

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 23
was approved as Minute Item
No. 23 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 2
to 0 at its 5-28-81
meeting.

MINUTE ITEM

5/28/81
Schaefer

23. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR EXPERIMENTAL TESTING FOR DUST STORM ABATEMENT DETERMINATIONS, OWENS DRY LAKE, INYO COUNTY

During consideration of Calendar Item 23 attached, Mr. William F. Northrop, Executive Officer, indicated that there were letters before the Commission in support of the staff's recommendation. Mr. D. J. Everitts, Chief, Division of Energy and Mineral Resources Development, explained why the Owens Lake Dry Bed Task Force was formed and the reasons why Westec's proposal was chosen.

Mr. Peter Angelillo, representing SRA/EIP, appeared in opposition. In summary, he contended that Westec's proposal and the contract violate the intent and spirit of SB 1591 and that it failed to completely implement the legislation. He stated Westec was a nonresponsive bidder because their initial bid was in excess of the \$250,000 allocated by SB 1591. He also alleged that the sealed bids were altered and changed. It was his feeling that SRA/EIP was the most responsive bidder. During his testimony he set forth specific examples why it was his feeling Westec's proposal should not have been chosen.

With respect to Mr. Angelillo's comments about the bidding procedure, Mr. Frederick Ludlow, Staff Counsel, clarified that this matter was not put out to bid, but that Requests for Proposals were solicited and explained the selection procedure for this proposal. He indicated that the staff had the complete support of the Task Force, the Counties, and Senator Stiern's and Assemblyman's Wyman's offices in the selection of Westec.

Acting Chairman Carl J. D'Agostino asked if any members of the Task Force were present.

Dr. Pierre St. Amand representing the Naval Weapons Center and a member of the Task Force, appeared in support of the item. He explained that a great deal of research had previously been done on the surface of the lake. He also explained that Westec's proposal had been given considerable thought by the Task Force. During his presentation he pointed out discrepancies in Mr. Angelillo's arguments, but stated they probably resulted from Mr. Angelillo's lack of experience in the desert. In conclusion he stated that Westec was the best proposal submitted.

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Mr. Charles Fryxell, Air Pollution Control Officer for the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District, appeared in support of the item. As a member of the Task Force's evaluation committee, he explained how Westec's proposal was chosen. He also addressed some of Mr. Angelillo's statements about the air quality around the lake and the toxicity problem.

Mr. Bruce Kuebler, Senior Hydrologic Engineer with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, appeared in support of the item. He stated he was also a member of the Task Force's evaluation committee and voiced his concurrence with the selection of Westec.

Mr. Larry Matthews, representing the United States Navy who works in the Research Department at China Lake, appeared in support of the item. Mr. Matthews addressed Mr. Angelillo's statements relating to the arsenic content in the air.

At the conclusion of these presentations, Commission-Alternate Susanne Morgan stated the reason for sending out a Request for Proposal was to get different ideas on how to handle a problem and she realized there would always be differences of opinion on the best way to do it. However, she indicated she felt confident in the staff's selection of Westec and the procedure used in that selection.

Upon motion duly made and carried, the resolution as presented in Calendar Item 23 was approved by a vote of 2-0.

CALENDAR ITEM

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Schaefer

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR EXPERIMENTAL TESTING
FOR DUST STORM ABATEMENT DETERMINATIONS,
OWENS DRY LAKE, INYO COUNTY

AREA: Southeastern portion of Owens Dry lake bed.

CONTRACTOR: Westec Services, Inc.
118 Brookhollow Drive
Santa Ana, California 92705

COUNTY: Inyo.

BACKGROUND: In July of 1980 \$250,000 was appropriated by Chapter 638, Statutes of 1980 as an urgency measure in order to conduct a research program to study controlling fugitive dust generated from the bed of Owens Dry Lake in Inyo County. The State Lands Commission was charged with the responsibility of conducting the study in cooperation with the Owens Dry Lake Task Force, a group composed of local government, business and citizens. After preliminary tests and evaluations were made a Request for Proposal was mailed to many contractors and consultants. Westec Services, Inc.'s Response was chosen by the Task Force as best meeting the requirements of the study.

PERTINENT INFORMATION:

It is proposed to establish three (3) vegetative test plots in selected sections of Owens Dry lake bed to support the Owens Dry Lake Task Force in its fugitive dust abatement efforts in the Owens Valley air basin. The study area, with suggested plot locations, is located within the dry lake bed approximately 13 miles south of Lone Pine, Inyo County, California (see attached map).

Air quality monitors and meteorological data stations will be required for these test sites to determine the effectiveness of the program.

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It is the objective of this project to acquire specific data on test plot experiments for plant species that can grow and propagate in the alkaline environment of the non-crystalline parts of the lake bed where fugitive dust sources are suspected.

Alternate non-vegetative test sites will also be required for air monitoring data acquisition as follows:

1. A partial section test site using snow fences to break the effectiveness of wind erosion.
2. One-eighth section test site experiment to leach the salts of the lake soils by means of dikes and ditches thereby permitting vegetation growth.

VEGETATIVE STUDIES:

General Approach: Because of its high saline nature, establishment of vegetation upon the playa surface will be difficult. However, it is believed that revegetation may be a viable option on a limited basis in critical areas of Owens Lake. With this aspect in mind, we have developed an experimental method that will test a variety of parameters on a simultaneous basis:

- . Feasibility of a variety of species for establishment and growth.
- . Suitability of species to grow on both sand lenses and on leached playa surfaces.
- . Leaching and irrigation requirements.
- . Assess reproduction potential of each species.

It is proposed to use the following plants for the revegetation experiments:

<u>Distichilis spicata</u>	(salt grass)
<u>sporobolus airoides</u>	(drop seed)
<u>Alenrolfea occidentalis</u>	(picklebush)
<u>Atriplex confertifolia</u>	(shadscale)
<u>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</u>	(greasewood)

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All of the above species are extremely salt-tolerant and occur near Owens Lake.

Non-Vegetative and Transitional Studies:
There is little potential for any meaningful vegetative studies until the surface for the plants is conditioned to receive them and the plant stock is propagated and prepared for planting. In the early stages of the study, therefore, the project effort will be concentrated on developing those test sites not designed for revegetation studies and those sites that will be tested for revegetation potential after a planting surface has been constructed (the transitional sites).

It is proposed to examine eight different test plots, no larger than 50 x 50 feet each, and a sand fence study covering about 60-100 acres in size. Of the eight smaller test plots, two comprise leaching studies designed for definite revegetation, three other sites are "sites of opportunity" that may be studied for planting possibilities and three sites are primarily designed for exclusive non-vegetation studies.

Meteorological and Air Quality Monitoring:
The meteorological monitoring program is designed to fulfill site specific meteorological monitoring, limited air quality monitoring at the study site and testing of individual study sites through the use of a portable wind tunnel and stacked filter units.

SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR:

On October 21, 1980, Request for Proposals (RFP's) were mailed to twenty-one (21) private industrial firms, six (6) universities and two (2) environmental organizations among others. Seven (7) proposals were submitted in response:

1. Woodward-Clyde Consultants
2. A.I.M.
3. Donald C. Weaver P.E. Corp.
4. Environmental Impact Profiles

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5. Rockwell International
6. Westec Services, Inc.
7. Aero Vironment

A Proposal Evaluation Committee was established from the Owens Dry Lake Task Force. The Committee was made up of representatives of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Great Basin Unified A.P.C.D., and the State Lands Commission.

The Committee members made independent evaluations of the proposal pursuant to criteria set forth in a 27 page "Proposal Evaluation Guideline." The Committee members selected Westec Services, Inc., as the best qualified to satisfy the requirements of the project for a variety of reasons. Westec was one of only two responsive contractors who included all three phases of the contract in the proposal. In addition, Westec proposed an effective technical approach, and displayed extensive experience and in-house capabilities needed to prepare comprehensive environmental studies, including the capability to conduct all forms of biological and geological, studies and specific air quality monitoring. However, Westec's cost proposal exceeded the allotted budget for the program. Their proposal included suggested experiments and air monitoring systems in addition to the ones called for in the Request for Proposal. By eliminating the unneeded experiments and air monitoring systems Westec's cost came within the amount budgeted. The cost proposed is for the sum of \$249,887.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CONSIDERATION:

The Commission staff has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Staff has coordinated this project with those agencies concerned with the use of this site and has determined that it is exempt from CEQA as an information-collection project and its objective for protection of environmental values.

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EXHIBITS: A. Location Map. B. Test Site Schematic.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS ACTIVITY AND SUCH DOCUMENT IS NOT REQUIRED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PRO 21084, 14 CAL. ADM. CODE 15100 ET SEQ., AND 2 CAL ADM. CODE 2907 (CLASS 6, INFORMATION COLLECTION).
2. FIND THAT GRANTING THIS CONTRACT WILL HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT UPON THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS IDENTIFIED PURSUANT TO SECTION 6370.1 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE.
3. AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH WESTEC SERVICES, INC., SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE FORM ON FILE WITH THE COMMISSION, FOR AN EXPERIMENTAL TESTING PROJECT FOR DUST STORM ABATEMENT DETERMINATIONS, OWENS DRY LAKE, INYO COUNTY, FOR THE SUM OF \$249,887.

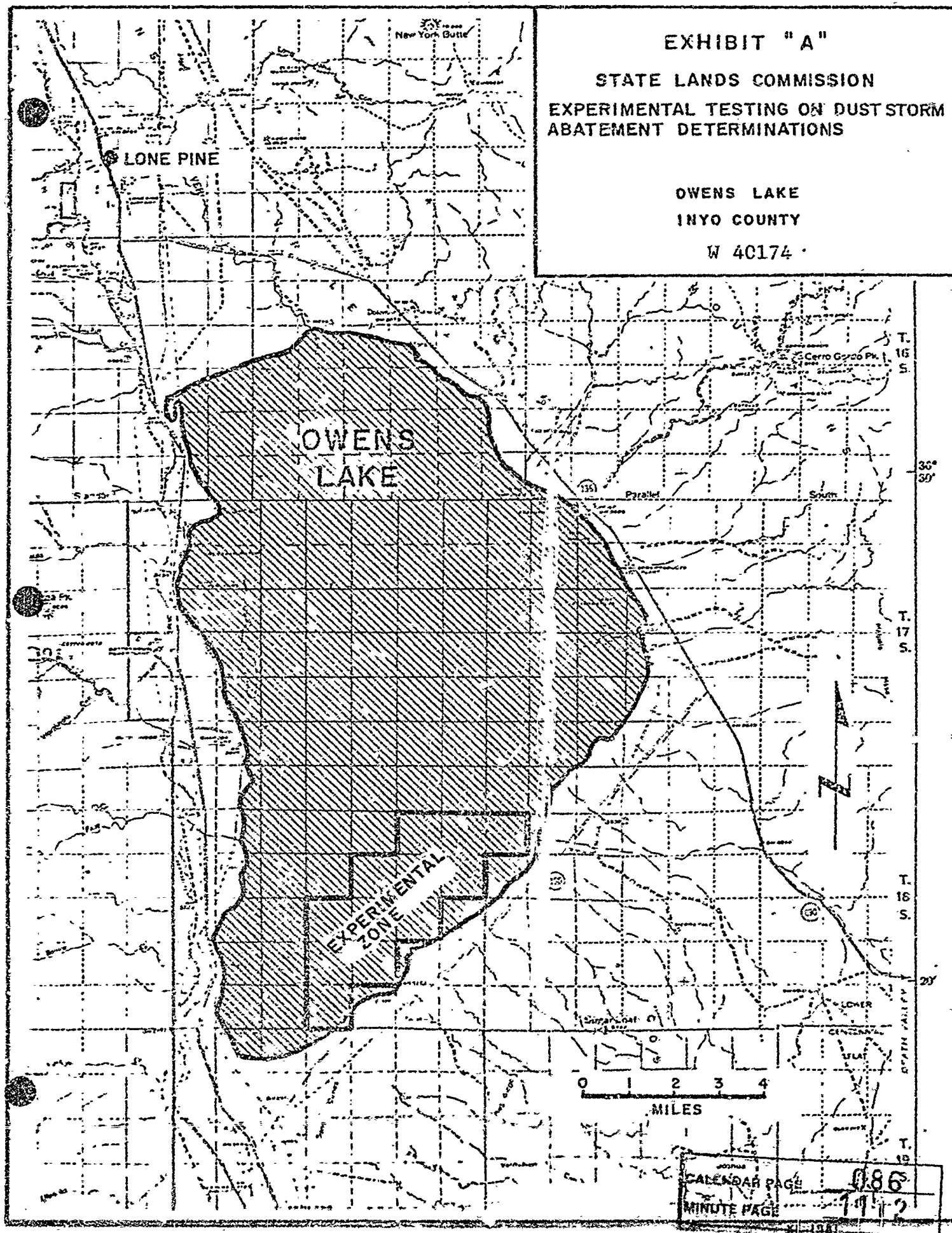
EXHIBIT "A"

STATE LANDS COMMISSION
EXPERIMENTAL TESTING ON DUST STORM
ABATEMENT DETERMINATIONS

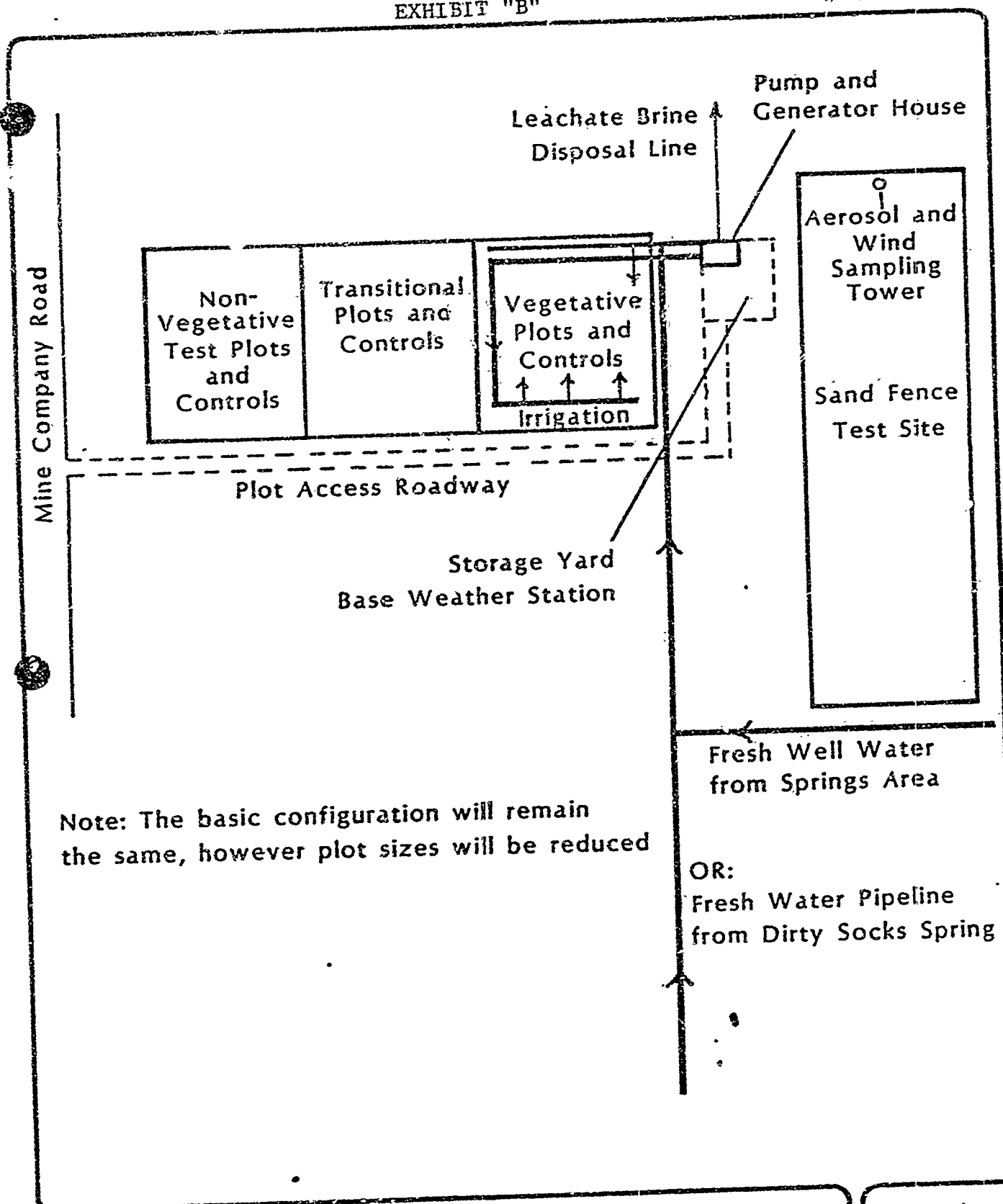
OWENS LAKE

INYO COUNTY

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Note: The basic configuration will remain the same, however plot sizes will be reduced

Test Site Schematic

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FIGURE

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