

**CALENDAR ITEM  
C83**

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09/01/11

W 6005.131

S 6

R. B. Greenwood

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A  
NON-EXCLUSIVE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PERMIT  
ON SOVEREIGN LANDS IN THE AMERICAN RIVER,  
SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

**APPLICANT:**

R&M/WESTEX  
Attn.: Mr. Masood Ghassemi  
962 El Cajon Way  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

**BACKGROUND:**

The geological survey permit would allow the gathering of data that will be used to better assess erosion potential of the American River by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The proposed project involves ten (10) rotary wash borings from 17 possible locations in the middle of the American River to a total depth of 50 feet below the base of the river and three (3) near-shore bulk samples (measuring 5 feet by 5 feet and 1 foot deep). Drilling and sampling will be conducted over a period of two months. The samples will be collected at locations, as depicted on Exhibit A (attached hereto), using rotary wash drilling methods, down-hole sampling and testing from a self-contained barge, and near-shore bulk samples using hand tools.

Borings are anticipated to reach approximately 50 feet deep, below the river bottom. The borings will be advanced using a 4½ to 5½ inch bit and water or bentonite clay drilling fluid, in a closed circulation system which is completely isolated from the river waters. After drilling and sampling, the boreholes will be backfilled with heavy drill cuttings and clean sand. Excess drill cuttings, drilling fluid, and wash water will be retained and properly disposed offsite.

The drilling barge, whose dimensions are 40 feet by 12 feet, will be secured by up to four anchors. The barge will be supported by a smaller tool boat. Upon request, the California State Lands Commission will receive copies of all data derived from any and all surveys under the permit.

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**TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:**

Two months, beginning September 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011.

**PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:**

Required fees, expense deposit and other security have been received.

**STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:**

- A. Public Resources Code section 6826.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 2905(e)(3).
- C. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061.

**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

1. 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 CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 6, Information Collection; Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905(e)(3).

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084; Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15300; and Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905.

2. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6370, et seq., but such activity will not affect those significant lands. 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.

**EXHIBIT:**

- A. Permit Regions

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the Commission:

**CEQA FINDINGS:**

Find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061 as a categorically

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exempt project, Class 6, Information Collection; Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905(e)(3).

**SIGNIFICANT LANDS:**

Find that this activity is consistent with the use classification designated by the Commission for the land pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6370, et seq.

**AUTHORIZATION:**

Authorize issuance to R&M/WESTEX, of a Non-Exclusive General Permit to conduct Geological Surveys for the period September 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011, at locations as designated on Exhibit A, attached hereto.