

**MINUTE ITEM**

This Calendar Item No. C60 was approved as Minute Item No. 60 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 12-3-99 meeting.

**CALENDAR ITEM  
C60**

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D. Brown

**REQUEST DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS AND LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER TO PERFORM ANALYSIS AND FEASIBILITY OF VEGETATION DUST CONTROL MEASURES AT OWENS DRY LAKE, INYO COUNTY**

**PARTY:**

California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South  
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

**PROPOSED ACTIVITY**

The Executive Officer requests delegation of authority to award and execute agreements related to analysis and feasibility of vegetation dust control measures at Owens Dry Lake, Inyo County.

**BACKGROUND**

On July 27, 1998, the City of Los Angeles and the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for control of particulate emissions from Owens Dry Lake in Inyo County. The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has begun the process of implementing dust control measures so as to achieve statutory air quality requirements in the Owens Dry Lake region by 2006. A key stakeholder in the Owens Dry Lake dust control efforts is the State of California (State). The State owns most of the dry lake bed which are administered by the California State Lands Commission (CSLC).

One of the control measures the LADWP plans to install, beginning with a one-square mile prototype in 1999, utilizes sand fences to control dust emissions. An extensive network has already been installed at the site of the planned sand fence project to gather baseline data during 1998 and early 1999 to gauge the effectiveness of the sand fence prototype. It is the LADWP's hope that vegetation can be successfully grown on

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the dunes to stabilize them and make them more effective as dust control. The objective of the scope of work, which would be authorized herein, is to design strategies for producing maintenance-free, self-sustaining plant communities to stabilize the dunes over the long term.

The Owens Dry Lake playa is devoid of vegetation over most of its surface because the playa soils, in their natural state, are very alkaline and saline. The playa presents an extremely hostile and even toxic environment for plant species in general. It was realized by the LADWP and the other stakeholders that if the LADWP desired to grow vegetation on the man-made dunes, research was needed to determine if, and under what conditions, plant growth could be made possible.

The University of California at Davis (UCD) offers unique expertise in plant physiology with respect to plants grown in alkaline and saline desert playa environments, including very unique and valuable prior research at Owens Dry Lake specifically. UCD was invited by the LADWP to submit proposals for research to determine the feasibility of growing vegetation on the sand dunes at Owens Dry Lake. The LADWP determined that the work outlined by UCD would provide much of the vital information needed.

The State is a key stakeholder in the Owens Lake dust issue. To assist the process, the CSLC offered to administer the agreements with UCD. LADWP will reimburse the CSLC for all payments to UCD and all other work associated with reviewing the work performed by UCD and administering the agreements. Costs to LADWP will be approximately \$700,000.

The preparation and execution of the agreements will be conducted consistent with procedures as specified in the State Contracts Manual and Public Contract Code. All costs are to be recovered from LADWP.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

- A. Public Resources Code Section 6106 (Delegation of Authority)
- B. Public Resources Code Section 6218; Section 21089 (Fees for Services)
- C. State Contracts Manual (rev 10/98)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION FIND:

1. FIND THAT THESE ACTIVITIES ARE EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF CEQA PURSUANT TO 14 CAL CODE REGS. 15061 BECAUSE THESE ACTIVITIES ARE NOT PROJECTS AS DEFINED BY PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21065 AND 14 CAL CODE REGS. 15378.

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2. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO AWARD AND EXECUTE CONTRACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF WORK SPECIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.
3. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH PROJECT APPLICANT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF STAFF AND CONSULTING COSTS