

**CALENDAR ITEM
C40**

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S 38

09/01/11
W 26487
M. Andersen

GENERAL LEASE - PUBLIC AGENCY USE

APPLICANT:

San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, California 92123

AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:

Sovereign land in Pacific Ocean, adjacent to Camp Pendleton, near the city of Oceanside, San Diego County.

AUTHORIZED USE:

Installation, operation, and maintenance of two Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers and one Thermistor String to assist in an oceanographic research and monitoring program.

LEASE TERM:

Two years, beginning September 1, 2011.

CONSIDERATION:

The public use and benefit; with the State reserving the right at any time to set a monetary rent if the Commission finds such action to be in the State's best interest.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Applicant has the right to use the upland adjoining the lease premises.
2. The San Diego County Water Authority (Authority) has submitted an application for oceanographic studies, including monitoring and data collection, in the Pacific Ocean, adjacent to the (Camp Pendleton) U.S. Marine Corps Base. The Authority proposes to install current monitoring equipment that will be used to determine variations in marine life and water quality above and below the thermocline, wave pressure, currents data, and characteristics of the ocean floor as part of the Camp Pendleton Seawater Desalination Technical Studies Project.

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3. The proposed project consists of installing [two Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCP) and one Thermistor String (T-string) that will be driven into the ocean floor by divers using hand tools and placed at depths of 35 feet and 90 feet]. ADCP's are sonar devices that produce a record of water current velocities. The levels of acoustic energy to be emitted from the ADCP's will not exceed a range that will impact marine life. The shallow and deep ocean ADCP's will be used to confirm the seasonal presence and depth of thermocline below which water quality is improved and biological activity is assumed decreased. Each ADCP will occupy no more than two square feet of ocean floor and will be deployed for approximately 14 months. A T-string will also be deployed during that 14-month period and will be deployed in the same study area as the 90-foot depth ADCP. The T-string will be fitted with approximately 15 thermistors and will collect water column temperature data. The T-string will be marked by a U.S. Coast Guard approved spar buoy painted bright yellow for visibility to warn boaters of its presence.

4. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061), the staff has determined that this activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 6, Information Collection; Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905 (e)(5).

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084 and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15300 and Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905.

5. 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 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 Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2954 is not applicable.

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APPROVALS OBTAINED:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and California Department of Fish and Game.

APPROVAL REQUIRED:

California Coastal Commission

EXHIBITS:

- A. Site and Location Map
- B. Legal Description

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Commission:

CEQA FINDING:

Find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061 as a categorically exempt project, class 6, Information Collection; Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905 (e)(5).

AUTHORIZATION:

Authorize Issuance of a General Lease – Public Agency Use to the San Diego County Water Authority beginning September 1, 2011, for a term of two years, for the installation, operation, and maintenance of two Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers and one Thermistor String to assist in an oceanographic research and monitoring program as shown on Exhibit A and as described on Exhibit B attached and by this reference made a part hereof; consideration to be the public use and benefit, with the State reserving the right at any time to set a monetary rent if the Commission finds such action to be in the State's best interest.