

**CALENDAR ITEM
C31**

A 80
S 37

01/29/09
WP 7191.9
S.Young

GENERAL LEASE - PUBLIC AGENCY USE

APPLICANT:

California Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:

311 acres, more or less, of sovereign lands located at the Goose Flats and Big Hole areas, adjacent to the Colorado River, near Blythe, Riverside County.

AUTHORIZED USE:

Continued use and maintenance of 311 acres for habitat restoration and revegetation.

LEASE TERM:

Ten years, beginning May 1, 2008.

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.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Applicant has the right to use uplands adjoining the lease premises.
2. On June 19, 1998, the Commission authorized the issuance of a ten-year General Lease -Public Agency Use, Lease No. PRC 7191.9, to the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for habitat restoration at Goose Flats and Big Hole sites adjacent to the Colorado River. The Lease expired on April 30, 2008. As DFG is continuing to manage the State's sovereign lands for their ecological value and continues to pursue habitat restoration projects at the sites, DFG has applied for a new ten-year lease.

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3. Major portions of the Lease Premises remain accessible to the public, including the entire River waterfront, and the backwater areas are accessible by boat.
4. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061), the staff has determined that this activity is exempt from the requirements of the CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land; Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15304.

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084 and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15300.

5. 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.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Location and Site Map
- B. Land Description

PERMIT STREAMLINING ACT DEADLINE:

N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

CEQA FINDING:

FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15061 AS A CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT PROJECT, CLASS 4, MINOR ALTERATIONS TO LAND; TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15304.

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.

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AUTHORIZATION:

AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF A GENERAL LEASE – PUBLIC AGENCY USE TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME BEGINNING MAY 1, 2008, FOR A TERM OF TEN YEARS, FOR CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS ON THE LAND AS SHOWN ON EXHIBIT A (FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY) AND AS DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT B ATTACHED AND BY THIS REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.