

Meeting Date: 02/23/21  
Permit Number: 9305  
A2852  
Staff: R. Lee

# Staff Report 38

## **APPLICANT:**

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Robert G. Wetzel

## **PROPOSED ACTION:**

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Extension of a mineral prospecting permit for precious metals and minerals other than oil, gas, geothermal, sand, and gravel

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

Approximately 633 acres of State fee-owned school land (State Parcel Number 202-017; Assessor's Parcel Number 0570-051-24), located within Section 16, Township 15 North, Range 10 East, SBM, approximately 3 miles northwest of Interstate 15 Halloran Springs Exit, San Bernardino County (State parcel) (see Exhibits A and B, attached).

## **AUTHORIZED USE:**

To drill a total of six holes. Under the existing prospecting permit, one hole was already drilled directly on the State parcel and subsequently plugged to the surface. Five additional holes will be drilled into the State parcel from the adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land.

## **TERM:**

The primary term of the permit is 2 years and began March 1, 2019 and ends on February 28, 2021. The term of this Permit extension will be 1 year, from March 1, 2021, through February 28, 2022. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6891, the term of this permit cannot exceed a total of 3 years.

## **STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:**

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On October 19, 2012 ([Item C86, October 19, 2012](#)), the Commission approved issuance of a 1-year mineral prospecting permit (Permit 9026) to Robert G. Wetzel (Applicant) to prospect (geological mapping and hand sampling only) for precious metals on the State parcel. Prior to the expiration of the permit, the Applicant applied for a 1-year permit extension and amendment to authorize the drilling of six exploratory holes ([Item C83, June 21, 2013](#)).

On February 20, 2015 ([Item C89, February 20, 2015](#)), the Commission approved an additional 1-year extension to Permit 9026, extending the permit term to October 31, 2015.

On December 18, 2015 ([Item C112, December 18, 2015](#)), the Commission approved issuance of a new 2-year permit (Permit 9305) to the Applicant to continue prospecting for precious metals on the State parcel.

On November 29, 2017 ([Item C70, November 29, 2017](#)), the Commission approved the last 1-year extension to Permit 9305. That extension expired on December 31, 2018 (3-year allowable term).

On February 4, 2019 ([Item C75, February 4, 2019](#)), the Commission approved issuance of a new 2-year permit (Permit 9305) to the Applicant to continue prospecting for precious metals on the State parcel.

Under the previous permits issued on the State parcel, the Applicant collected and assayed rock chip samples and drilled one of the authorized six exploratory holes. These samples revealed precious metal values and their potential to exist on the State parcel. The applicant plans to conduct additional exploration to prove that commercially valuable deposits exist on this State parcel.

## **BACKGROUND/PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Applicant has drilled one hole directly on the State parcel and plans to drill up to five additional exploratory holes into the State parcel from the adjoining BLM land during the term of the proposed permit extension. In November 2018, the Applicant drilled one hole on the State parcel to 1,100 feet. On December 5, 2018, staff met with the Applicant to examine and view the core samples and check the drill site. The drilled hole was later plugged and abandoned as required, and the samples were sent to the lab. Due to the positive exploration and drilling results, the Applicant plans to drill five additional holes from the adjacent BLM land to continue with his prospecting and drilling project.

The five proposed holes will be drilled from adjacent BLM land (BLM holes) into the State parcel. All access will be on foot except for driving a pickup truck on State-designated roads.

The BLM holes will be directionally drilled, with a specialized drill bit, at about a 45-degree angle up to 1,425 feet in length and will provide a 2.5-inch-diameter core sample. The corresponding true vertical depth of the bottom hole locations of these five holes will be about 700 feet below the surface. The collected core samples will be cut in half with one half taken to Australian Laboratory Services in Reno, Nevada, for assay. The remaining half core will be saved for assay quality control. All drilled holes will be plugged and abandoned according to applicable regulatory standards that include backfilling the drilled holes with a bentonite clay mixture and plugging the top 10 feet of the drill hole with cement.

**AUTHORITY:**

Public Resources Code sections 6005, 6216, 6217.5, 6301, 6890, 6891, 6895, and 8701; California Code of Regulations, title 2, sections 2200 through 2203.

**STATE'S BEST INTERESTS:**

The proposed permit extension will allow the Applicant to prospect the State parcel in a safe and efficient manner. Permit activities are consistent with the previously analyzed and approved Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impacts (EA/FONSI) by BLM to ensure prospecting activities are conducted in a manner that protects the environment and public health and safety.

The Commission approved permit contains conditions to ensure that the prospecting activities will not affect any wildlife or vegetation (see Exhibit C, attached). The proposed permit extension would be subject to these same conditions.

The Applicant is required to submit quarterly royalty statements including the completed prospecting activities during the quarter. There are currently no other applications to prospect this State parcel and previous surface sampling exploration has yielded favorable results.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6895, upon discovery of commercially valuable mineral deposits, the successful exploration may result in a Commission-authorized preferential lease. Such a lease would be subject to additional CEQA analysis, and the Commission's discretionary approval would be required before further drilling or production could occur. If authorized, the preferential lease would allow for responsible extraction of valuable minerals deposits and generate royalty revenue for the California State Teachers' Retirement System.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE:**

As stated in *Safeguarding California Plan: 2018 Update* (California Natural Resources Agency 2018), climate change is projected to increase the frequency and severity of natural disasters related to flooding, drought, fires, and storms. The State parcel is open land with moderate to low vegetation fuels and are vulnerable to the above events, including dust storms and flash flooding from thunderstorms, and to a lesser extent, wildland fires. Although the State parcel and surrounding lands may be vulnerable to these weather events, these projected climate change impacts are not expected to affect the use of the permit area for mineral exploration.

### **TRIBAL COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION:**

Consistent with the Commission's [Tribal Consultation](#) and [Environmental Justice](#) Policies which recognize the unique burdens and equity challenges faced by Tribal communities, staff sent outreach letters in December of 2020 to the 12 culturally- and geographically- affiliated Native American Tribes within the region, inviting them to engage or consult on the proposed project. Staff did not receive any requests for consultation or comments on the proposed project from the notified Tribes. No comments or statements have been received by the Tribal communities that were notified.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:**

Consistent with the Commission's Environmental Justice Policy, staff evaluated the location of the proposed permit area to determine whether environmental burdens, should there be any, would disproportionately impact nearby communities. Staff also engaged with the environmental justice communities for comments and ideas about the proposed permit extension and any related impacts that can be lessened or avoided on those communities. Using the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 program, managed by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, staff identified the census tract covering the proposed permit area along with adjacent tracts bearing environmental burdens, in certain categories, higher than most other census tracts in the State.

Based on the identified environmental burdens, staff conducted outreach to environmental justice communities and sought input on the proposed mineral prospecting permit extension. In December of 2020, staff contacted, via letter, the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association, and the San Bernardino County Special Districts, to notify them about the application and to solicit comments. No

comments or statements have been received from the environmental justice organizations that were notified.

**CONCLUSION:**

For all the reasons above, staff believes approval of the permit extension is in the State's best interests and recommends its approval.

**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

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1. Approval or denial of the application is a discretionary action by the Commission. Each time the Commission approves or rejects a use of State school lands, it exercises legislatively delegated authority and responsibility as trustee of the State's school lands as authorized by law. Upon expiration or termination of the permit, a new permit or extension of any previous permit shall be at the sole discretion of the Commission.
2. The State parcel is currently not known to contain commercially valuable mineral deposits.
3. The Commission has a performance bond, or other approved security, in the amount of \$10,000.
4. This action is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, Strategy 1.1, to deliver the highest levels of public health and safety in the protection, preservation and responsible economic use of the land and resources under the Commission's jurisdiction; Strategy 2.1, to optimize returns for the responsible development and use of State land and resources, both onshore and offshore; and Strategy 3.2, to commit to early and meaningful coordination and collaboration with local, state and federal agencies, California Native American Tribes, and local and regional communities and all individuals disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution.
5. The BLM prepared and circulated EAs for this project, and on August 13, 2010, and May 23, 2013, adopted the EAs and FONSI. Staff circulated the EAs for public review as broadly as State and local law require and notice was given meeting the standards in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15072, subdivision (a). In June 2013 ([Item C83, June 21, 2013](#)), the Commission adopted the EA/FONSI in place of a Mitigated Negative Declaration to amend and extend the original permit to authorize the drilling of six holes and the collection of data pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15221 and 15225.

6. This activity involves lands which have NOT been identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6370 et seq.; however, the Commission has declared that all lands are significant by nature of their public ownership (as opposed to environmentally significant). Since such declaration of significance is not based upon the requirements and criteria of Public Resources Code section 6370 et seq., use classifications for such lands have not been designated. Therefore, the finding of the project's consistency with the use classification as required by California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 2954 is not applicable.

## **APPROVAL OBTAINED:**

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Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6890, the permit was approved by the Office of the Attorney General as compliant with the applicable provisions of the law.

## **EXHIBITS:**

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- A. Land Description
- B. Site Map
- C. Mineral Prospecting Permit

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

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It is recommended that the Commission:

### **CEQA FINDING:**

Find that the EA/FONSI, previously adopted for this project by the BLM on August 13, 2010, and May 23, 2013, met the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Therefore, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15221 and 15225, the Commission adopted these federal documents for use in place of a Mitigated Negative Declaration in 2013 ([Item C83, June 21, 2013](#)) and 2015 ([Item C112, December 18, 2015](#)); and that the Commission has reviewed and considered the information contained therein; that in the Commission's independent judgment, the scope of activities to be carried out under the proposed permit have been adequately analyzed; that none of the events specified in Public Resources Code section 21166 or the CEQA Guidelines section 15162 resulting in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts has occurred; and therefore, no additional CEQA analysis is required.

**STATE'S BEST INTERESTS:**

Find that the proposed extension of the mineral prospecting permit is in the best interests of the State.

**AUTHORIZATION:**

Authorize the extension of Mineral Prospecting Permit 9305 to Robert Wetzel for 1 additional year beginning March 1, 2021, through February 28, 2022, for precious metals and minerals other than oil, gas, geothermal, sand, and gravel, located on the parcel described in Exhibit A and shown on Exhibit B (for reference purposes only), attached and by this reference made a part hereof, in accordance with the specific terms of the mineral prospecting permit as set forth in the attached Exhibit C. Upon discovery of commercial valuable mineral deposits, the Applicant may apply for a preferential lease.

## **EXHIBIT A**

### **LAND DESCRIPTION**

All those portions of Section 16, T15N, R10E, SBM as shown on General Land Office township plat approved 1/21/1857.

#### **EXCEPTING THEREFROM**

All those portions of SA 5708 as per document #94097317 recorded in the Official Records of San Bernardino County February 28, 1994.

All those portions of SA 5742 issued October 29, 1996 and on file with the California State Lands Commission.

### **END OF DESCRIPTION**

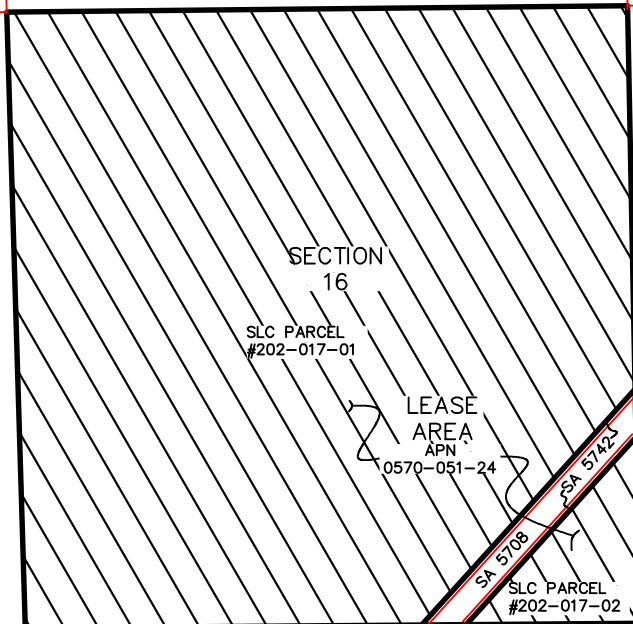
PREPARED 10/03/17 BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION  
BOUNDARY UNIT





NO SCALE

## SITE

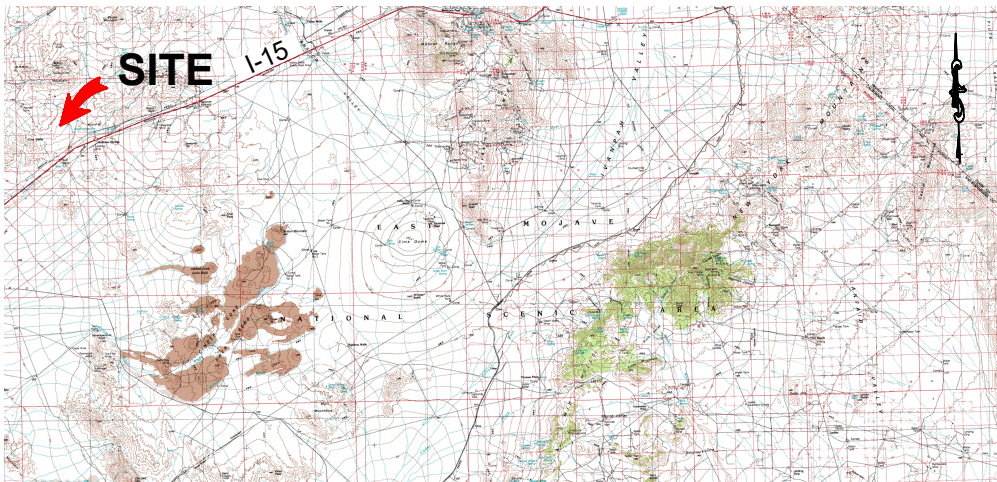


Section 16, T15N, R10E, SBM

I-15

NO SCALE

## LOCATION



MAP SOURCE: USGS QUAD

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.

## **EXHIBIT B**

A2852, PERMIT 9305  
WETZEL  
APN 0570-051-24  
SOLID MINERAL  
PROSPECTING PERMIT  
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY



MJF 11/18/2020

## Exhibit C

Permit 9305  
A2852

### CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

#### MINERAL PROSPECTING PERMIT

Permit to Prospect for Precious Metals and Minerals other than Oil, Gas,  
Geothermal Resources, Sand, and Gravel

This mineral prospecting permit (Permit) is made and entered into pursuant to Division 6 of the California Public Resources Code, by and between the State of California, acting through the California State Lands Commission (Commission), and Robert G. Wetzel (Permittee), whose mailing address is: 2850 Mesa Alta Ln., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420.

The Commission grants a mineral prospecting permit to Permittee for that certain parcel of State land, and designated as the "Permitted Land," situated in the County of San Bernardino, State of California, and more particularly described as follows:

Section 16, T15N, R10E, SBM, San Bernardino County, containing 633 acres more or less (APN 0570-051-24), particularly described in Exhibit A, subject to any valid easements and rights-of-way.

1. The term of this Permit shall commence on March 1, 2019, (the effective date) and shall continue for 2 years. The Commission may extend the term of this Permit for no more than 1 additional year, so that the term of this Permit, including all additional periods, shall not exceed a total of 3 years.

2.e Permittee shall have the exclusive right, subject to the provisions of paragraph 24(a), to prospect for precious metals, and minerals except oil, gas, other hydrocarbons, geothermal resources, sand, and gravel. Permittee's mineral prospecting activities shall be confined to those information gathering techniques described in Exhibit B of this Permit.

3.e An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact were prepared and circulated by the Bureau of Land Management and adopted on May 23, 2013, for the project authorized by this Permit. The Commission adopted such federal documents for use in place of a Mitigated Negative Declaration on June 21, 2013, Calendar Item 83, and they are on file in the Commission's office. Permittee shall comply with all conditions and limitations on its operations as set forth in Exhibit B of this Permit. Any additional activities not expressly authorized in Exhibit B will require additional environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

4. Additional provisions which amend, supplement, or supplant the provisions of this Permit are included in Exhibits B and C of this Permit. If a provision in this Permit is inconsistent with a provision in Exhibit B or C, the provision in Exhibit B or C shall control.

5. (a)(1) Permittee shall pay to the Commission a royalty of 20 percent of the gross value of all minerals produced, extracted, shipped, used, or sold under this Permit, until this Permit terminates or is superseded by the issuance of a mineral lease as provided in paragraph 15. The gross value upon which the royalty rate is based shall not be less than the reasonable fair market value, as fixed by the Commission, of any mineral resources extracted from the Permitted Land.

(a)(2) Royalties shall be paid on a permit-quarter basis and shall be due and payable by the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the quarter in which the minerals are sold. A permit quarter is a period of 3 consecutive calendar months, with the first permit quarter being the first 3 months after the Permit's Effective Date, and every 3-month period thereafter being a permit quarter.

(b) Royalties that are not paid when due shall bear simple interest from the day following the due date until they are paid at the rate of 1½ percent per month. The Commission may assess the Permittee a penalty of not more than 5 percent of any such royalties that are not paid when due.

(c) All payments required to be made under this Permit shall be made to the Commission at the address as set forth in paragraph 6.

6. All notices to be given under this Permit shall be in writing and shall be mailed with the United States postal service as registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or delivered by a private overnight delivery company or in person to the parties at the addresses set forth below. All notices shall be effective upon receipt.

To the Commission:	California State Lands Commission 200 Oceangate, 12th Floor Long Beach, CA 90802-4331
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To the Permittee:	Robert G. Wetzel 2850 Mesa Alta Ln. Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
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The addresses to which notices shall be sent may be changed by written notice given by one party to the other in any manner provided above.

7. Permittee represents to the Commission by its execution of this Permit that it is qualified to hold the Permit under Division 6 of the California Public

Resources Code. If the Commission determines that Permittee is not so qualified, this Permit shall terminate automatically, and Permittee shall be liable to the Commission for all proceeds and/or minerals extracted, produced, or sold from the Permitted Land and for all other matters for which he is in default under this Permit.

8. Within 90 days of the Effective Date of this Permit, Permittee shall mark each corner of the Permitted Land with a substantial monument constructed of rock or wood. Within the same 90 days, Permittee shall post a notice in a conspicuous location on the Permitted Land stating that this mineral prospecting permit has been issued and describing the Permitted Land.

9. All operations under this Permit shall be conducted in accordance with approved and accepted mining and exploration methods and practices, and with due regard for the protection of life and property, preservation of the environment and the conservation of natural resources.

10. This Permit is issued subject to all existing valid rights in the Permitted Land at the Permit's Effective Date. If the Permitted Land has been sold by the Commission subject to a reserved mineral interest, Permittee shall abide by whatever conditions and limitations are prescribed by law, including California Public Resources Code section 6401, governing the extraction and production of minerals from and the occupancy and use of the surface of such land.

11. The Commission reserves whatever right it may have to grant to any person, upon such terms as it may determine, easements, rights of way, permits, leases or other interests in the Permitted Land, including easements for tunnels or wells bored through or in the Permitted Land. However, the Commission shall not grant interests which unreasonably interfere with or endanger Permittee's operation under this Permit.

12. (a) Permittee shall keep accurate records of its operations under this Permit and shall file with the Commission no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month following each permit quarter, a detailed accounting statement for permit operations including, but not limited to, information showing the amount or gross value derived, earned or attributable to all minerals produced, extracted, shipped, used, or sold, and the amount of royalty due.

(b) Royalties shall be paid when the accounting statement is submitted.

(c) At the Commission's request, Permittee shall provide more detailed statements and explanatory materials to aid the Commission in interpreting and evaluating Permittee's accounting statement.

(d) All accounting statements are subject to audit and revision by the Commission. Permittee shall allow the Commission to inspect at all reasonable times



all Permittee's books, records and accounts relating to operations under this Permit, including, but not limited to, the development, production, sale, use or shipment of minerals. Permittee waives whatever statutory, common law, or other rights he may have to object to such inspection.

13. Permittee shall supply to the Commission within 30 days of their completion, or the completion of any recorded portion of them, all physical and factual exploration results, logs, surveys, and any other data in any form resulting from operations under this Permit or from any surveys, tests or experiments conducted on the Permitted Land by Permittee, or by any person or entity acting with the consent of Permittee or with information or data provided by Permittee. Permittee shall supply to the Commission within 30 days of their completion, or the completion of any recorded portion of them, the results of all geological, geophysical, or chemical tests, experiments, reports and studies, interpretive or factual, irrespective of whether the results of such tests, experiments, reports and studies contain sensitive, proprietary, or confidential information or trade secrets. Permittee waives whatever rights or objections he might have to prevent disclosure of any such tests, experiments, reports or studies except that all such data and documents supplied by Permittee shall be deemed to have been "obtained in confidence" for purposes of California Government Code section 6254 subdivision (e), and may be disclosed to other persons only with the written consent of Permittee or upon a determination by the State or a court that their disclosure is in the public interest.

14. Permittee shall comply with all valid laws of the United States and of the State of California and with all valid ordinances of cities and counties applicable to Permittee's operations including, but not limited to, all applicable provisions of the California Public Resources Code and the California Code of Regulations. In his employment practices connected with its operations under this Permit, Permittee shall not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical disability, sexual orientation, AIDS or AIDS related condition, marital status, or age.

15. Upon establishing to the satisfaction of the Commission that commercially valuable deposits of minerals have been discovered on the Permitted Land, Permittee shall have preferential rights to a lease, provided that:

(a) The Commission complies with the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act when authorizing the scope and method of proposed mineral extraction upon the lease.

(b) Royalty payments to the Commission for minerals produced, extracted, shipped, used, or sold under the mineral lease are to be determined according to the guidelines set forth in Exhibit C of this Permit.

(c) The annual rental under the mineral lease shall be not less than \$1 per acre. The annual rental shall be due and payable on the anniversary of the Effective Date of the mineral lease, except the first year's rental which shall be due 30 days after the Effective Date of the mineral lease.

(d) The right to lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of whatever right, title, or interest the Commission has in the surface of the land included within the mineral lease, insofar as the surface is not required by Permittee for its operations under the mineral lease, is reserved to the Commission.

16. (a) Permittee shall pay, when due, all taxes and assessments lawfully assessed and levied under the laws of the State of California and of any political subdivision of the State of California, and of the United States of America, against any and all improvements, property, or assets of Permittee situated upon the Permitted Land, or other rights of Permittee arising out of the Permit. Such taxes include possessory interest taxes imposed by a city or county on the permitted interest. The payment of any such taxes by Permittee shall not reduce the amount of consideration due the Commission under this Permit.

(b) Permittee understands that the permitted interest, and if a mineral lease is ultimately issued, the leasehold interest, may be a possessory interest subject to property taxation, and that Permittee is solely responsible for paying all property taxes levied on such possessory interests as provided above.

17. At all times and with respect to all operations under this Permit, Permittee shall carry worker's compensation insurance fully covering all its employees.

18. Permittee may at any time make and file with the Commission a written relinquishment of all rights under this Permit, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 6804.1. The relinquishment shall be effective as of the date of its filing, subject to the continued duty of Permittee to comply with all permit obligations that have accrued prior to such filing.

19. The Permittee may make at any time a written quitclaim or relinquishment of all rights under this permit or of any portion thereof comprising a 10-acre parcel or multiple thereof in a compact form as provided in Public Resources Code section 6804.1. The quitclaim or relinquishment shall be effective when it is filed with the Commission, subject to the continued obligation of the Permittee and its surety to pay all accrued rentals and royalties, to abandon all mineral extraction sites into or through the Permitted Land to be quitclaimed or relinquished in a manner approved in writing by the State and to restore such lands in accordance with Paragraph 20 and all other terms

of this permit and to the Commission's then current regulations and standards. At the option of the Commission, the Permittee may be required to place all mineral extraction sites in condition for suspension instead of abandoning them. The Permittee shall then be released from all obligations thereafter accruing under the permit with respect to the lands quitclaimed or relinquished. However, the quitclaim or relinquishment shall not release the Permittee or its surety from any liability for breach of any obligation of this permit with respect to which the Permittee is in default at the time of the Commission's acceptance of the quitclaim.

20. At the expiration of this permit or upon its sooner quitclaim or other termination, the Permittee shall surrender the Permitted Lands free of contamination and with all improvements, structures and fixtures in good order and condition, or at the option of the Commission, Permittee shall, within 90 days, remove some or all of the improvements, structures, and fixtures placed upon the Permitted Lands and restore the lands, in whole or in part, to their natural conditions at no cost to the Commission. The Permittee shall not be denied the right to remove any mining, development and production equipment having a reuse or salvage value. This Paragraph shall survive the termination of the permit.

21. (a) Permittee shall indemnify, hold harmless and, at the option of the Commission, defend, except in matters involving title, the State of California, any of its agencies, boards, or commissions, or any of its officers, agents and employees, against any and all claims, demands, causes of action, or liability of any kind which may be asserted against or imposed upon the State of California, or any of its agencies, boards, or commissions, or any of its officers, agents or employees, by any third person or entity arising out of or connected with Permittee's operations under this Permit, or the use by Permittee or its agent, employees or contractors of the Permitted Land. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such indemnification shall include any claim, demand, cause of action or liability of any kind asserted against or imposed upon the State of California, or any of its agencies, boards, or commissions, or any of its officers, agents, or employees, arising out of or connected with any alleged or actual violation by Permittee, its agents, employees, or contractors, of the property, personal or contractual rights of any third person or entity. This provision shall not be construed to require Permittee to indemnify the Commission for any alleged negligence or other wrongful act of the Commission, or any of its officers, agents, or employees, except to the extent that such negligence or other wrongful act is alleged to consist of the issuance of this Permit, the adoption and enforcement of the provisions of the Permit or the failure of the Commission to enforce adequately any such provisions.

(b) At the option of the Commission, Permittee shall procure and maintain liability, property damage or other insurance for the benefit of the Commission in an amount satisfactory to the Commission.

(c) Permittee is advised that the Permitted Lands may contain underground workings in the form of shafts, adits, or other features from past mineral

exploration and development. By initialing below, Permittee acknowledges the existence of such mine workings and that such workings may pose numerous dangers to Permittee's health and safety while working in their vicinity or by entering them. Permittee assumes all risk of injury, property damage, or death by entering and working within such mine workings, and agrees to hold harmless the Commission to the extent described in paragraph (a) above.



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Permittee Initials

22. Disturbance of historic resources found within the Permitted Land is prohibited. Generally, anything found on the Permitted Land that is artificial or not naturally occurring and is estimated to be over 45 years old may be a historic resource. Historic resources that may be found within the Permitted Land may include, but are not limited to, mining camps, cabins, refuse dumps, structures, mines, treasure troves of previously mined ore, headframes, timbers, bottles, and cans. Native American artifacts including, but not limited to, projectile points (arrowheads), spear points, all other stone artifacts (including flakes), cairns, pottery, petroglyphs, pictographs, baskets, shell, and bead items, shall be left undisturbed. If resources are discovered that may be considered historic, Permittee shall take a photograph and provide GPS coordinates if possible, and report the discovery to Permittee's contact at the Commission for further guidance.

23. Before discovery of a commercially valuable deposit of minerals, the Commission may cancel this Permit upon the failure of Permittee, after 30 days' written notice and demand for performance, to exercise due diligence and care in the prosecution of the mineral prospecting work in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Permit. After discovery of a commercially valuable deposit of minerals, the Commission may cancel this Permit only upon the failure of Permittee, after 90 days' written notice and demand for performance, to comply with any of the provisions of this Permit.

24. (a) The Commission reserves the right to issue additional exploratory rights, permits and leases on and in the Permitted Land for the purpose of exploring for, prospecting for, or extracting oil, gas, other hydrocarbons, geothermal resources, sand, or gravel from this mineral prospecting permit, provided that the activities conducted under such additional exploratory rights, permits or leases do not unreasonably interfere with or endanger Permittee's operation under this Permit. The reserved exploratory rights shall include, but are not limited to, the right to conduct surveys, tests or experiments using any geological, geophysical, geochemical, or other method, including core drilling, for the purpose of determining the presence of such mineral resources on or in the Permitted Land. Permittee shall allow the Commission, the Commission's permittees or lessees, and any other persons authorized by the Commission, at such party's sole risk and expense, to enter upon the Permitted Land in order to conduct such exploratory, prospecting and extraction activities.



(b)(1) The Commission, or persons authorized by the Commission, shall have the right to go upon the Permitted Land at all reasonable times for the purposes of inspecting the Permitted Land and Permittee's operations, placing signs upon the property, responding to a fire, taking police action, and protecting the premises. Entry by the Commission, or by persons authorized by the Commission, shall not give Permittee any right to charge the Commission or subject the Commission to liability for any loss of occupation or quiet enjoyment.

(b)(2) Entry by the Commission for the purposes of responding to a fire, taking police action, or protecting the premises shall not give Permittee any right of action against the Commission for compensation arising from property or economic damage Permittee suffers as a result of these activities by the Commission.

25. The obligations imposed upon Permittee under this Permit shall be suspended when Permittee is prevented from complying with them by wars, riots, acute and unusual labor or material shortages, acts of God, laws, rules, and regulations of any federal, state, county or municipal agency, or by other unusual conditions that are beyond the control of Permittee and/or the Commission.

26. Permittee shall perform all work under this Permit with due regard for the preservation of the Permitted Land and the environmental impact of its operations in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

(a) Permittee shall conduct all its operations under this Permit in a manner that will eliminate, as far as practicable, dust, particulate matter, noise, vibration, and noxious odors. Permittee shall keep operating sites neat, clean and safe and shall control dust to prevent its widespread deposition. Permittee shall remove promptly all materials determined by the Commission to be detrimental to vegetation that are deposited on trees and other vegetation.

(b) Permittee shall conduct all operations disturbing the soil surface, including, but not limited to, road building, construction of facilities and movement of heavy equipment, in a manner that will not result in unreasonable damage to trees and plant cover, soil erosion or degradation of waters of the State, including fish and aquatic life habitats.

(c) Permittee may maintain existing roads and bridges upon the Permitted land to allow for safe access of personnel, vehicles and equipment.

(d) The above obligations are in addition to and not limits upon all statutes, rules, regulations, restrictions, mitigation measures and other measures to which Permittee is subject that are designed to restrict, limit, modify or minimize the environmental impact of the operations under this Permit.

27. If Permittee fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Permit or with any regulations or laws applicable the operations under this Permit, the Commission may cancel this Permit following 90 days' written notice to Permittee setting forth the grounds for the cancellation. If this Permit is cancelled, Permittee shall still comply with the conditions specified in paragraph 18 for surrendering the Permitted Land.

28. The Commission's waiver of any default or breach of any term, covenant or condition of this Permit shall not constitute a waiver of any other default or breach whether of the same or any other term, covenant, or condition of this Permit, regardless of the Commission's knowledge of such other defaults or breaches. The acceptance by the Commission of any monies due under this Permit shall not constitute a waiver of any preceding default or breach, other than the failure of Permittee to pay the particular monies accepted, nor shall acceptance of monies after termination of this Permit constitute a reinstatement, extension or renewal of this Permit.

29. The covenants and conditions in this Permit shall apply to and bind the heirs, successors, executors, administrators and assigns of the parties.

30. As provided in California Public Resources Code section 6804, Permittee may assign, sublease, or transfer this Permit or any interest in it only with prior written Commission authorization. The consent to the transfer of any interest in this Permit shall not be deemed a consent to any subsequent assignment, sublease, occupancy or use by another person. Any assignment, sublease, or transfer without the Commission's consent, whether voluntary or by operation of law, shall be void and transfer no rights to the purported transferee. This provision shall not prevent Permittee from subcontracting parts of the work to be performed under this Permit without Commission approval, so long as Permittee remains fully responsible to the Commission for compliance with all obligations under this Permit. Upon approval of any assignment, sublease or transfer, the assignee, sublessee, or transferee shall be bound by the terms of this Permit to the same extent as if such transferee were the original Permittee, any conditions in the assignment, sublease, or transfer to the contrary notwithstanding.

31. Within 30 days of the date the Commission approves the issuance of this Permit, Permittee shall furnish a bond, or other financial security device acceptable to the Commission, in the sum of \$10,000, which shall be in favor of the Commission for its exclusive use and benefit and shall guarantee the faithful performance by Permittee of the terms and conditions of this Permit. The bond shall be maintained until it is released by the Commission. This requirement shall be separate from any other bonding requirements to which Permittee is subject.

32. This Permit is issued upon the application of Permittee and is entered into without a formal title determination. This Permit shall not be construed as establishing the extent of the Commission's claim to or interest in the Permitted Land. The Commission does not warrant the title to the Permitted Land or any right Permittee may have to possession or to quiet enjoyment of it.

33. If any provision of this Permit is judicially determined to be invalid, it shall be considered deleted from this Permit and shall not invalidate the remaining provisions.

34. Time is of the essence in this Permit.

This agreement shall become binding only when it is approved by the Commission and is duly executed by the Commission and by Permittee.

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

Dated: 2/7/2019

Marina Voskanian  
MARINA VOSKANIAN, P.E., CHIEF  
MINERAL RESOURCES MANGEMENT  
DIVISON

PERMITTEE\*

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By: Robert G. Wilgert  
OWNER

Title

285D MESA ALTA LN  
Address

ARROYO GRANDE, CA 93420  
City and State

\* In executing this document, corporations shall provide a certified copy of the resolution or other document authorizing the execution of this document on behalf of the corporation.

Approved as to form:  
Xavier Becerra  
Attorney General, State of California

By: [Signature]  
Andrew Vogel  
Deputy Attorney General

Dated: 12/21/18

**EXHIBIT A**

**PRC 9305.2**

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

All those portions of Section 16, T15N, R10E, SBM as shown on General Land Office township plat approved 1/21/1857.

**EXCEPTING THEREFROM**

All those portions of SA 5708 as per document #94097317 recorded in the Official Records of San Bernardino County February 28, 1994.

All those portions of SA 5742 issued October 29, 1996 and on file with the California State Lands Commission.

**END OF DESCRIPTION**

PREPARED 10/03/17 BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION BOUNDARY UNIT



## **EXHIBIT B**

### **(Additions, Deletions, and Modifications)**

Mineral prospecting will be for precious metals and minerals on approximately 633 acres of 100 percent State fee lands. Mineral prospecting activities authorized under this Permit shall be limited to field work involving geological mapping, rock sampling and includes prospecting activities involving drilling into the Permitted Land from a location on the Permitted Land and from locations on adjacent lands. These activities are described in and shall be conducted by Permittee subject to the conditions provided in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Halloran Springs Exploration Drilling Project DOI-BLM-CA-D090-2013-0028-EA and the BLM Exploration Drilling Project DOI-BLM-CA-D090-2009-0025-EA, each consisted of the Environmental Assessment, Decision Record and Conditions of Approval. The BLM Halloran Springs Exploration Drilling Project and the BLM Exploration Drilling Project documents are incorporated by reference and made part of this Permit. No other surface disturbance is authorized. Vehicle access shall be limited to existing roads and jeep trails. Additional access shall be on foot.

To insure the prospecting will not have any effect on the threatened desert tortoise, which is expected to be present on the Permitted Land, Permittee shall adhere strictly to the following conditions:

1. Permittee shall not bring dogs or firearms onto the site.
2. Permittee will minimize the number of vehicles on location to be used only on established roads and observe a 15 mile per hour speed limit. The vehicles shall be in proper working order and free of any fluid leaks to ensure tortoise do not ingest harmful fluids.
3. Permittee shall not touch or handle any tortoises.
4. Permittee shall check under and around any parked vehicle prior to moving the vehicle. If a tortoise is under it, the vehicle shall not be moved until the tortoise leaves the vicinity of the vehicle.
5. Permittee shall not take samples from rock piles that could reasonably be sheltering a tortoise or burrow.
6. If any tortoise or burrow is spotted on the Permitted Land, Permittee shall not pursue activities within a 25-foot radius of the animal or burrow.
7. Permittee shall contain all trash, litter and debris and remove them from the site to avoid attracting predators such as ravens or coyotes. Additionally,

Permittee shall not leave on the site any rope, cord, twine or other material that may entangle tortoise.

Any leasing of the Permitted Land for mineral resource development under California Public Resources Code section 6895, or any change in mineral prospecting activities from those permitted above, including any proposed exploratory drilling program, will require preparation of appropriate environmental documentation in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq. Such leasing, or change in mineral prospecting activities, shall not be allowed unless and until all necessary environmental approvals of the proposed mineral resource development or change in mineral prospecting activities are obtained from the Commission and from responsible agencies under California Public Resources Code section 21002.1. It is understood that after considering such documentation, the Commission, or a responsible agency, may disapprove such leasing or other mineral prospecting activities, or require certain mitigation measures on grounds that one or more significant effects on the environment would occur if leasing or any change in permitted mineral prospecting activities were allowed.

Neither the existence of this Permit nor any reliance by Permittee upon this Permit shall in any way affect the discretion of the Commission or any other public agency in giving or denying such environmental approvals or in imposing any appropriate mitigation measures. The denial of such approvals or the imposition of such mitigation measures by the Commission or any other public agency shall not be a force majeure condition under paragraph 24 of this Permit or a basis for damages or any other claim against the Commission or any other public agency.

The provisions of this Exhibit B shall prevail over any and all other provisions of this Permit that are contrary to or inconsistent with them.



## **EXHIBIT C**

### **(Preferential Lease Royalty Formula)**

Royalty payable under any preferential State mineral extraction lease issued hereunder shall not be less than 10 percent of the gross value of all mineral production from the Leased Land, less any charges approved by the Commission made or incurred with respect to transporting or processing the State's royalty share of production. The determination of the royalty and charges shall be at the discretion of the Commission and as set forth in the State mineral extraction lease.