

**MINUTE ITEM**

This Calendar Item No. C49 was approved as Minute Item No. 49 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 4-9-02 meeting.

**CALENDAR ITEM  
C49**

A 37

04/09/02

S 18

W 24763

P. Griggs

G. Walker

**CONSIDER ARTIFACT TRANSFER**

**PARTY:**

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum  
327 S. Salinas Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

**BACKGROUND**

The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum has formally requested that the Commission transfer ownership of artifacts recovered from the historic shipwreck of the SS *Winfield Scott*. The shipwreck lies on state sovereign lands off middle Anacapa Island within the boundaries of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) and the Channel Islands National Park (Park). The artifacts were recovered by staff from the Sanctuary and Park under permit from the Commission in 2000 and 2001.

The artifacts include metal hull fasteners and hardware, ceramic fragments, bottle fragments, a brick, and two glass knobs. The artifacts were collected because they had become exposed on the seabed and were at risk of loss by theft from recreational divers. Commission staff has received a detailed photographic report and list of the artifacts.

The permit granted to the Sanctuary and Park by the Commission required them to seek out a conservation facility and a repository for the artifacts. The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (Museum) has agreed to complete the conservation and curation of the artifacts, to provide access for scholarly research, and to provide for public display. The Museum has the specialized expertise, facilities, and security to properly care for these artifacts.

The artifacts are remnants of the Gold-rush era side-wheel steamer *Winfield Scott* and its cargo. Such steamers played a significant role in the history of California, providing regular transportation for people and cargo along the coast. The *Winfield Scott* sank in heavy fog on December 2, 1853, just offshore of middle Anacapa Island. Although all of the passengers and crew survived, they were stranded for several days on the small

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island with limited supplies. The shipwreck was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.

Staff recommends that title to these *Winfield Scott* artifacts, which is vested in the State and in the custody of the Commission, pursuant to Public Resources Code, 6313(a), be transferred under authority of that section to the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. It is recommended that title, rather than custody, be transferred consistent with best museum practice.

**PERMIT STREAMLINING ACT DEADLINE:**

N/A

**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

1. Public Resources Code, section 6313(a) provides: The title to all abandoned shipwrecks and all archaeological sites and historic resources on or in the tide and submerged lands of California is vested in the state. All abandoned shipwrecks and all submerged archaeological sites and submerged historic resources of the state shall be in the custody and subject to the control of the commission for the benefit of the people of the State of California. The commission may transfer title, custody, or control to other state agencies or recognized scientific or educational organizations, institutions or individuals by appropriate legal conveyance.
2. The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum has established itself as one of California's newest and most dynamic maritime heritage centers. It is housed in the Old Naval Reserve Center in the Santa Barbara Waterfront Center and has a professional museum staff, including a nautical archaeologist.
3. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15060(c)(3)), the staff has determined that this activity is not subject to the provisions of the CEQA because it is not a "project" as defined by the CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21065 and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, sections 15060(c)(3) and 15378.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:**

1. FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15060(c)(3) BECAUSE THE ACTIVITY IS NOT A PROJECT AS DEFINED BY PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21065 AND TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15378.

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2. AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP (TITLE) OF THESE ARTIFACTS FROM THE SS *WINFIELD SCOTT* TO THE SANTA BARBARA MARITIME MUSEUM FOR SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AND PERMANENT PUBLIC DISPLAY.