

MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C13
was approved as Minute Item
No. 13 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 12-12-90
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

C 1 3

PRC 7475

12/12/90
W 23463
Fong

A 68

S 36

GENERAL LEASE - PUBLIC AGENCY USE

APPLICANT: United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
P. O. Box D
Yuma, Arizona 85366

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:
A strip of sovereign land in the Colorado River
between the Agnus-Wilson Bridge and the Palos
Verde Diversion Dam, Riverside County.

LAND USE: Bank stabilization and channel modification
project.

TERMS OF PROPOSED LEASE:
Initial period: Five (5) years beginning
November 30, 1990.

CONSIDERATION: The public benefit; with the State reserving the
right at any time to set a monetary rental if the
Commission finds such action to be in the State's
best interest.

BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION:
Pursuant to 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2003.

APPLICANT STATUS:
Applicant is permittee of upland.

PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:
Filing fee has been received.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. C 1 3 (CONT'D)

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

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

AB 884: 05/26/81.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

- 1. A Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared and adopted for this project by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. The FONSI was also circulated through the State Clearinghouse SCH 90040033. The FONSI was circulated for public review as broadly as State and local law may require and notice were given meeting the standards in 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15072(a). Therefore, pursuant to 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15225, the staff recommends the use of the federal FONSI in place of the Negative Declaration.

The proposed project will stabilize the channel of the Colorado River between the Palos Verde Diversion Dam near Blythe, California, and the Agnes-Wilson bridge near Poston, Arizona, to reduce property loss and sediment accrual, prevent uncontrolled channel realignment during high flows, and improve hydraulic efficiency of the channel.

The Bureau has requested, and staff recommends, that the \$450 non-refundable expense deposit be waived in consideration of the public benefit received from this project.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Land Description.
- B. Location Map.
- C. FONSI.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. C 1 3 (CONT'D)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT PREPARED AND ADOPTED FOR THIS PROJECT BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA AND THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15225, ADOPT SUCH FEDERAL DOCUMENT FOR USE IN PLACE OF THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION.
2. WAIVE THE NON-REFUNDABLE EXPENSE DEPOSIT OF \$450 IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BENEFIT RECEIVED FROM THIS PROJECT.
3. AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE TO UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OF A FIVE-YEAR GENERAL LEASE - PUBLIC AGENCY USE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 30, 1990; IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BENEFIT WITH THE STATE RESERVING THE RIGHT AT ANY TIME TO SET A MONETARY RENTAL IF THE COMMISSION FINDS SUCH ACTION TO BE IN THE STATE'S BEST INTEREST; FOR BANKLINE STABILIZATION AND CHANNEL MODIFICATION, AND CONSTRUCTION OF TRAINING STRUCTURES ON THE LAND DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.

EXHIBIT "A"

W 23463

LAND DESCRIPTION

All those State owned lands lying within the west half of the Colorado River from the Agnes-Wilson Bridge, River Mile 162.9 to the Pa'r Verde Diversion Dam, River Mile 133.8, Riverside County, California, as shown in the Parker II Channel Modification Project - Plan A & B, Sheets 1 through 4. Said maps are contained within the " Final Environmental Assessment Parker II Channel Modification Project ", published by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, May, 1990.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED NOVEMBER, 1990 BY LLB.

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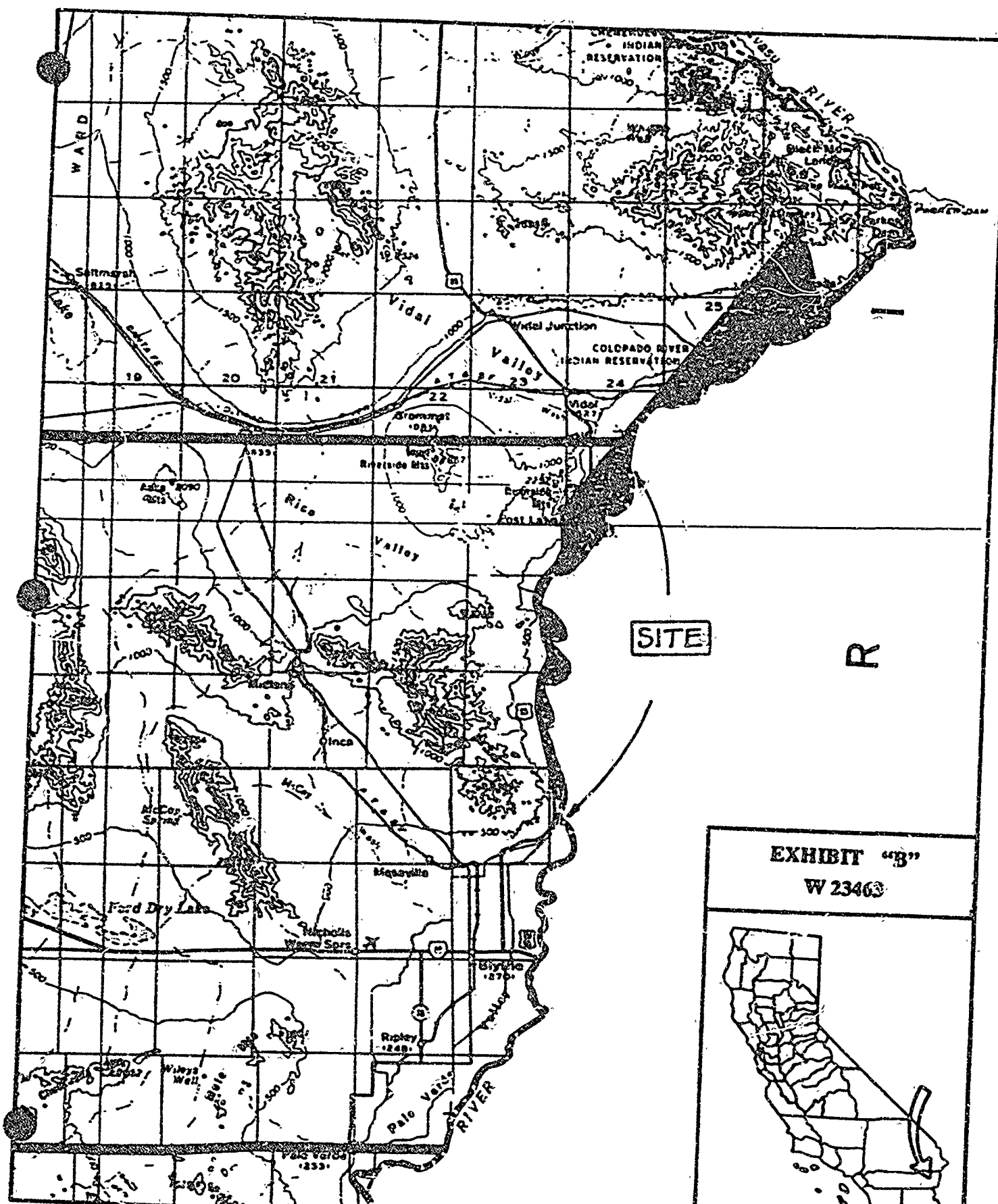


EXHIBIT "B"
W 23463



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

/ EXHIBIT "C"

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

LOWER COLORADO REGION

YUMA PROJECTS OFFICE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

PARKER II CHANNEL MODIFICATION PROJECT

COLORADO RIVER FRONT WORK AND LEVEE SYSTEM

RIVER MILES 133.8 - 161.8

FONSI NO. LC-90-3
Finding of No
Significant Impact
Number (Region)

Recommended E. Lohman
Area Project Manager

Date 5/24/90

Concur William E. Rinne
Regional Environmental Officer

Date 5/30/90

Approved Stephen H. Magnuson
Regional Director
ACTING

Date 5/31/90

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Rationale for Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to construct a channel modification project in the Parker II Division between River Miles 133.8 and 161.8.

The project consists of stabilizing the Parker II Division in place. The eroding banklines would be stabilized, and the river width controlled with the use of training structures and jetties. Approximately 23,300 feet of riprapped bankline and bankline roads, 19,000 feet of access roads, and 10 jetties and training structures would be constructed. Three gravel points which restrict river channel width would be removed using land based equipment.

The following issues were discussed and evaluated in the Environmental Assessment:

1. Impacts to wildlife resulting from vegetation removal, construction of access roads, reduction in natural marsh formation, and reduction in sandbar formation and occurrence.
2. Impacts to fisheries resulting from reduction in overhanging cover, loss of in-channel cover, increase in current velocity, change in bankline type from earth to rock, and removal of gravel bars.
3. Impacts to recreation resulting from faster current and deeper water, reduction in sandbars, shore access from boats, changes in fisheries, and esthetic changes.
4. Impacts to lessees along the reaches resulting from disturbance during construction and river access and frontage changes.
5. Continuation of riverbank stabilization and channelization on the Lower Colorado River.
6. Increases in Mosquitoes.
7. Impacts to Special Status Species including Federal and State listed and proposed species.
8. Impacts to cultural resources.
9. Water Conservation.

No significant adverse impacts would occur as a result of the project with implementation of mitigation proposed in the Environmental assessment for the identified impacts to the environment. These include in part:

- a. Training structures and jetties would be flow-through (permeable) to allow the areas downstream of the structures to remain wetted and form marsh habitat, thereby increasing the marsh and wetlands in the project area.

b. Specific backwaters and marsh at River Miles (RM) 138.2-139.7, 143.3-143.8, 144.7-145.1, 157.7, and 159.4-159.8; and the marsh to be formed at RM 140.0-140.8, would be maintained to retain their fish and wildlife characteristics.

c. The banklines to be stabilized would be sloped at 4:1, riprapped and covered with earth. These areas would be seeded with native vegetation to encourage growth of desirable plant species.

d. The marsh area at RM mile 140 would be avoided.

e. If any archeological resources are encountered during construction, work would cease until measures to mitigate those resources are taken.

f. Twenty-five acres of desirable vegetation would be planted at a rate of 120 trees per acre, with a success rate of 80% over 5 years.

g. The backwater formed at RM 143.3-143.8 would be enhanced for fisheries.

The assessment of the Federal listed and proposed special status species resulted in a No Affect determination of the species occurring in the project area.

Substantial benefits resulting from reduced sediment occurring to the river, reduced loss of property from bank erosion, and reduction in the possibility of uncontrolled river channel change would occur from the project.

Since there would be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project, and there would be substantial beneficial impacts, it is recommended that this Finding of No significant Impact be approved for the proposed work.