

**STAFF REPORT  
C02**

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10/19/17  
PRC 4145.1  
M. J. Columbus

**GENERAL LEASE – RECREATIONAL USE**

**APPLICANT:**

R. Daniel Putman and Kathleen L. Williams, Co-Trustees of The Putman-Williams Living Trust dated April 30, 2015

**PROPOSED LEASE:**

*AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:*

Sovereign land in Lake Tahoe, adjacent to 8307 Meeks Bay, near Meeks Bay, El Dorado County.

*AUTHORIZED USE:*

Continued use and maintenance of an existing pier, boat lift, and two mooring buoys.

*LEASE TERM:*

10 years, beginning January 1, 2017.

*CONSIDERATION:*

\$1,097 per year, with an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment.

*SPECIFIC LEASE PROVISIONS:*

1. Liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
2. Lessee shall not store any personal items or construct any improvements in the Public Trust easement that may impair the public uses of access, navigation, fishing and lake-related recreational uses.
3. If Lessee does not have valid Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) buoy permit, Lessee is required to obtain such authorization for the mooring buoys within 2 years after the certification of a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Tahoe Shorezone Ordinance Amendments and approval of the amended ordinances. If Lessee is unable to obtain such

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authorization within the time limit, they may be required to remove the buoys.

4. Lessee expressly acknowledges and agrees that issuance of a lease does not substitute for, or provide preference in, obtaining authorizations from TRPA or any other regulatory agency for the improvements authorized by the Commission.

### **STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:**

#### **Authority:**

Public Resources Code sections 6005, 6216, 6301, 6501.1, 6503, and 6503.5; California Code of Regulations, title 2, sections 2000 and 2003.

#### **Public Trust and State's Best Interests Analysis:**

On February 5, 2007, the Commission authorized a Recreational Pier Lease to R. Daniel Putman and Kathleen L. Williams ([Item C03, February 5, 2007](#)). That lease expired on December 31, 2016.

On May 20, 2015, the upland was deeded to R. Daniel Putman and Kathleen L. Williams, Co-Trustees of The Putman-Williams Living Trust dated April, 30, 2015. The Applicant is now applying for a General Lease – Recreational Use for the continued use and maintenance of the existing pier, boat lift, and two mooring buoys.

The facilities are privately owned and maintained. The subject facilities are used for recreational boating. Recreational boating is a water-dependent use that is generally consistent with the common law Public Trust Doctrine. The California Legislature has identified private recreational boating facilities as an authorized use of Public Trust land (Pub. Resources Code, § 6503.5).

The subject facilities have existed for many years at this location. The pier is built on pilings and the immediate area of the pier is rocky with large boulders. The topography and the location of upland structures provide access for the pier and the public may navigate or walk next to, and at certain water levels under, the pier within the Public Trust easement. The two buoys are located directly lakeward of the upland property and occupy a relatively small area of the lake.

The proposed lease does not alienate the State's fee simple interest or permanently impair public rights. The lease is limited to a 10-year term, does not grant the lessee exclusive rights to the lease premises, and reserves an easement to the public for Public Trust-consistent uses. Upon

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termination of the lease, the lessee may be required to remove all improvements and restore the lease premises to their original condition.

The proposed lease requires the lessee to insure the lease premises and indemnify the State for any liability incurred as a result of the lessee's activities thereon. The lease also requires the payment of annual rent to compensate the people of the State for the occupation of the public land involved. For all the reasons above, Commission staff believes the issuance of this lease is consistent with the common law Public Trust Doctrine and in the best interests of the State.

### **OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

1. This action is consistent with Strategy 1.1 of the Commission's Strategic Plan to deliver the highest levels of public health and safety in the protection, preservation, and responsible economic use of the lands and resources under the Commission's jurisdiction and Strategy 1.3 to promote, expand, and enhance appropriate public use and access to and along the State's inland and coastal waterways.
2. 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.

3. 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 staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the CEQA review process, it is staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

### **EXHIBITS:**

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

## STAFF REPORT **C02** (CONT'D)

### **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).

#### **PUBLIC TRUST AND STATE'S BEST INTERESTS:**

Find that the proposed lease will not substantially impair the public rights to navigation and fishing or substantially interfere with the Public Trust needs and values at this time, this location, or for the foreseeable term of the lease, is consistent with the common law Public Trust Doctrine, and is in the best interests of the State.

#### **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.

#### **AUTHORIZATION:**

Authorize issuance of a General Lease – Recreational Use to R. Daniel Putman and Kathleen L. Williams, Co-Trustees of The Putman-Williams Living Trust dated April 30, 2015; beginning January 1, 2017, for a term of 10 years, for the continued use and maintenance of an existing pier, boat lift, and two mooring buoys as described in Exhibit A and shown on Exhibit B (for reference purposes only) attached and by this reference made a part hereof; annual rent in the amount of \$1,097, with an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment; and liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

**EXHIBIT A**

**PRC 4145.1**

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Three (3) parcels of submerged land situate in the bed of Lake Tahoe, lying adjacent to Lot 3 of fractional Section 29, Township 14 North, Range 17 East, MDM., as shown on Official Government Township Plat approved July 29, 1880, County of El Dorado, State of California, and more particularly described as follows:

**PARCEL 1 – PIER**

All those lands underlying an existing pier and boat lift and catwalk lying adjacent to those parcels as described in Exhibit A of that Quitclaim Deed recorded May 20, 2015 in Document 2015-0022134 of Official Records of said County.

TOGETHER WITH any applicable impact area(s).

EXCEPTING THEREFROM any portion(s) lying landward of elevation 6223 feet LTD on the shoreline of said Lake Tahoe.

**PARCELS 2 & 3 – BUOYS (2)**

Two (2) circular parcels of land, being 50 feet in diameter, underlying two (2) existing buoys lying adjacent to said parcels.

Accompanying plat is hereby made part of this description.

**END OF DESCRIPTION**

Prepared October 18, 2016 by the California State Lands Commission Boundary Unit.





L A K E  
T A H O E

EXISTING BUOYS (2)

EXISTING BOAT LIFT  
& 9' IMPACT AREA

EXISTING  
CATWALK

9' IMPACT  
AREA

EXISTING  
PIER

6223'± LTD  
APPROXIMATE

APN 016-063-16

SHORELINE

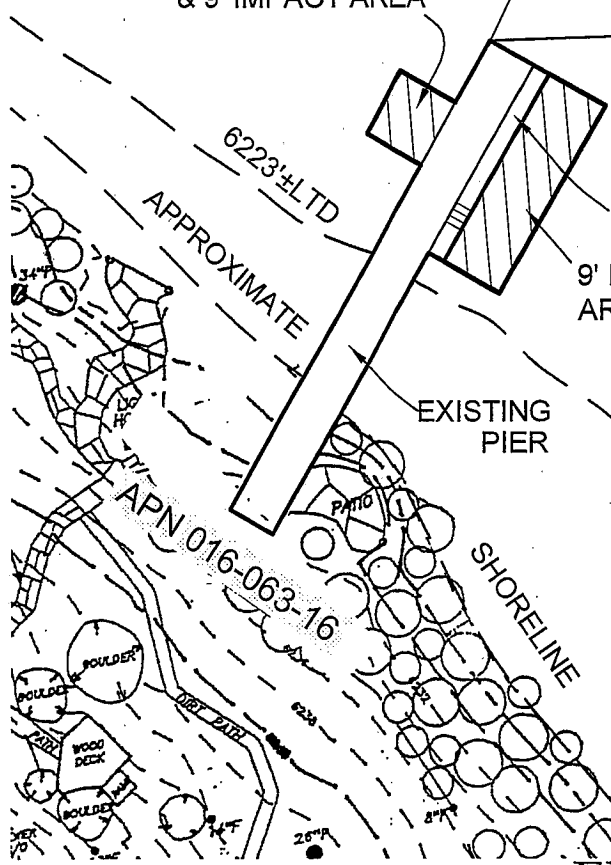


EXHIBIT A

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LAND DESCRIPTION PLAT  
PRC 4145.1, PUTMAN-WILLIAMS  
LIVING TRUST  
EL DORADO COUNTY

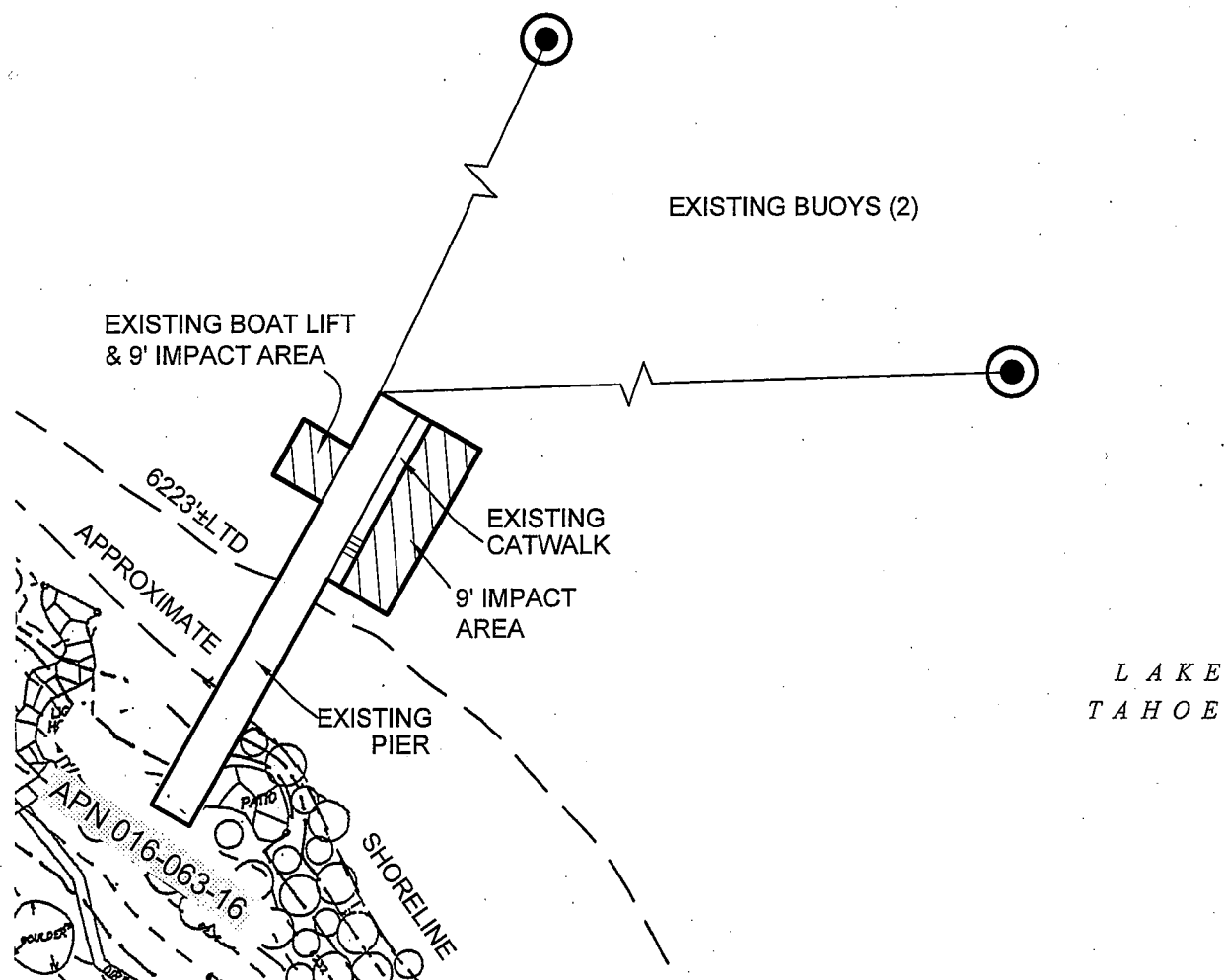
MJJ 10/17/16

CALIFORNIA STATE  
LANDS COMMISSION



NO SCALE

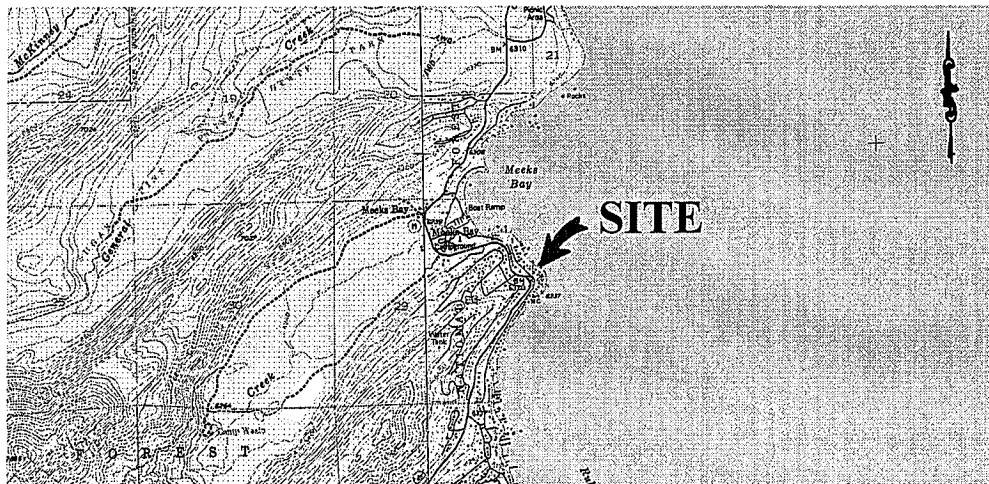
## SITE



8307 MEEKS BAY AVENUE, NEAR MEEKS BAY

NO SCALE

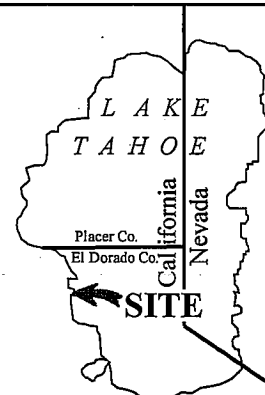
## LOCATION



MAP SOURCE: USGS QUAD

## **Exhibit B**

PRC 4145.1  
PUTMAN-WILLIAMS  
LIVING TRUST  
APN 016-063-16  
GENERAL LEASE -  
RECREATIONAL USE  
EL DORADO 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.

MJJ 10/17/2016