

STAFF REPORT

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08/23/19
PRC 5113.1
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GENERAL LEASE – RECREATIONAL USE

APPLICANT:

Jeffrey H. Hiller and Stephen S. Hiller

PROPOSED LEASE:

AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:

Sovereign land in Lake Tahoe, adjacent to 6850 and 6860 West Lake Boulevard, near Tahoma, Placer County.

AUTHORIZED USE:

Continued use and maintenance of an existing pier, marine railway, three boat lifts, and four mooring buoys.

LEASE TERM:

10 years beginning June 1, 2019.

CONSIDERATION:

\$2,818 per year, with an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment.

SPECIFIC LEASE PROVISIONS:

- Liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- Lessee shall provide proof of a Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) buoy permit or proof that unpermitted buoys have been removed by October 23, 2020.
- 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.
- Lessee shall not store any personal items or construct any improvements in the Public Trust easement which may impair the

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public uses of access, navigation, fishing, and lake-related recreational uses.

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 January 26, 2012, the Commission authorized a General Lease - Recreational Use, Lease No. PRC 5113.9, for the continued use and maintenance of an existing pier, marine railway, three boat lifts, and four mooring buoys to Carolyn B. Hiller, Trustee of that certain trust agreement dated September 23, 1983 and amended and restated on September 16, 1988 ([Item C01, January 26, 2012](#)).

On December 31, 2012, the upland parcels transferred to Jeffrey H. Hiller and Stephen S. Hiller. The lease expired on May 31, 2019. The Applicant is applying for a General Lease – Recreational Use, for the continued use and maintenance of the existing pier, marine railway, three boat lifts, and four mooring buoys.

The Applicant owns the uplands adjoining the lease premises. The subject facilities are privately owned and maintained. The marine railway was formerly used for boat launching and haul-out. It consists of a parallel set of rails, a cart for the boat, and a cable powered by a winch or motor. The rails remain but are no longer used for boat launching. The pier and mooring buoys are used for the docking and mooring of boats. 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 pier, marine railway, and mooring buoys have existed for many years at this location. The pier is built on single pilings with the immediate area of the pier being flat with sand and pebbles. The boat lifts are attached to each side of the pier and are within the footprint of the pier. The topography and location of upland structures provides access for the pier and public access for pedestrians and lake-related activities at varying water levels underneath the pier. The marine railway extends from the upland property into the lake. The railway lies on the lakebed but does not impede public access along the shoreline. The buoys are located directly lakeward of the upland property and occupy a relatively small area of the lake.

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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 and does not grant the lessee exclusive rights to the lease premises and reserves an easement to the public for Public Trust-consistent uses. Upon termination of the lease, the lessee may be required to remove all improvements from State land and restore the lease premises to its 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, staff believes the issuance of this lease will not substantially interfere with Public Trust needs at this location, at this time, and for the foreseeable term of the proposed lease; and is in the best interests of the State.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Approval or denial of the application is a discretionary action by the Commission. Each time the Commission approves or rejects a use of sovereign land, it exercises legislatively delegated authority and responsibility as trustee of the State's Public Trust lands as authorized by law. If the Commission denies the application, the Applicant may be required to remove the pier, marine railway, three boat lifts, and four mooring buoys and restore the premises to their original condition. Upon expiration or prior termination of the lease, the lessee also has no right to a new lease or to renewal of any previous lease.
2. 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 land along the State's inland and coastal waterways.
3. On October 24, 2018, the TRPA Governing Board certified a Final Environmental Impact Statement and adopted Lake Tahoe Shorezone Ordinance Amendments.
4. 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,

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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.

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).

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 location, at this time, and for the foreseeable term of the lease; is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine; and is in the best interests of the State.

AUTHORIZATION:

Authorize issuance of a General Lease – Recreational Use to the Applicant beginning June 1, 2019, for a term of 10 years, for the continued use and maintenance of an existing pier, marine railway, three boat lifts, and four 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 \$2,818, with an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment; and liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

EXHIBIT A

PRC 5113.1

LAND DESCRIPTION

Six parcels of submerged lands situate in the bed of Lake Tahoe, lying adjacent to Lot 1 of fractional Section 8, Township 14 North, Range 17 East, MDM., as shown on Official Government Township Plat approved July 29, 1880, County of Placer, State of California, more particularly described as follows:

PARCEL 1 – PIER

All those lands underlying an existing pier lying adjacent to that parcel described in that certain Gift Deed recorded December 31, 2012 as Document Number 2012-0127252, Official Records of said County.

TOGETHER WITH any applicable impact area(s).

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

Parcel 2 – MARINE RAIL

All those lands underlying existing marine rails lying adjacent to that parcel described in that certain Gift Deed recorded December 31, 2012 as Document Number 2012-0127252, Official Records of said County.

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

PARCELS 3, 4, 5, & 6 - BUOYS

Four circular parcels of land, each being 50 feet in diameter, underlying four existing buoys lying adjacent to that parcel described in that certain Gift Deed recorded December 31, 2012 as Document Number 2012-0127252, Official Records of said County, and also adjacent to that parcel described in that certain Gift Deed recorded December 31, 2012 as Document Number 2012-0127251, Official Records of said County.

Accompanying plat is hereby made part of this description.

END OF DESCRIPTION

Prepared 06/03/2019 by the California State Lands Commission Boundary Unit.



NO SCALE



APN 098-200-006

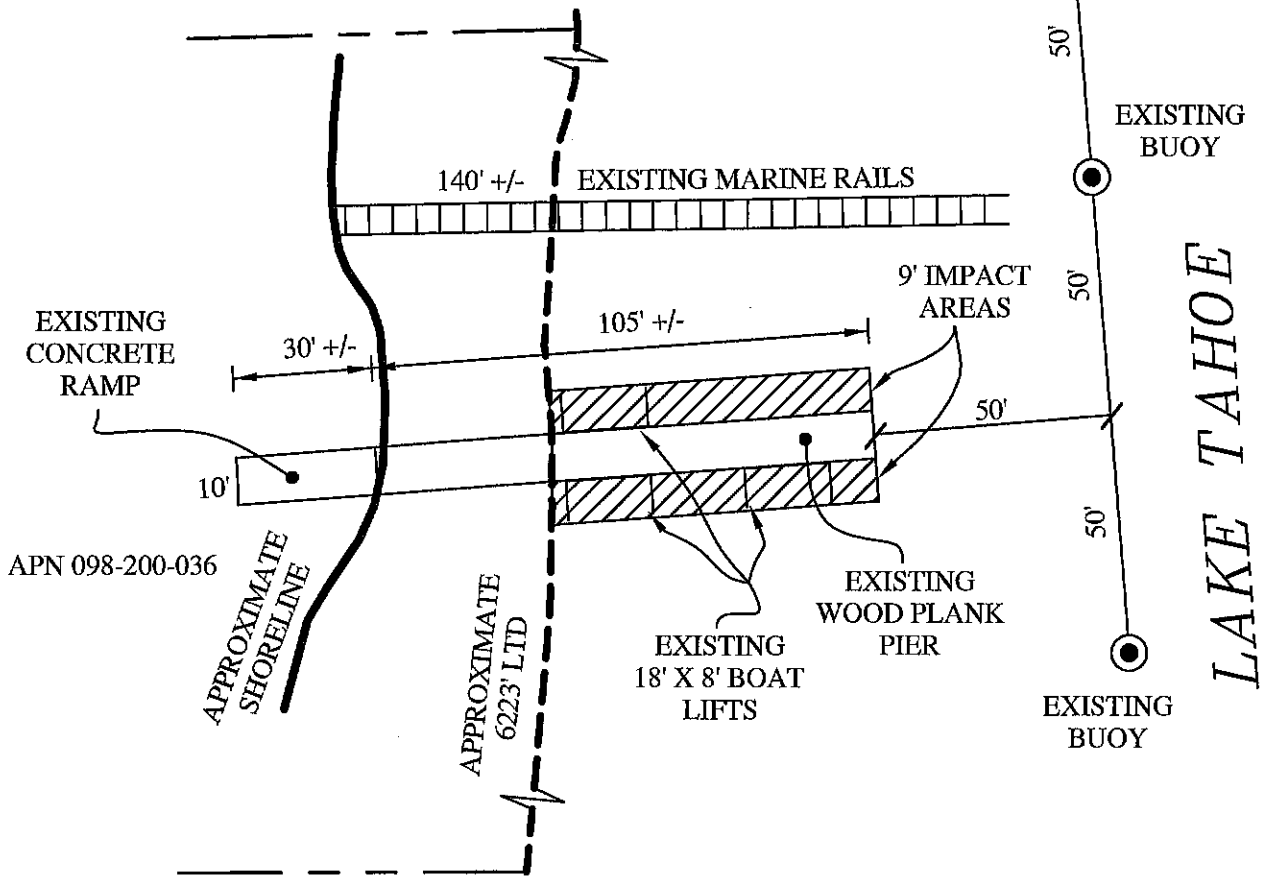


EXHIBIT A

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LAND DESCRIPTION PLAT
PRC 5113.1, HILLER
PLACER COUNTY

CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION



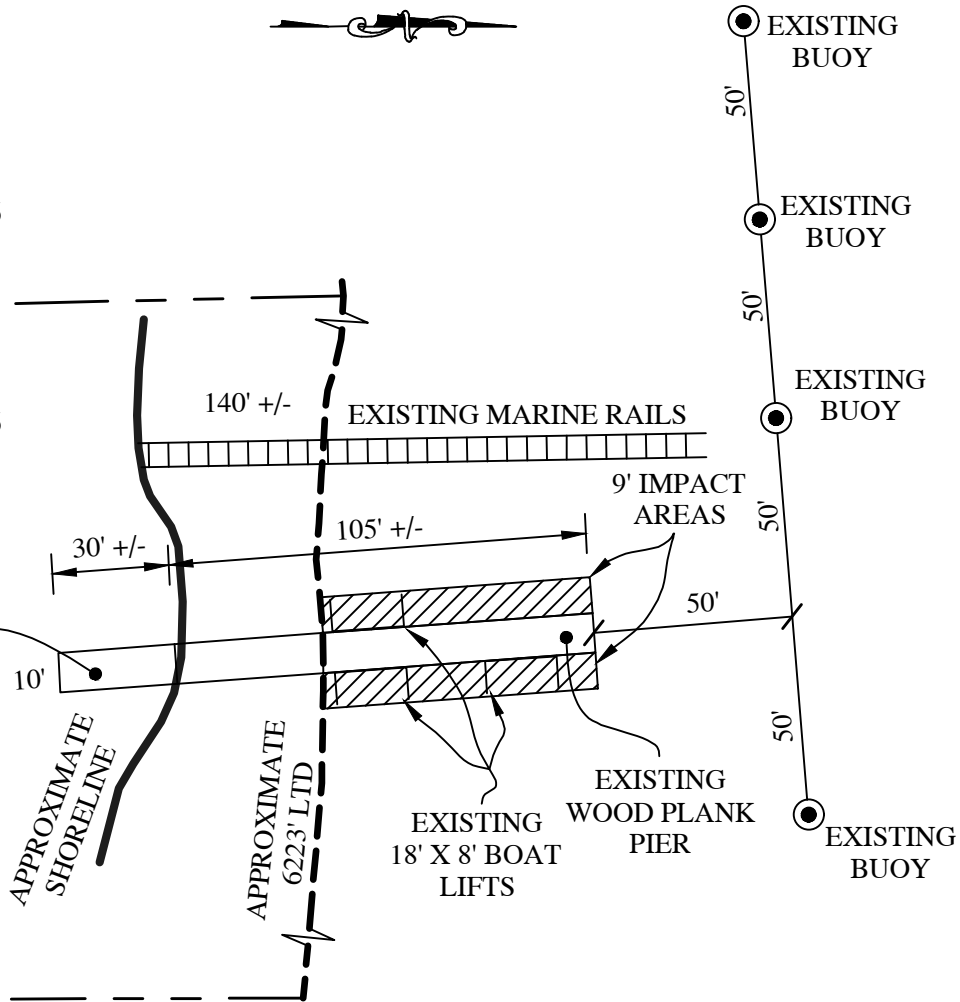
NO SCALE

SITE

APN 098-200-006

APN 098-200-036

EXISTING
CONCRETE
RAMP



LAKE TAHOE

6850 & 6860 WEST LAKE BLVD., TAHOMA

NO SCALE

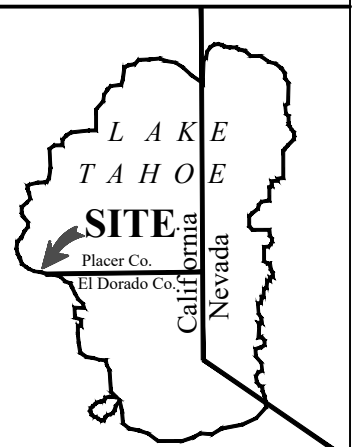
LOCATION



MAP SOURCE: USGS QUAD

Exhibit B

PRC 5113.1
 HILLER
 APNs 098-200-036 &
 098-200-006
 GENERAL LEASE -
 RECREATIONAL USE
 PLACER 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.