
HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY
 610 CALIFORNIA STREET - 5TH FLOOR
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94108-2788

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY

STATE LANDS COMMISSION
 September 6, 1989

DENNIS H. GOLDSTEIN

September 6, 1989

STATE LANDS COMMISSION
 245 W. Broadway, Room 425
 Long Beach, CA 90802

Attention: Eric Kruger

Re: Ref: W 40568 SCH #83071022

Dear Mr. Kruger:

Responding to your letter dated August 16, 1989, Homestake Mining Company submits the following comments:

1 The proposed project described in the material attached to your letter should be the subject of a negative declaration, not an Environmental Impact Report. The drilling of exploratory holes 6-inches in diameter to assay and catalog subsurface mineral resources as described in the Initial Study do not result in a significant impact upon the environment pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Modest and temporary increases in the level of noise and dust, and temporary disruption of insignificant amounts of surface in conjunction with the mitigation measures described in the documents, are not significant enough to merit the delay, time, or other expenses necessarily involved in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

2 Taking into consideration the statutory scheme applicable to the Commission's prospecting permit and mining lease procedures, it is difficult to avoid this conclusion. If, pursuant to the terms of the prospecting permit, the permittee discovers something of interest, the permittee is not in a position to develop the property or cause any significant environmental impact prior to the receipt of further approvals or other discretionary actions from the Commission. Upon the giving of such subsequent approvals, there is ample opportunity to prepare an Environmental Impact Report.

3 In Homestake's opinion, the Commission should, when applying SEQ to prospecting permits, keep in mind that that hard rock prospecting is a very different business than oil and gas or geothermal prospecting. In particular, the Commission should note that the drilling of hard rock mineral exploratory holes does not provide the permittee with the means to produce any resource encountered, whereas the drilling of a successful oil and gas or

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Page 2

geothermal well often does provide a well capable of production thus hard rock prospecting does not create the economic or developmental pressures that frequently concern environmentalists

Very truly yours,

Dennis H. Goldstein

520/kr

Responses

1. Comment noted on Negative Declaration as appropriate environmental document.
2. Comment noted.
3. Comment noted.

MINING DIVISION
 144.12
 200



Comments

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

Colorado River Indian Tribes

Box 100
Reserve, AZ 85901
Phone (520) 733-2111

SEP 11 1989

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September 5, 1989

Mr. Eric Kruger
State Land Commission
245 W. Broadway, Room 425
Long Beach, California 90802

Dear Mr. Kruger:

This letter is in response to your letter of August 16, 1989 regarding the Savahia Project. It is our position that an Environmental Impact Report is required for the project. We take this position because of the potential long impacts to wildlife habitat and permanent impacts to Native American cultural resources that may be in the area.

Please contact Mr. Curtiss Martin, Museum Director at (602) 669-9211 for any information regarding archaeology or cultural matters regarding the site.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Daniel Eddy, Jr., Chairman
Tribal Council

Curtiss Martin
Sylvia Hill
Ronald Moore

Responses

1. Issuing a mineral prospecting permit for the proposed activity will not automatically result in a large scale mining operation. If commercial quantities of minerals are discovered, the permittee must then apply for a mineral lease. At that time an environmental impact report will be prepared and circulated for review. This report and all the comments received thereto must be considered by the State Lands Commission prior to the issuance of said lease.

In response to your letter, an archaeological records search was conducted by the San Bernardino County Museum. This search revealed no known cultural resource locations in the project area. The attached mitigation measures will provide adequate protection for cultural resources if discovered, since all of the proposed activity will be conducted on existing roads and jeep trails. There will be no new surface disturbance.

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Comments

Responses

To: State Lands Commission
 245 W. Broadway, Room 425
 Long Beach, CA 90802
 Attn: Mr. Eric Kruger

Date: September 19, 1989

File: 843.1

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From: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 DIVISION OF STRUCTURES

Subject: Mineral Prospecting Permit
 SCH# 89071022

The United State Borax and Chemical Corporation has applied for a mining permit on 639.52 acres of State school land in San Bernardino County. They plan to drill a maximum of nine exploratory holes to obtain subsurface samples. The permit is for two years and may be extended for a maximum of one additional year. The notice to Caltrans is per California Environmental Quality Act.

Thank you for the copy of the proposed permit, however the proposed mining is not within the immediate proximity of any of our structures.

1. At this stage, we have no objections to the issuance of this permit.

1. Comment noted on no objections to the issuance of this permit.

S.Z. Chai
 Hydraulics Section
 (916)327-3218

For C. D. Harris, Supervisor
 Division of Structures, Hydraulics Section

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Comments

Responses

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN - REGION 7**

73-271 HIGHWAY 111, SUITE 21
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA 92260

Phone: (619) 346-7691



SEP 27 1989

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September 25, 1989

Eric Kruger
State Lands Commission
245 W. Broadway, 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: U.S. Borax Exploratory Drilling Project, Whipple Mountains, Southeast San Bernardino County

Regional Board staff has reviewed the subject project. If the procedures as described are followed, staff feels there will be no water quality impact.

1. Comment noted.

If you have any questions, please contact Neal Krull at (619) 346-7691.


NEAL KRULL
Sanitary Engineer

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Working File

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

245 WEST BROADWAY, SUITE 425
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802
TELEPHONE: (213) 590-5201



File Ref: W 40568

SCH# 89071022

August 16, 1989

SUBJECT: Consultation Pursuant to Section 21080.3
of the Public Resource Code

The STATE LANDS COMMISSION is the lead agency for the proposed project described in the attached material for the purpose of the California Environmental Quality Act and by this letter requests, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3, the position of your Agency as to whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Negative Declaration (ND) should be required for this project. Please be specific as to whether you believe the document is: (1) an ND, or (2) an EIR.

We would appreciate receiving your comments on this project within 15 days from receipt of this letter. Please send your comments to the contact person at the Commission Office indicated below. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

D. J. EVERITTIS, Assistant Chief,
Extractive Development Program

Attachment: Initial Study

STATE LANDS COMMISSION
245 W. Broadway, Room 425
Long Beach, CA 90802

Attention: Eric Kruger

CALENDAR PAGE	144.16
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August 16, 1989

INITIAL STUDY INTRODUCTION

Savahia Project

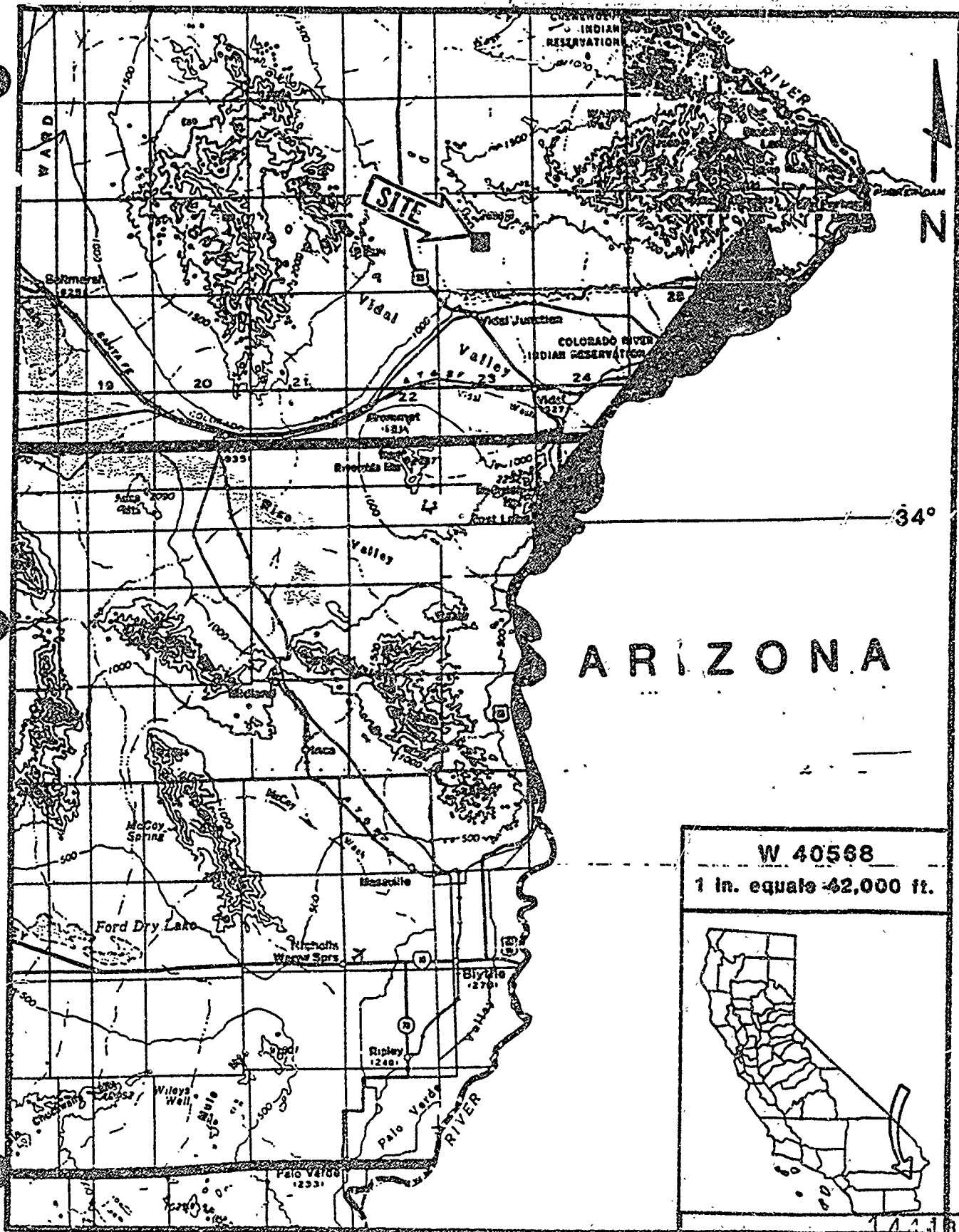
United States Borax and Chemical Corporation has applied to the State Lands Commission for a mineral prospecting permit on 639.52 acres of State school lands in Section 16, T2N, R23E, SBM, San Bernardino County. The section is located on the southwest flank of Whipple Mountains, about 45 miles north of Blythe, California. Section 16 is not within the S-11 boundary.

The proposed project calls for drilling a maximum of nine exploratory holes at six surface locations. Borax may drill more than one hole from these various drillsites. The exploratory holes will be drilled to a proposed total depth of 2,000 feet to obtain subsurface samples. These samples will be assayed at an offsite location. Borax is prospecting for precious metals and other valuable minerals. Small mud pits, 4 feet wide by 10 feet long by 8 feet deep may be required if rotary drilling methods are used at any of the six proposed drillsites.

The mineral prospecting permit when issued, will be for a two-year period and may be extended for a maximum of one year. The proposed project is specifically for mineral prospecting only. Any change in the activity will require preparation of an appropriate CEQA document.

This Initial Study-consists of the following material:

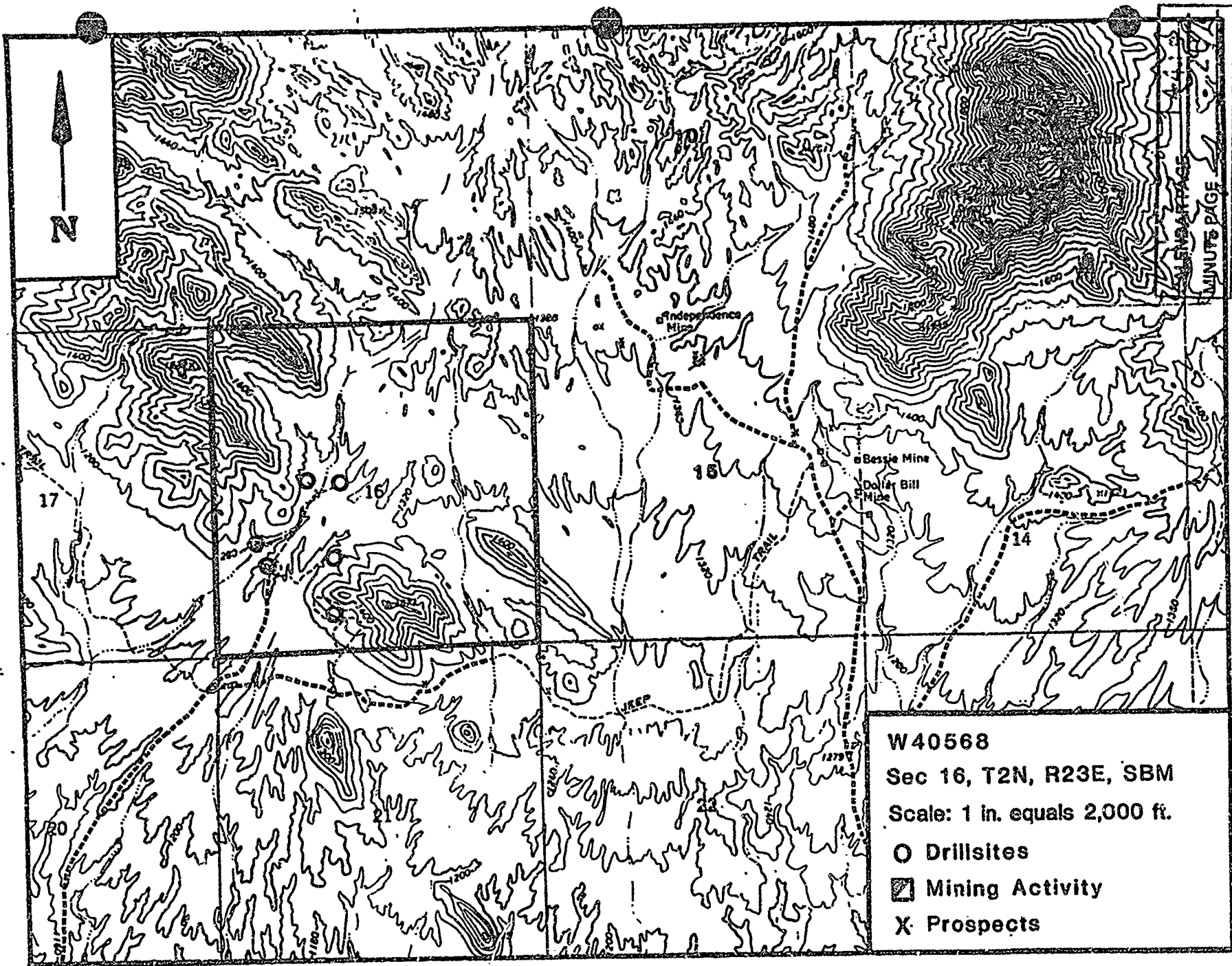
<u>Item</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
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Small scale map (1"=42,000') showing general vicinity of the project area.....	2
Large scale map (1"=2,000') showing immediate vicinity of the project area (Source: USGS Savahia Peak/Vidal Junction 7.5' Quads).....	3
Detailed Project Description.....	4, 5
Environmental Setting.....	6, 7
Permittee's assessment of environmental impacts, discussion, mitigating measures and certification.....	8-10
State Lands Commission's assessment of environmental impacts, discussion and additional mitigating measures.....	11-14
Mailing List.....	15-17



ARIZONA

W 40568
1 in. equals 42,000 ft.





DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

U. S. Borax is planning to conduct a mineral prospecting program in the permitted area by drilling up to a maximum of nine exploratory holes, six inches in diameter, to a proposed total depth of 2,000 feet. Subsurface samples from the exploratory holes will be assayed for precious metals and other valuable minerals. The drillholes will be sampled at regular intervals and 2-5 pound samples will be collected for assay at an offsite location. If drilled to a total depth of 2,000 feet, each hole amounts to the removal of 15 cubic yards of material. The maximum excavated volume for a total of 9 drillholes will be 135 cubic yards.

Existing dirt roads needed for access will be cleared and made smooth with a grader, but not widened. Repair of existing dirt roads would include only minor work on washed out sections which total about 500 feet.

There will be no new surface disturbance. All of the proposed drillsites will be located along existing roads and jeep trails. None of the drillsites will be located on desert pavement. The preparation of a drillsite will not include levelling the area. Borax plans to drill the nine exploratory holes from a total of six proposed sites. Each site will have a work area of 60 feet by 75 feet equalling 4,500 square feet/site or about one-tenth of an acre/site.

Due to the varying geologic conditions, two different types of drilling equipment systems may have to be used. A mud/air rotary system will include a Gardner Denver 1500 truck-mounted rotary drillrig or its equivalent. The accessory equipment would include a truck-mounted watertank and a utility pickup truck. If this system is utilized, a backhoe-dug mud pit measuring approximately 4 feet wide by 10 feet long by 8 feet deep will be necessary to contain drilling fluids. Each pit amounts to the removal of about 12 cubic yards of excavated material. The total volume for a maximum of six mud pits is 72 cubic yards of excavated material. Each mud pit will have dirt berms to restrict wildlife entry. The other type of drilling equipment is the air/reverse-circulation system, utilizing a similar drillrig and water truck in addition to a truck-mounted air compressor. Mud pits are not required while drilling with the air/reverse-circulation system.

If used, the drilling mud will consist of nontoxic, biodegradable bentonite clays. The drilling mud fluids will be contained within the mud pits and will be allowed to dry thoroughly prior to burial when the pits are backfilled.

Exploratory drillholes penetrating water bearing strata will be abandoned and plugged with cement above the water zone. The remainder of the hole will be backfilled with drill cuttings. Each exploratory hole will be properly abandoned upon the completion of drilling.

Drillsites will be properly reclaimed, and recontoured with hand tools if necessary. No trash or debris will be left in the project area.

The total volume of excavated material for the proposed project will be not more than 207 cubic yards of material. This figure includes a total volume for nine exploratory drillholes (135 cubic yards) and a total volume for six mud pits (72 cubic yards).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Section 16 is situated on the west flank of Whipple Mountains in southeast San Bernardino County, about 45 miles north of Blythe and about 25 miles west of Parker, Arizona. The section is about three miles west of the boundaries of BLM's Wilderness Study Area No. 312 and S-11's current boundary.

The topography consists of steep, rocky ridges with intervening dry washes and pediments covered by desert pavement. Elevations range from about 1,600 feet in the northwest part of the parcel to about 1,300 feet in the central part. There are several dirt roads and trails throughout the parcel, especially in the southwest quarter, and evidence of surface use including offhighway vehicle activity.

The proposed project area is in the northern part of the Colorado Desert Geologic Province. The major lithologic rock unit on the State section is a reddish brown, microcrystalline rhyolite of Tertiary age. In the southwest quarter of the section, where three prospect pits and a mine shaft are located, the volcanic rocks are brecciated and silicified with abundant copper mineralization. In contrast, the rocks of the northeast quarter appear to be unaltered. The remaining surface of the section is covered by desert pavement consisting of recent alluvial fine to coarse grain sands, gravels, cobbles and boulders of various sizes. There appears to be a northwest trending lineament traversing the section that may be responsible for localized hydrothermal mineralization. During its field investigations, the California Division of Mines and Geology has classified the southwest quarter of Section 16 as a Mineral Resource Zone 3 (MRZ-3), a designation for areas containing mineral deposits the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data.

Vegetation on the State section is characteristically sparse due to the aridity of the Colorado Desert. The best description for the parcel is a Creosote Bush-Burro Bush Community with Cholla, Beavertail and Barrel cactus and some Brittle Bush and Desert Trumpet also present. The ephemeral washes contain Smoke Tree, Palo Verde and Mistletoe plants predominantly.

According to the CDCA Plan of 1980, there are no rare, threatened or endangered plant species or unusual plant assemblages in the immediate area of Section 16.

During a recent site inspection by the staff of the State Lands Commission, no animals were observed on the section. The only wildlife known to frequent this area are reptiles, jackrabbits and coyotes. The BLM's Desert Tortoise Habitat Interim Map of January 1989 shows Section 16 situated on the boundary line between the open area of the Whipple Mountains and the Category 1 Habitat Area of northern Vidal Valley. The additional mitigating measures in the State's EIA Checklist should adequately protect the tortoise during the proposed exploration activity.

There are no buildings on the section and no standing water. Savahia Peak is the dominant geographic feature in the area and is located about two miles northeast.

Evidence of surface use includes several dirt roads and remnants of prospecting activity. The adjacent lands are vacant and under control of the federal government, except for Section 15, which is immediately adjacent to the east boundary of the State section. Savahia, Inc. of Las Vegas, Nevada holds a possessory interest in Section 15.

Historically, mining activities have been recorded in the area of the project site since the early 1900's. These records refer to the area as the Whipple Mountains mining district and has been described as extending 20 to 50 miles west of the Colorado River. This area was also part of the California-Arizona Maneuver Area that was used during World War II for military training.

According to the Cultural Resources Element map on page 58 of the CDCA Plan Alternatives and EIS draft of 1980, the immediate area of Section 16 has not been identified as possessing any significant cultural or historic resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM - Part I
(To be completed by applicant)
FORM 62.3(11/82)

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name, address, and telephone number:

a. Applicant

U. S. Borax & Chemical Corporation
3075 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213) 381-5311

b. Contact person if other than applicant:

Michael H. Rauschkolb
Land Agent, U. S. Borax
1802 W. Grant Road, Suite 108
Tucson, AZ 85745
(602) 884-8983

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

Section 16, T2N, R23E, SBM
San Bernardino County
45 miles north of Blythe, CA

b. Assessor's parcel number: 0648-181-151

3. Existing zoning of project site: Rural Conservation

4. Existing land use of project site: Vacant, no current existing land use.

5. Proposed use of site: Mineral prospecting-drill a maximum of nine exploratory holes to a proposed total depth of 2,000 feet and assay the samples at an offsite location.

6. Other permits required: None.

STATEMENT OF PROPOSED WASTE DISPOSAL METHODS

Liquid Waste Disposal

If a drillhole penetrates 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.

Solid Waste Disposal

Drill cuttings and drilling mud fluids will be retained in mud pits on site. Upon completion of drilling the mud pits will be backfilled and the area returned to its original contour. Trash containers will be used during the drilling activity and sites will be cleaned of all trash and debris.

Gaseous Waste Disposal

No gaseous waste will be generated by the proposed project.

APPLICANT'S ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The mineral prospecting work as proposed will have a slight adverse effect on the environment of the project area. Some dust, fumes and noise will be present in the immediate vicinity of the drillrig during the actual drilling operations. Each drillsite will require about one-tenth of an acre of land use. These sites will be reclaimed in a way that will minimize the evidence of prospecting work.

Proposed Mitigation Measures

1. Existing roads and jeep trails will be used for access to the drillsites.
2. The drillsites will be located along existing roads and jeep trails. No sites will be located on desert pavement.
3. Vehicle traffic will be kept to a minimum and vehicle speeds will be limited to 15 miles per hour.
4. Mud pits, if needed for drilling, will have dirt berms to restrict wildlife entry and will be backfilled after the completion of drilling.
5. Upon abandonment, all casing pipe needed for drilling will be removed if possible. If casing cannot be removed, the pipe will be cut five feet below ground level and a 20' plug of impervious material will be placed at the top of the hole. Suitable impervious materials include grout, cement, concrete and bentonite clay.
6. The permittee will perform all work activities in order to minimize the impact on vegetation. No vegetation will be removed from the project area.

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"/> |

6 & 8. Some dust and noise will be present in the immediate vicinity of the drill rig during operations.

13. An open pit or underground mine might be developed at this site.

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: United States Borax & Chemical Corporation Date: August 17, 1988

~~XXX~~ _____

Agent: Michael H. Rauschkolb Date: August 17, 1988
 Land Agent, Land Department

Title: _____

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST - PART II

Form 13.20 (7/82)

W40568

File Ref.: SCH# 89071022

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. Applicant: United States Borax & Chemical Corporation
c/o 1802 W. Grant Road, Suite 108
Tucson, AZ 85745
Attention: Michael Rauschkolb
- B. Checklist Date: 08/18/1989
- C. Contact Person: Eric Kruger
Telephone: (213) 590-5201
- D. Purpose: Prospecting for precious metals and other valuable minerals
other than oil and gas, geothermal resources or sand and gravel.
- E. Location: Section 16, T2N, R23E, S8M, San Bernardino County,
about 45 miles north of Blythe, CA.
- F. Description: Drill a maximum of nine exploratory holes to a proposed total
depth of 2,000 feet and assay the samples at an offsite location.
- G. Persons Contacted: See attached mailing list.

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

A. Earth. Will the proposal result in:

- | | Yes | Maybe | No |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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"/> |

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B. *Air*. Will the proposal result in:

Yes: Maybe No

- 1. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?
- 2. The creation of objectionable odors?
- 3. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?

C. *Water*. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Changes in the currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?
- 2. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff?
- 3. Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters?
- 4. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?
- 5. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?
- 6. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters?
- 7. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?
- 8. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?
- 9. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves?
- 10. Significant changes in the temperature, flow or chemical content of surface thermal springs?

D. *Plant Life*. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?
- 2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants?
- 3. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?
- 4. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop?

E. *Animal Life*. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)?
- 2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?
- 3. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?
- 4. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat?

F. *Noise*. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Increase in existing noise levels?
- 2. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?

G. *Light and Glare*. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. The production of new light or glare?

H. *Land Use*. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. A substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?

I. *Natural Resources*. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources?
- 2. Substantial depletion of any nonrenewable resources?

J. Risk of Upset. Does the proposal result in:

Yes Maybe No

- 1. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?
- 2. Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?

K. Population. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area?

L. Housing. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Affecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?

M. Transportation/Circulation. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?
- 2. Affecting existing parking facilities, or create a demand for new parking?
- 3. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?
- 4. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?
- 5. Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic?
- 6. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians?

N. Public Services. Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:

- 1. Fire protection?
- 2. Police protection?
- 3. Schools?
- 4. Parks and other recreational facilities?
- 5. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?
- 6. Other governmental services?

O. Energy. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?
- 2. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources?

P. Utilities. Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

- 1. Power or natural gas?
- 2. Communication systems?
- 3. Water?
- 4. Sewer or septic tanks?
- 5. Storm water drainage?
- 6. Solid waste and disposal?

Q. Human Health. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?
- 2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?

R. Aesthetics. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?

S. Recreation. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?

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T. Cultural Resources

- 1. Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archeological site? Yes No X
- 2. Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object? Yes No X
- 3. Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? Yes No X
- 4. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? Yes No X

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? Yes No X
- 2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? Yes No X
- 3. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? Yes No X
- 4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? Yes No X

III. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION (See Comments Attached)

- A2. Some displacement and compaction of surface material may result while ensuring safe access for personnel and equipment.
- A5. Some increase may take place in wind and water erosion of disrupted surface material in the areas used for access and drillsites.
- F1. Operation of the drillrig and related activities will temporarily increase existing noise levels.

Additional mitigating measures:

- 1. The permittee will notify the staff of the State Lands Commission one week prior to commencing operations. To ensure conformance to the terms, conditions and mitigation measures of the permit the staff of the State Lands Commission will perform inspections of the project area periodically.
- 2. While travelling through the project area, the permittee should watch for and avoid desert tortoise on the roads. If a tortoise is observed on the road, it should be carried across the road and placed 100 yards from the roadside.
- 3. Prior to operation, the permittee should check around their equipment to avoid injuring wildlife, especially the desert tortoise, a State protected species.

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: 9.18.89

E. Kruger
 For the State Lands Commission PAGE 144:30
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Mailing List - W 40568

Air Resources Board
Attn: Bob Fletcher
1102 "Q" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Department of Health
Attn: Arlene Chance
714 "P" Street Room 1253
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Office of Historic Preservation
Attn: Hans Kreutzberg
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Department of Parks and Recreation
Attn: James M. Doyle
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Department of Transportation
District 8
Attn.: Guy Visbal
247 W. Third Street
San Bernardino, CA 92403

Dept. of Fish and Game
Attn.: F. A. Worthley, Jr.,
330 Golden Shore, Suite 50
Long Beach, CA 90802

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

Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region (7)
73-271 Highway 111, Suite 21
Palm Desert, CA 92260

San Bernardino County Planning Dept.
Attn.: John N. Jaquess
385 No. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

United States
Dept. of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Needles Resource Area
Attn.: Everell G. Hayes
101 W. Spikes Road
Needles, CA 92363

San Manuel Reservation
Attn.: Henry Duro
Chairperson
5771 North Victoria Ave.
Highland, CA 92346

Twenty Nine Palms Reservation
Attn.: Dean Mike
Spokesman
2116 "A"
Bellingham, WA 98225

Chemehuevi Tribal Council
Attn.: Christine Walker
P.O. Box 1976
Chemehuevi Valley, CA 92363

Mojave Tribal Council
Attn.: Minorva Jenkins
500 Merriman
Needles, CA 92363

Colorado River Indian Tribes
Attn.: Anthony Drennan
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Parker, AZ 85344

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Desert Task Force
Sierra Club, San Geronio Chapter
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Sierra Club, San Geronio Chapter
568 N. Mountain View, Suite 130
San Bernardino, CA 92401

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Conservation Committee
Sierra Club, Mojave Group
14944 Luna Road
Victorville, CA 92392

U. S. Dept. of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
Attn.: Dr. Kristen Berry
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Desert Tortoise Council
Attn.: Glenn Stewart
5319 Cerritos Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90805

Pacific Mining Association
Attn.: Greg Oullette
2051 Pacific Avenue
Norco, CA 91760

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Division of Mines & Geology
620-C Bercut Drive
Sacramento, CA 95814

Thomas P. Anderson
Division of Mines & Geology
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Los Angeles, CA 90017

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Bureau of Land Management
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Aldo Barsotti, Chief
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Branch of Minerals Availability
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Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

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801 Pine Street
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Robert Kistler
U.S. Borax & Chemical Corp.
3075 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010

J. H. Jack Lucas
State Mining & Geology Board
18696 Aspesi Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070

Don Reining
P.O. Box 40
1811 Fair Oaks Avenue
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Robert A. Reveles
Vice President, Government Affairs
-Homestake Mining Company
650 California St., 9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108

Robert Segal
Molycorp
P.O. Box 124
Mountain Pass, CA 92361

Douglas Shumway
Mitsubishi Cement Corporation
State Highway 18
HRC Box 400
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

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

U.S. Borax & Chemical Corporation
Attn: Mike Rauschkolb
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Tucson, AZ 85745

0635A

Savahia, Inc.
300 S. 4th Street
Room 1503
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Senator Bill Leonard
400 N. Mountain Avenue
Upland, CA 91786

Assemblyman Paul Woodruff
300 E. State Street
Room 480
Redlands, CA 92373
Attention: Tim Johnson

Dennis Boyle
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3075 Wilshire Blvd.
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Carroll Harris
California Dept. of Transportation
Box 1499
Sacramento, CA 95807