

**CALENDAR ITEM  
C01**

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S 2

09/01/11  
W 26460  
M. Andersen

**DREDGING LEASE**

**APPLICANT:**

County of Lake  
Department of Water Resources  
255 North Forbes Street, RM 309  
Lakeport, CA 95453

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

Legislatively granted sovereign land, with minerals reserved to the State, in Clear Lake, near the city of Clearlake, Lake County.

**AUTHORIZED USE:**

Suction dredge hydrilla tubers from the top 12 inches of sediment from the bed of Clear Lake wherever actively growing hydrilla plants are discovered.

**LEASE TERM:**

Five years, beginning September 1, 2011.

**CONSIDERATION:**

No monetary consideration will be charged as the project will result in a public benefit. Dredged material may not be sold.

**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

1. The Applicant is the Trustee of legislatively granted sovereign land, pursuant to Chapter 639, Statutes of 1973 and as amended, with minerals reserved to the State.
2. The County of Lake (County) has submitted an application to suction dredge hydrilla tubers from the top 12 inches of sediment of the bed of Clear Lake, wherever actively growing hydrilla plants are discovered, with the exception of the Clearlake Oaks arm. The County is looking to dredge affected areas as a means of permanently eliminating the hydrilla problem in Clear Lake, as the use of herbicides only controls the spreading of the aquatic plant.

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3. The hydrilla plant is an invasive species that grows on the surface of waterways forming dense mats that can potentially take over aquatic ecosystems, impede navigation and water-related recreation, and increase the risk of drowning. The plant reproduces not by seedling, but by small pieces of its stem that break apart and grow into new plants. Stems sprouting within the lake bed sediment are referred to as tubers and can survive up to seven years in sediment with little to no water present.
4. The County proposes to begin dredging activities as early as fall 2011. Removal will be performed via hydraulic suction dredge. Turbidity caused by the dredging activities will be contained within a turbidity skirt. All sediment will then be de-watered and delivered to a preapproved upland site. Dredging episodes will occur as needed over the course of the lease term to allow removal of newly discovered hydrilla plants.
5. A Mitigated Negative Declaration [*SCH #2011032004*] was prepared by the county of Lake and adopted on May 19, 2011, for this project. The California State Lands Commission's staff has reviewed such document. A Mitigation Monitoring Program was adopted by the county of Lake, as contained in Exhibit C, attached herto.
6. 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 the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the CEQA review process, it is the staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

**APPROVALS REQUIRED:**

United States Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Game, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

**EXHIBITS:**

- A. Site and Location Map
- B. Legal Description
- C. Mitigation Monitoring Plan

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the Commission:

**CEQA FINDING:**

Find that a Mitigated Negative Declaration [SCH#20110032004] was prepared by the county of Lake and adopted on May 19, 2011, for this Project and that the Commission has reviewed and considered the information contained therein. Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Program, as contained in Exhibit C, attached hereto.

**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 the Issuance of a Dredging Lease to the County of Lake beginning September 1, 2011, for a term of five years, to suction dredge hydrilla tubers from the bed of Clear Lake as shown on Exhibit A (for reference purposes only) and as described on Exhibit B attached and by this reference made a part hereof; such permitted activity is contingent upon Applicant's compliance with applicable permits, recommendations, or limitations issued by federal, State and local governments; no monetary consideration will be charged as the project will result in a public benefit; dredged material may not be sold.