

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. C13 was approved as Minute Item No. 13 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 4-24-01 meeting.

**CALENDAR ITEM
C13**

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S 18

PRC 8276

04/24/01
W 25736
B. Dugal

GENERAL LEASE - HABITAT RESTORATION USE

APPLICANT:

Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
5679 Hollister Avenue, #5B
Goleta, California 93117

AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:

Sovereign lands within Tecolotito Creek in Goleta Slough, located near the town of Goleta, Santa Barbara County.

AUTHORIZED USE:

Wetland habitat restoration, enhancement and maintenance activities that involve the removal of non-native and invasive vegetation and the revegetation with native wetland plant species along Tecolotito Creek.

LEASE TERM:

Five years, beginning February 27, 2001.

CONSIDERATION:

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

SPECIFIC LEASE PROVISIONS:

Insurance:

Combined single limit coverage of no less than \$1,000,000.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Applicant has the right to use the uplands adjoining the lease premises.
2. The proposed project area that is the subject of this application is located along the lower reach of Tecolotito Creek in Goleta Slough. Goleta Slough has been designated as an environmentally sensitive habitat area

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(ESHA) by the Santa Barbara County Local Coastal Program. The spread of non-native and invasive vegetation in the project area has resulted in the displacement in critical habitat of native vegetation and wildlife.

3. The Applicant proposes to eradicate the non-native and invasive vegetation that exists along Tecolotito Creek by using hand tools to the maximum extent possible. When necessary, the application of a herbicide (Rodeo™) may also be used. No restoration activities are proposed within the active channel of Tecolotito Creek where standing or open water is present. Woody vegetation that is removed will be collected and disposed of offsite at the County of Santa Barbara Transfer Station. Non-woody vegetation that is removed will be left on the ground as mulch.
4. The Applicant intends to phase the habitat restoration project in over the lease term. The first phase of the project involves the initial removal and eradication of non-native/invasive vegetation and the revegetation of the area with wetland native plant species. Subsequent phases will involve weed control and the ongoing revegetation with native wetland plant species.
5. On January 9, 2001, the California Coastal Commission (CCC) granted Permit # 4-00-232 for this project under its certified regulatory program (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15251 (c)). Staff has reviewed the document and determined that the conditions, as specified in Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15253 (b), have been met for the Commission to use the environmental analysis document certified by the CCC as a Negative Declaration equivalent in order to comply with the requirements of the CEQA.
6. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 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.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

California Coastal Commission
California Department of Transportation
City of Santa Barbara

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FURTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED:

County of Santa Barbara

EXHIBIT:

A. Site/Location Map

PERMIT STREAMLINING ACT DEADLINE:

June 8, 2001.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

CEQA FINDING:

FIND THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DOCUMENT, CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION (CCC) PERMIT # 44-00-232, WAS ADOPTED FOR THIS PROJECT BY THE CCC UNDER ITS CERTIFIED PROGRAM (TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15251 (c)), AND THAT THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION THEREIN AND CONCURS IN THE CCC'S DETERMINATION.

SIGNIFICANT LANDS INVENTORY FINDING:

FIND THAT THIS ACTIVITY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE USE CLASSIFICATION DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE LAND PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTIONS 6370, ET SEQ.

AUTHORIZATION:

AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE TO SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC., OF A GENERAL LEASE - HABITAT RESTORATION USE, BEGINNING FEBRUARY 27, 2001, FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, FOR WETLAND HABITAT RESTORATION, ENCHANCEMENT AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES THAT INVOLVES THE REMOVAL OF NON-NATIVE AND INVASIVE VEGETATION AND THE REVEGETATION WITH NATIVE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES ON THE LAND SHOWN ON EXHIBIT A ATTACHED AND BY THIS REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF; CONSIDERATION BEING THE PUBLIC USE AND BENEFIT; COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT INSURANCE COVERAGE OF NO LESS THAN \$1,000,000.

