

Staff Report 11

APPLICANT:

Stephen Allen Hamill and Janice Wilcox Hamill, as Trustees of The Hamill Revocable Trust dated May 6, 2002

PROPOSED ACTION:

Issuance of a General Lease – Recreational Use

AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:

Sovereign land in Lake Tahoe, adjacent to 7137 West Lake Boulevard, near Tahoma, El Dorado County.

AUTHORIZED USE:

Use and maintenance of existing two mooring buoys.

TERM:

10 years, beginning December 8, 2021.

CONSIDERATION:

\$546 per year, with an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment and \$205 to compensate for the unauthorized occupation of state sovereign land for the period beginning September 1, 2021 through December 7, 2021.

SPECIFIC LEASE PROVISIONS:

- Liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- Lessee expressly acknowledges that a permit from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is required for the Authorized Improvements and failure to obtain a permit from TRPA and maintain compliance with that permit may result in TRPA imposing civil penalties and will constitute a breach of this lease
- Lessee shall not store any personal items or construct any improvements in the Public Trust easement which may impair the public uses of access, navigation, fishing and lake-related recreation.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:

AUTHORITY:

Public Resources Code sections 6005, 6216, 6301, 6501.1, 6503, 6503.5, and 6505.5; California Code of Regulations, title 2, sections 2000 and 2003.

PUBLIC TRUST AND STATE'S BEST INTERESTS:

On September 1, 2011, the Commission authorized a Recreational Pier Lease to Stephen A. Hamill and Janice W. Hamill, Co-Trustees of the Hamill Revocable Trust dated May 6, 2002 for two existing mooring buoys not previously authorized by the Commission ([Item C08, September 1, 2011](#)). That lease expired on August 31, 2021.

The Applicant is applying for a General Lease – Recreational Use for the use and maintenance of the two existing mooring buoys. The Applicant registered the buoys with TRPA on December 31, 2020 (Registration No.10432).

The Applicant agreed to pay compensation for the unauthorized occupation of state land from September 1, 2021 through December 7, 2021, the day before the December Commission meeting upon the issuance of a new lease. Staff further recommends the Commission accept compensation from the Applicant in the amount of \$205 for the unauthorized occupation of state land prior to the commencement of the proposed lease.

The subject buoys are privately owned and maintained and facilitate 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 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 termination of the lease, the lessee may be required to remove all improvements from State land 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, 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; is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine; 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 two 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 the "Meeting Evolving Public Trust Needs" Strategic Focus Area of the Commission's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.
3. 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.

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:

1. Authorize acceptance of compensation from the Applicant in the amount of \$205 for unauthorized occupation of State land for the period beginning September 1, 2021 to December 7, 2021.
2. Authorize issuance of a General Lease – Recreational Use to the Applicant beginning December 8, 2021, for a term of 10 years, for the use and maintenance of two existing 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 \$546, with an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment; and liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

EXHIBIT A

LEASE 8932

LAND DESCRIPTION

Two (2) parcels of submerged land, situate in the bed of Lake Tahoe, lying adjacent to fractional Section 17, Township 14 North, Range 17 East, MDM, as shown on the Official Township Plat, approved January 17th, 1866, County of El Dorado, State of California, and more particularly described as follows:

PARCELS 1 & 2 – BUOYS

Two (2) circular parcels of land, being 50 feet in diameter, underlying two existing buoys lying adjacent to that parcel as described in “Exhibit A” of that Grant Deed recorded August 25, 2008 as Document Number 2008-0041434-00 in Official Records of said County.

Accompanying plat is hereby made a part of this description.

END OF DESCRIPTION

Prepared May 20, 2021 by the California State Lands Commission Boundary Unit.



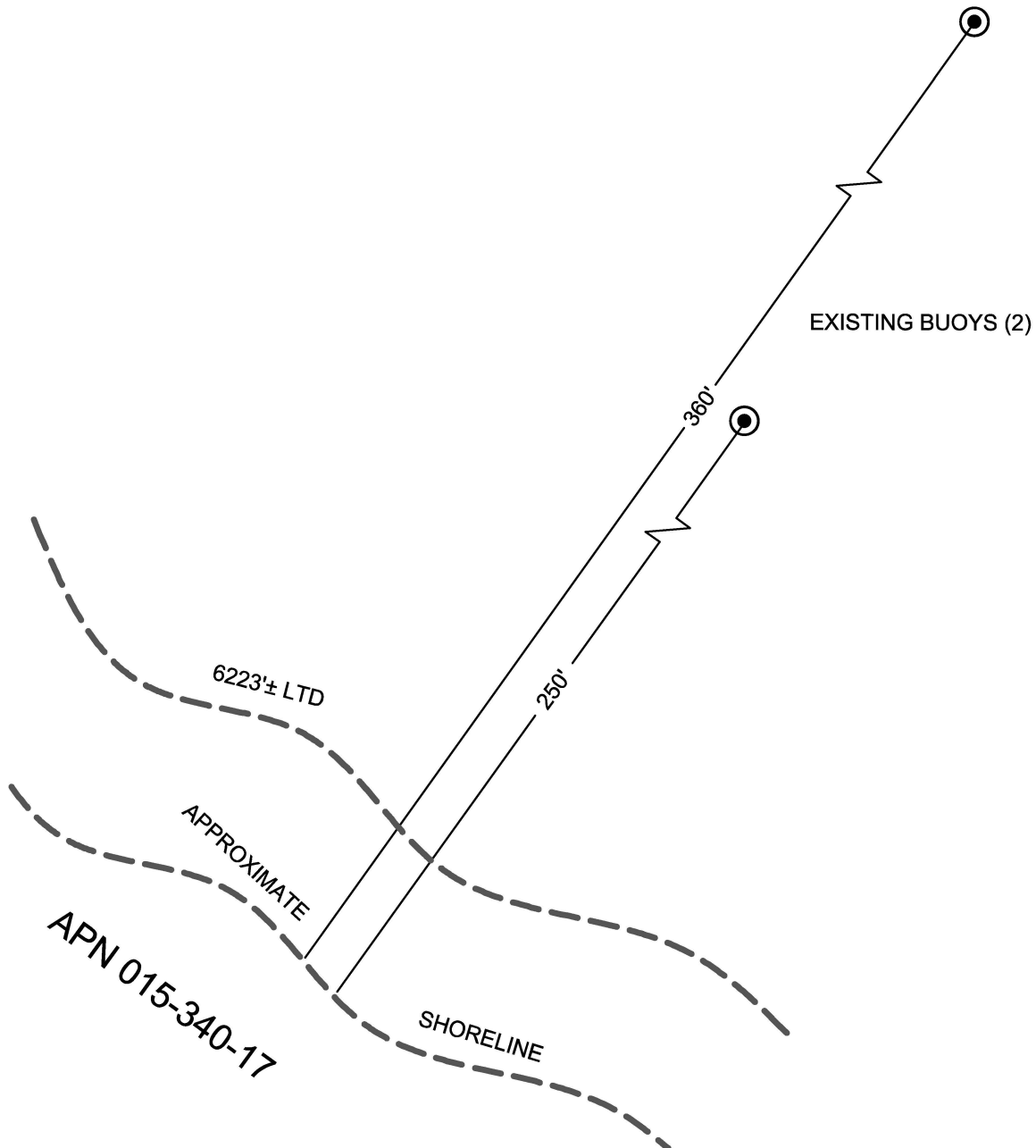


EXHIBIT A

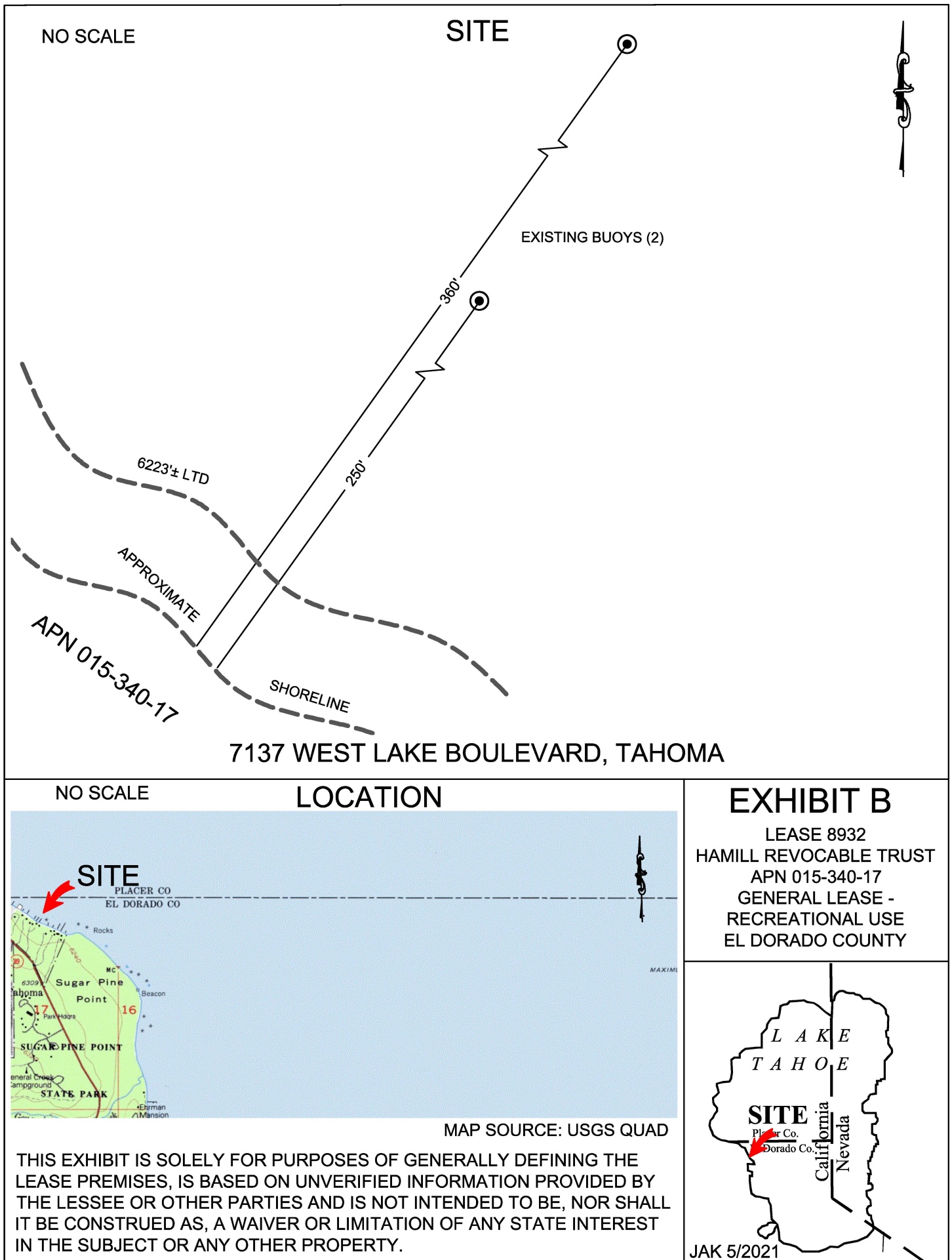
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LAND DESCRIPTION PLAT
LEASE 8932, HAMILL REVOCABLE TRUST
EL DORADO COUNTY

CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION





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.