

**CALENDAR ITEM  
C66**

A 33  
S 16

02/22/13  
PRC 7138.9  
R. Collins

**GENERAL LEASE - PUBLIC AGENCY USE**

**APPLICANT:**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Inland Deserts Region (6)  
PO Box 2160  
Blythe, CA 92226

**AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:**

2.0 acres, more or less, of sovereign land in the historic bed of the Colorado River in Beal Slough, near the City of Needles, San Bernardino County.

**AUTHORIZED USE:**

Maintenance of artificial fish habitat and an unimproved boat launch.

**LEASE TERM:**

20 years, beginning October 1, 2012.

**CONSIDERATION:**

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

**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

1. On November 19, 1987 the Commission authorized the California Department of Fish and Game (now known as the Department of Fish and Wildlife) to install artificial fish habitat within Beal Slough to enhance fish breeding and protection for a term of 25 years. Habitat improvements included brush shelters, anchored logs, boulder reefs, and spawning gravel. Shoreline habitat was increased by planting willows, cottonwoods and bulrush. The lease expired on September 30, 2012. The Applicant is now requesting a new lease.
2. During construction of habitat improvements, the Department of Fish and Wildlife constructed an unimproved boat launch at the site to facilitate the

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installation of habitat. The boat launch is a bare strip of gently sloping ground leading to the water. The Department of Fish and Wildlife uses the facility regularly to launch patrol boats, and is also available for use by the public for sport fishing and bird watching. The unimproved boat launch was not previously authorized by the Commission.

3. The staff recommends that the Commission find that this activity is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 1, Existing Facilities; California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 2905, subdivision (a)(2).

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

4. 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.

**EXHIBITS:**

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

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the Commission:

**CEQA FINDING:**

Find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061 as a categorically exempt project, Class 1, Existing Facilities; California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 2905, subdivision (a)(2).

**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 section 6370 et seq.

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**AUTHORIZATION:**

Authorize Issuance of a General Lease – Public Agency Use to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife beginning October 1, 2012, for a term of 20 years, for the continued use and maintenance of artificial fish habitat and an unimproved boat launch as described in Exhibit A and shown on Exhibit B (for reference purposes only) attached and by this reference made a part hereof; consideration being the public use and benefit, with the State reserving the right, at any time, to set a monetary rent as specified in the lease if the Commission finds such action to be in the State's best interest.

EXHIBIT A

PRC 7138.9

LAND DESCRIPTION

Nine parcels of land in the bed of the Colorado River (Beal Slough area). situate in Sections 25 and 26, T8N, R23E, SBM, more particularly described as follows:

That area immediately beneath nine fish habitat enhancement projects located in nine coves within Beal Slough TOGETHER WITH any necessary use area within the coves.

ALSO TOGETHER WITH an unimproved boat launch.

END OF DESCRIPTION

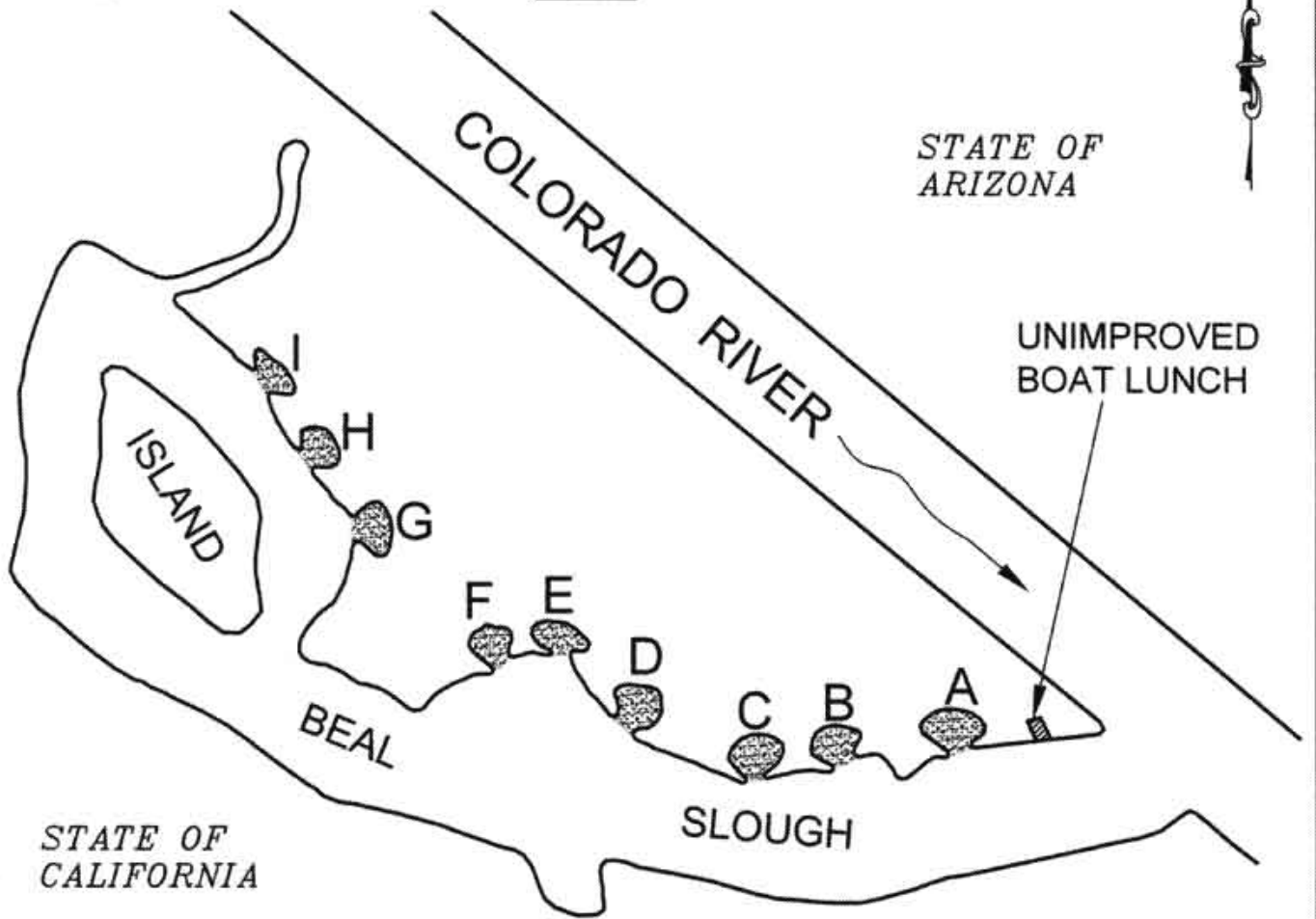
PREPARED BY BIU #1, AUGUST 4, 1987

0532b

Revised by the California State Lands Commission Boundary Unit , January 7, 2013

NO SCALE

### SITE



BEAL SLOUGH , ALONG THE COLORADO RIVER, NEAR THE CITY OF NEEDLES

NO SCALE

### LOCATION



MAP SOURCE: USGS QUAD

### **Exhibit B**

PRC 7138.9

FISH & WILDLIFE DEPT OF  
BEAL SLOUGH ARTIFICIAL FISH  
HABITAT

APNs 0650-201-01, 05, 06 & 07

GENERAL LEASE -

PUBLIC AGENCY USE  
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY



This Exhibit is solely for purposes of generally defining the lease premises, is based on unverified information provided by the Lessee or other parties and is not intended to be, nor shall it be construed as, a waiver or limitation of any State interest in the subject or any other property.

TS 12/04/12