

Staff Report 38

APPLICANT:

Ronald R. Rott, Trustee of The Ronald R. Rott Family Trust Dated July 28, 2009

PROPOSED ACTION:

Issuance of a General Lease – Recreational and Protective Structure Use

AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:

Sovereign land in the Sacramento River, adjacent to 4145 Garden Highway, in Sacramento, Sacramento County.

AUTHORIZED USE:

Use and maintenance for an existing boat dock, stairs, two deadmen and cables, gangway, and bank protection.

TERM:

10 years; beginning October 25, 2022.

CONSIDERATION:

\$140 per year, with an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment, and \$103 to compensate for the unauthorized occupation of state sovereign land for the period prior to October 24, 2022.

SPECIFIC LEASE PROVISIONS:

- Liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- Lessee agrees and acknowledges that the hazards associated with sea level rise may require additional maintenance or protection strategies regarding the improvements on the lease premises.

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 January 26, 2012, the Commission authorized issuance of a 10-year General Lease – Recreational and Protective Structure Use to Ronald R. Rott, Trustee of The Ronald R. Rott Family Trust Dated July 28, 2009, for an existing boat dock, stairs, two deadmen and cables, gangway, and bank protection ([Item 03, January 26, 2012](#)). The lease expired on January 25, 2022. The Applicant is applying for a General Lease – Recreational and Protective Structure Use, for use and maintenance of the authorized improvements in the Sacramento River. Based on information provided in the application and the Commission's records, the subject facilities have existed at this location for many years.

Staff recommends issuance of a new lease to the Applicant, effective October 25, 2022, the day of proposed authorization. Further, staff is requesting compensation from the Applicant in the amount of \$103, for the period of unauthorized occupation between January 26, 2022 and October 24, 2022. The new lease will require the Applicant to indemnify the State for the entire period of occupation, ensuring the State is protected.

The subject improvements 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 bank protection will protect the upland property and maintain and improve the integrity of the river, which will help protect the Public Trust resources for recreational and navigational use by the public. The facilities are located directly adjacent to the upland property and occupy a relatively small area of the river.

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 proposed 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.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

Climate change impacts, including sea level rise, more frequent and intense storm events, and increased flooding and erosion, affect both open coastal areas and inland waterways in California. The lease area is in the Sacramento River at this location is a tidally influenced site vulnerable to flooding at current sea levels; therefore, this area would be at a higher risk of flood exposure given future projection scenarios of sea level rise.

The California Ocean Protection Council updated the State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance in 2018 to provide a synthesis of the best available science on sea level rise projections and rates. Commission staff evaluated the "high emissions," "medium-high risk aversion" scenario to apply a conservative approach based on both current emission trajectories and the lease location and structures. The San Francisco tide gauge was used for the projected sea level rise scenario for the region as listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Projected Sea Level Rise for San Francisco

Year	Projection (feet)
2030	0.8
2040	1.3
2050	1.9
2100	6.9

Source: Table 13, State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance: 2018 Update

Note: Projections are with respect to a 1991 to 2009 baseline.

This effect could increase Sacramento River's inundation levels within the lease area. In addition, 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, fire, drought, extreme heat, and storms (especially when coupled with sea level rise).

In rivers and tidally influenced waterways, more frequent and powerful storms can result in increased flooding conditions and damage from storm-created debris as well as decreased bank stability and structure. Conversely, climate change-induced droughts could decrease river levels and flow for extended periods of time. Climate change and sea level rise will further influence riverine areas by

changing erosion and sedimentation rates. Flooding and storm flow, as well as runoff, will likely increase scour and decrease bank stability at a faster rate.

The existing floating boat dock and gangway are adaptable to variable water levels allowing them to rise and fall with increased or decreased water levels. Flooding and storm flow, as well as runoff, will likely increase scour and cause damage to the bank protection at a faster rate. The fixed features like the stairs, two deadmen and cables, and bank protection may need reinforcement and possibly replaced to withstand higher levels of flood exposure and more frequent storm events.

The vegetation above the bank protection provides additional stability and reduces the amount of erosion and scour pressure experienced during future events because of the vegetation's underground root system; but remains at risk of accelerated deterioration from currents and floods.

Regular maintenance, as referenced in the lease, may reduce the likelihood of severe structural degradation or dislodgement. Pursuant to the proposed lease, the Applicant acknowledges that the lease premises and adjacent upland are in an area that may be subject to the effects of climate change, including sea level rise.

CONCLUSION:

For all the reasons above, staff believes the issuance of this lease will not substantially impair the public rights to navigation and fishing or substantially interfere with Public Trust needs and values at this location, at this time, and for the foreseeable term of the proposed lease; is consistent with the common law 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. The lessee has no right to a new lease or to renewal of any previous lease.
2. This action is consistent with the "Leading Climate Activism" and "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, fishing, and commerce; 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. Accept compensation from the Applicant in the amount of \$103, for the unauthorized occupation of State land for the period prior to October 24, 2022.
2. Authorize issuance of a General Lease – Recreational and Protective Structure Use to the Applicant beginning October 25, 2022, for a term of 10 years, for the use and maintenance of an existing boat dock, stairs, two deadmen and cables, gangway, and bank protection, 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 \$140, with an annual Consumer Price

Index adjustment; and liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

EXHIBIT A

LEASE 6088

LAND DESCRIPTION

A parcel of tide and submerged land situate in the bed of the Sacramento River, lying adjacent to Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey 193 patented July 11, 1865, County of Sacramento, State of California and more particularly described as follows:

All those lands underlying an existing uncovered floating boat dock, ramp and stairs lying adjacent to the left bank of said river and being adjacent to and southwesterly of "PARCEL ONE" and "PARCEL TWO", as described in "Exhibit A" of that Quitclaim Deed, recorded January 28, 2011 in Book 20110128, Page 0833 in Official Records of said County.

TOGETHER WITH all those lands underlying existing bank protection lying adjacent to said deed.

ALSO TOGETHER WITH any applicable impact area(s).

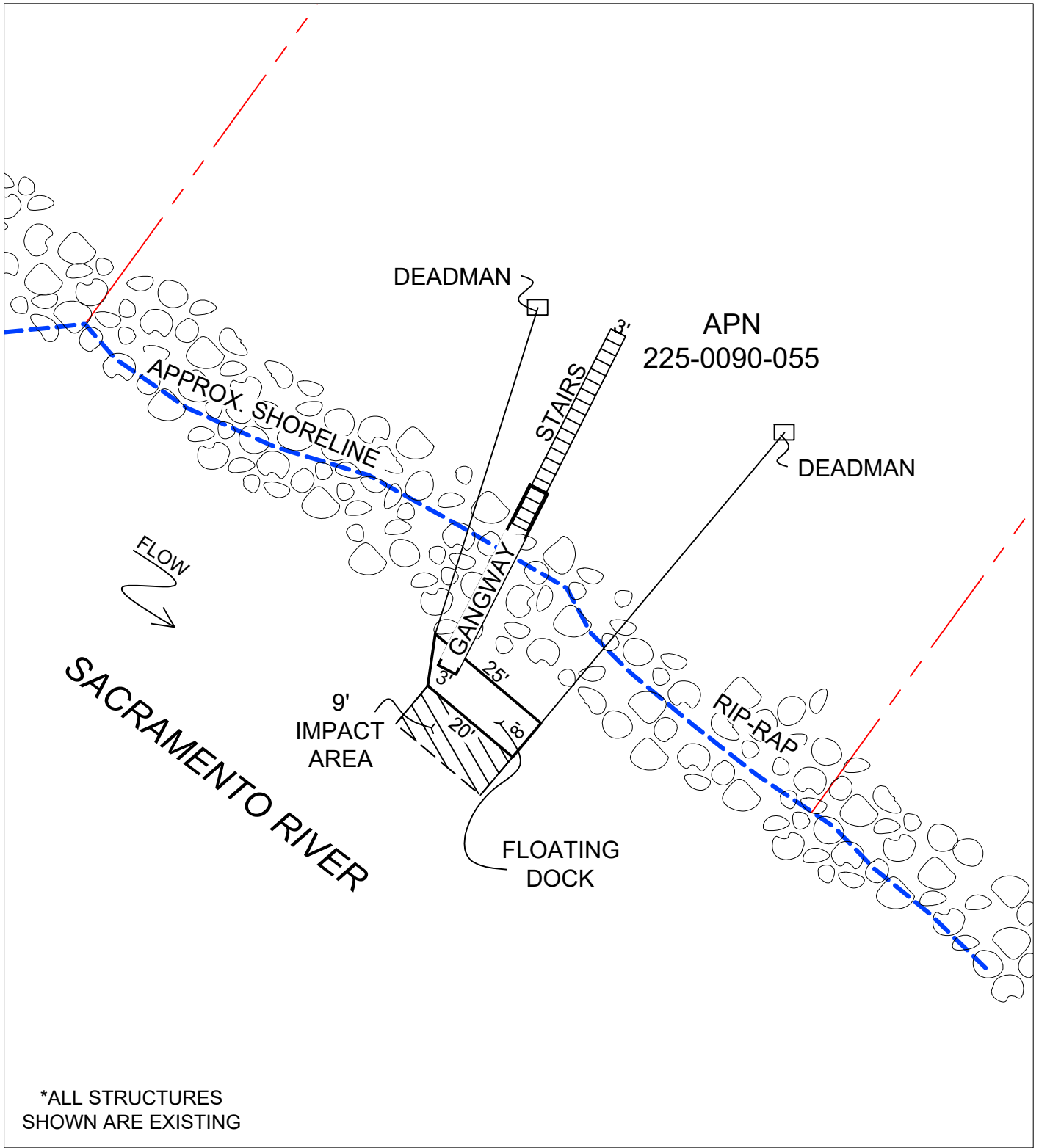
EXCEPTING THEREFROM any portion lying landward of the ordinary high water mark of the left bank of said river.

Accompanying plat is hereby made part of this description.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED 7/18/2022 BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION BOUNDARY UNIT





*ALL STRUCTURES SHOWN ARE EXISTING

EXHIBIT A

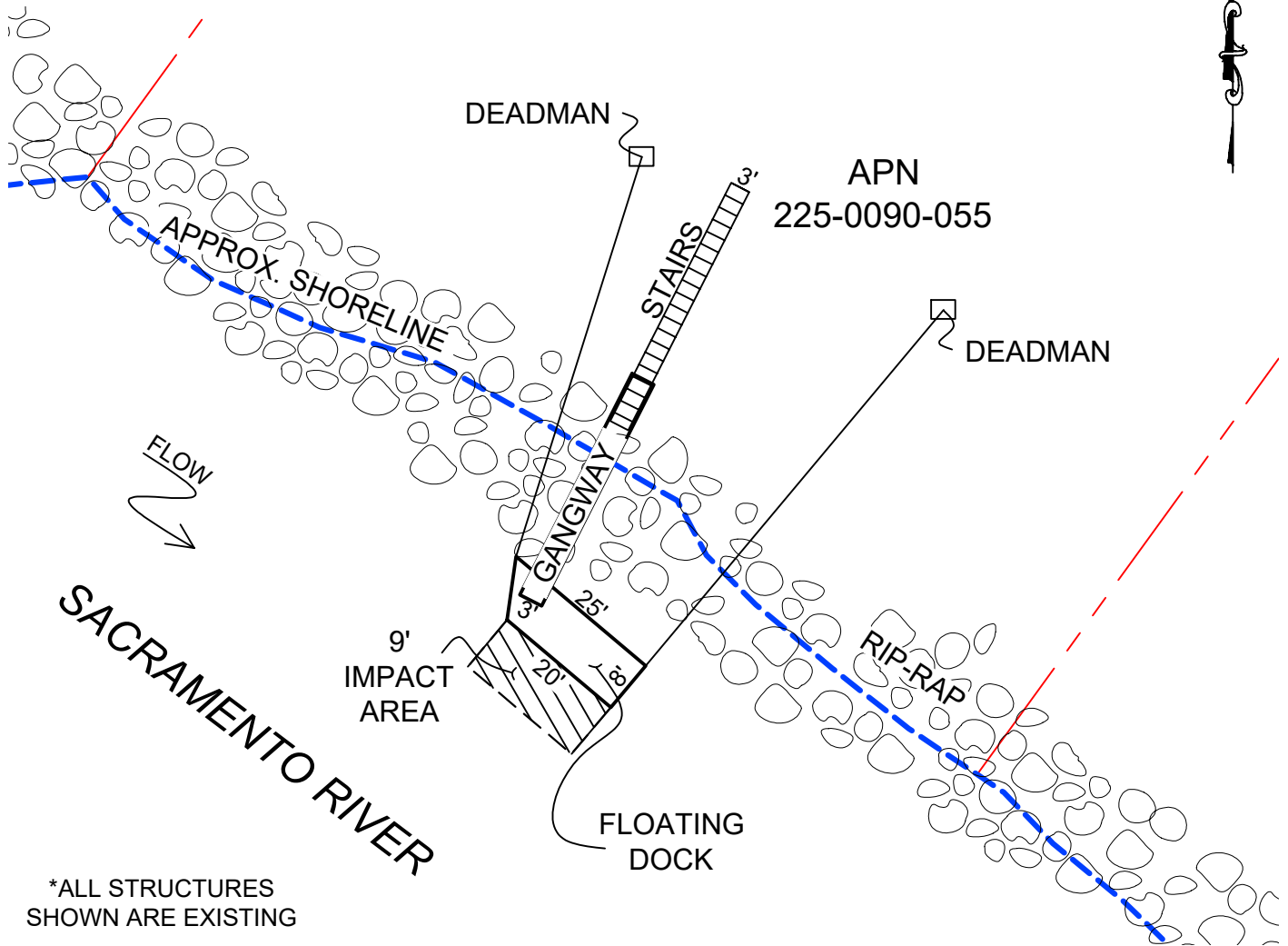
LAND DESCRIPTION PLAT
LEASE 6088, ROTT
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION



NO SCALE

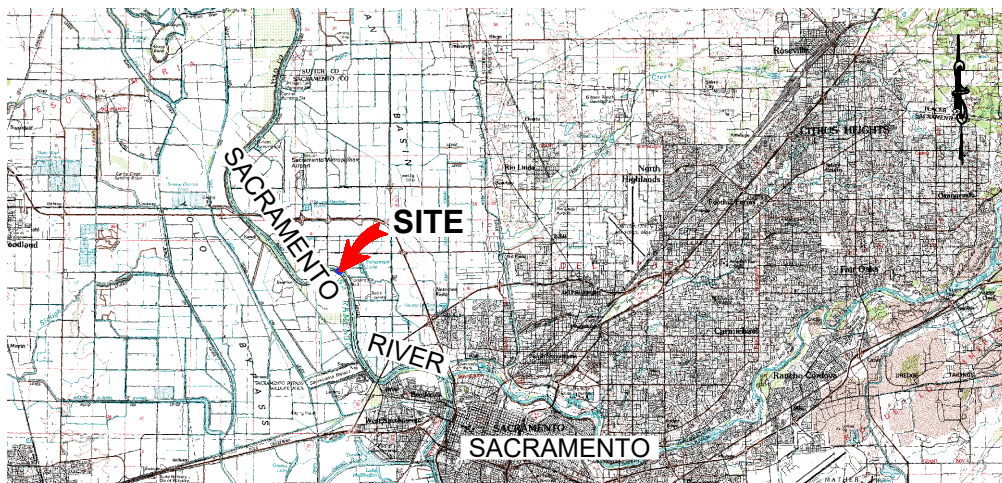
SITE



4145 Garden Highway, Sacramento

NO SCALE

LOCATION



MAP SOURCE: USGS QUAD

Exhibit B

LEASE 6088
 ROTT
 APN 225-0090-055
 GENERAL LEASE -
 RECREATIONAL & PROTECTIVE
 STRUCTURE USE
 SACRAMENTO 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.

MJF 7/18/2022