

**MINUTE ITEM**

This Calendar Item No. C44  
was approved as Minute Item  
No. 44 by the State Lands  
Commission by a vote of 3  
to 0 at its 9-9-93  
meeting.

**CALENDAR ITEM**

**C44**

A 29

09/09/93

S 14

PRC 7564

Pelkofer

**RENEWAL OF  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY PERMIT - INFORMATION COLLECTION**

**PERMITTEE:**

Mr. Bruce Watkins  
582 Humbolt Way  
Livermore, California 94550

**AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:**

Tide and submerged land in the Pacific Ocean approximately  
three miles north of Point Sur, Monterey County, within the  
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

**LAND USE:**

Survey, identify, and map the wreck site of the S. S.  
Ventura, which struck two rocks, broke up, and sank on  
April 20, 1875. No object recovery will be undertaken and  
the survey activity will require only minimal or no  
disturbance of the bottom surface.

**TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:**

Renewal period:

From September 14, 1992 to June 13, 1994. Dates are to  
conform to Certificate - MBNMS-01-93 issued by NOAA.

**CONSIDERATION:**

The public benefit.

**BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Pursuant to 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2003(a)(4)(A).

**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.

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AB 884:  
N/A.

**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

1. The S. S. Ventura was a wooden-hulled steamship of 775 tons that was built for the Navy in 1866 and commissioned as the USS Reseca. The ship was purchased by Goodall Nelson and Perkins in 1873 and put into service as a coast-wise steamer between San Francisco and San Diego, with stops in Santa Barbara and San Pedro.

She left San Francisco on the morning of April 20, 1875 with a hundred and thirty passengers, baggage and express, and four hundred tons of freight, destined for Los Angeles. About five P.M., she ran into a fog bank after passing New Year's Island and lowered sail and reduced speed, but proceeded on her passage. About eight o'clock, a crewman reported a light through the fog, which was thought to be a sister ship on her passage northward. Shortly thereafter, she cleared the fog and the lookout shouted "breakers" just before she struck the rocks.

She was close enough to allow a rope to be run to the beach and all the passengers were successfully transferred to shore. They were picked up the next day by the Santa Cruz and taken to Monterey. The ships hull, which was badly damaged by the rocks and surf, was stripped clean by salvagers and what remained was left to break up in the sea.

2. Applicant has conducted operations under the current permit as time and weather allowed. He has regularly reported activities and results and has consulted with James Allan of the Institute for Western Maritime Archaeology. A brief summary of searching and mapping activities is attached as Exhibit "B". Applicant has complied with all conditions of the current permit and is eligible for a renewal.

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3. James Allan, marine archaeologist with the Institute for Western Maritime Archaeology at the University of California at Berkeley, will act as advisor on the project. Applicant has provided a satisfactory survey plan and will continue to make survey dives and do research pending the issuance of the permit.
4. Applicant has obtained a certificate from the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division of NOAA for the activities contemplated by this permit.
5. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Reg. 15061), the staff has determined that this activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 6, Information Collection, 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15306, 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2905(e)(3).

Authority: P.R.C. 21084 and 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15300 and 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2905.

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

**EXHIBITS:**

- A. Location Map
- B. Activity Report

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:**

1. FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15061 AS A CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT PROJECT, CLASS 6, INFORMATION COLLECTION, 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15306, 2 CAL. CODE REGS. 2905(e)(3).

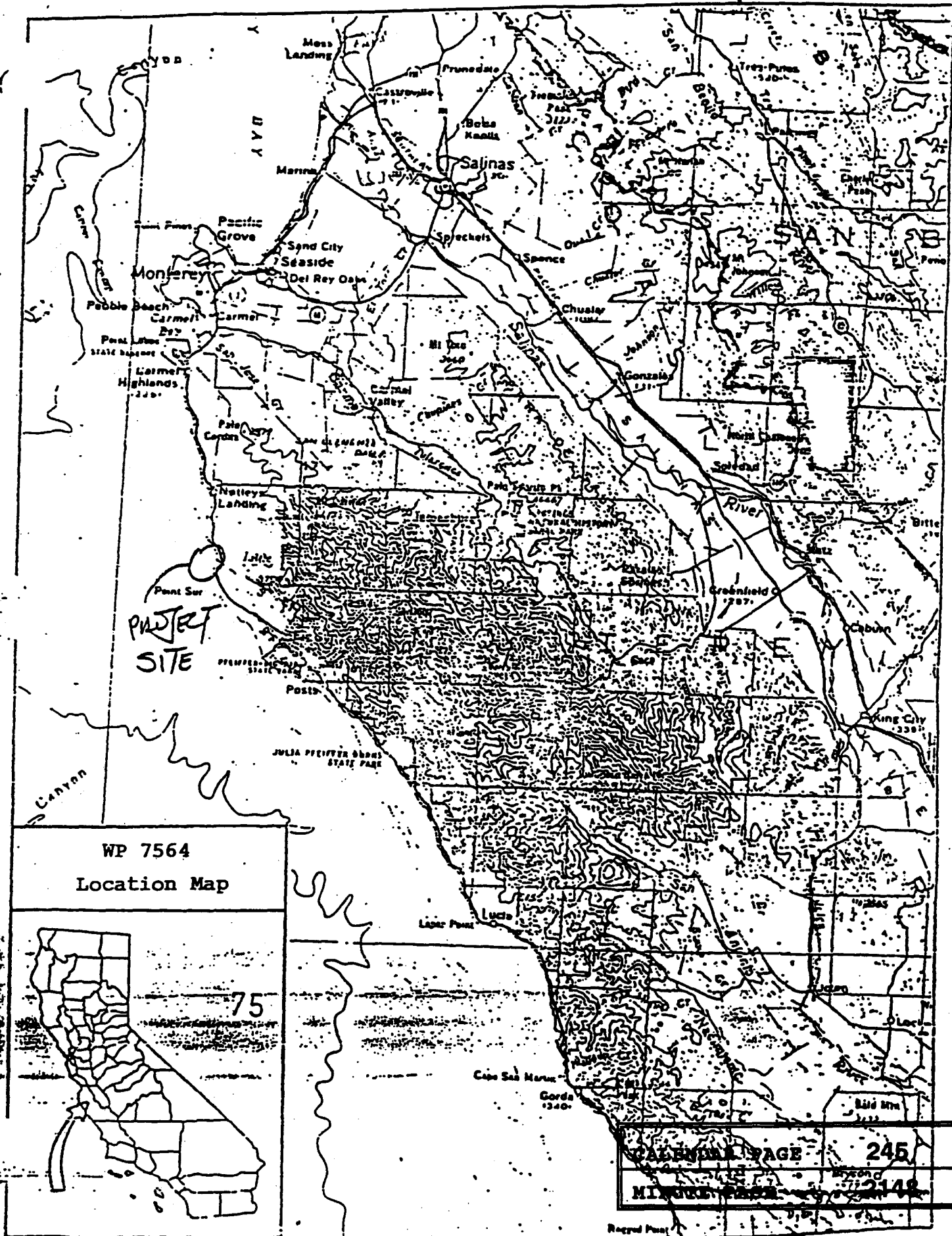
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2. AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY PERMIT - INFORMATION COLLECTION, COMMENCING ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1992, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, FOR THE SURVEY, MAPPING, AND IDENTIFICATION OF ARTIFACTS FROM THE WRECK SITE OF THE S. S. VENTURA IN THE GENERAL LOCATION SHOWN ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED.

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EXHIBIT A



582 Humboldt Way  
Livermore, CA 94550  
August 23, 1993

Mr. Peter Pelkofer  
State of California  
State Lands Commission  
1807 13th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Peter:

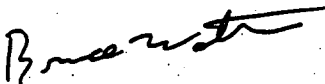
Thank you for your letter of August 17th. Yes, I would like to renew my permit for the S.S. Ventura.

Most of last year was spent obtaining a permit from the newly formed Monterey Bay Sanctuary. That permit was obtained this spring and we did additional survey work in early July. The site was again covered with many feet of sand.

These conditions were identical to last July. Seems that we will only be able to observe and map artifacts during the winter and early spring.

I look forward to receiving the renewal and to a productive winter season.

Sincerely;



Bruce Watkins

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EXHIBIT "B"