

177130**ASSIGNMENT OF MINERAL RIGHTS LEASE**

FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, **Placer Dome U.S. Inc.**, a California corporation, whose address is P.O. Box 2706, Elko, Nevada 89803 ("Assignor"), hereby assigns and conveys to the **Cortez Joint Venture**, a Nevada joint venture comprised of Placer Cortez Inc. and Kennecott Exploration (Australia) Ltd., whose address is HC66, Box 1250, Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821-1250 ("Assignee"), of Assignor's right, title and interest in and under the following:

Amended Mineral Rights Lease entered into effective as of the 7th day of July, 1998, and between Sally Knudson, as Lessor, and Oro Nevada Mining, Company Inc., as Lessee (the "Lease"), covering the real property located in Eureka and Lander Counties, Nevada that is more particularly described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto, the extension of which Lease evidenced of record by that certain memorandum recorded in Book 342 at Page 350 of the records of Eureka County, Nevada and Book 492 at Page 460 of the records of Lander County, Nevada.

Assignor warrants as to the Lease by, through and under Assignor, but not otherwise. This assignment is made without other warranties, either express or implied.

Assignee hereby acknowledges and agrees that, effective upon the assignment by Assignor to Assignee of all of Assignor's right, title, and interest under the Lease, and by virtue of this Assignment, (a) Assignee shall have assumed all of the obligations, liabilities, and responsibilities of the Assignor under the Lease arising after the effective date of this Assignment and (b) Assignee shall have become bound by and to the Lease as if Assignee had been an original party to the Lease.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Assignor has executed this assignment effective as of the 2nd day of October 2001.

ASSIGNOR:

PLACER DOME U.S. INC.

By: Brian G. IversonName: Brian G. IversonTitle: Manager of Land Affairs

ASSIGNEE:

CORTEZ JOINT VENTURE, a Nevada joint venture

By: Placer Dome U.S. Inc., Manager

By: Brian G. IversonName: Brian G. IversonTitle: Manager of Land Affairs

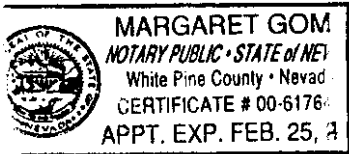
BOOK 344 PAGE 362

STATE OF NEVADA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF WHITE PINE)

On the 2nd of October, 2001, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State, person appeared Brian G. Iverson, known to me to be the Manager of Land Affairs of PLACEPOME U.S. Inc., the Manager of the CORTEZ JOINT VENTURE, a Nevada joint venture, who acknowledged that he executed the same on behalf of said corporation.

WITNESSY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL.

NOTARY PUBLIC



Margaret Gomez
Notary Public/in and for the
County of White Pine, State of Nevada
My Commission Expires: 02/25/04

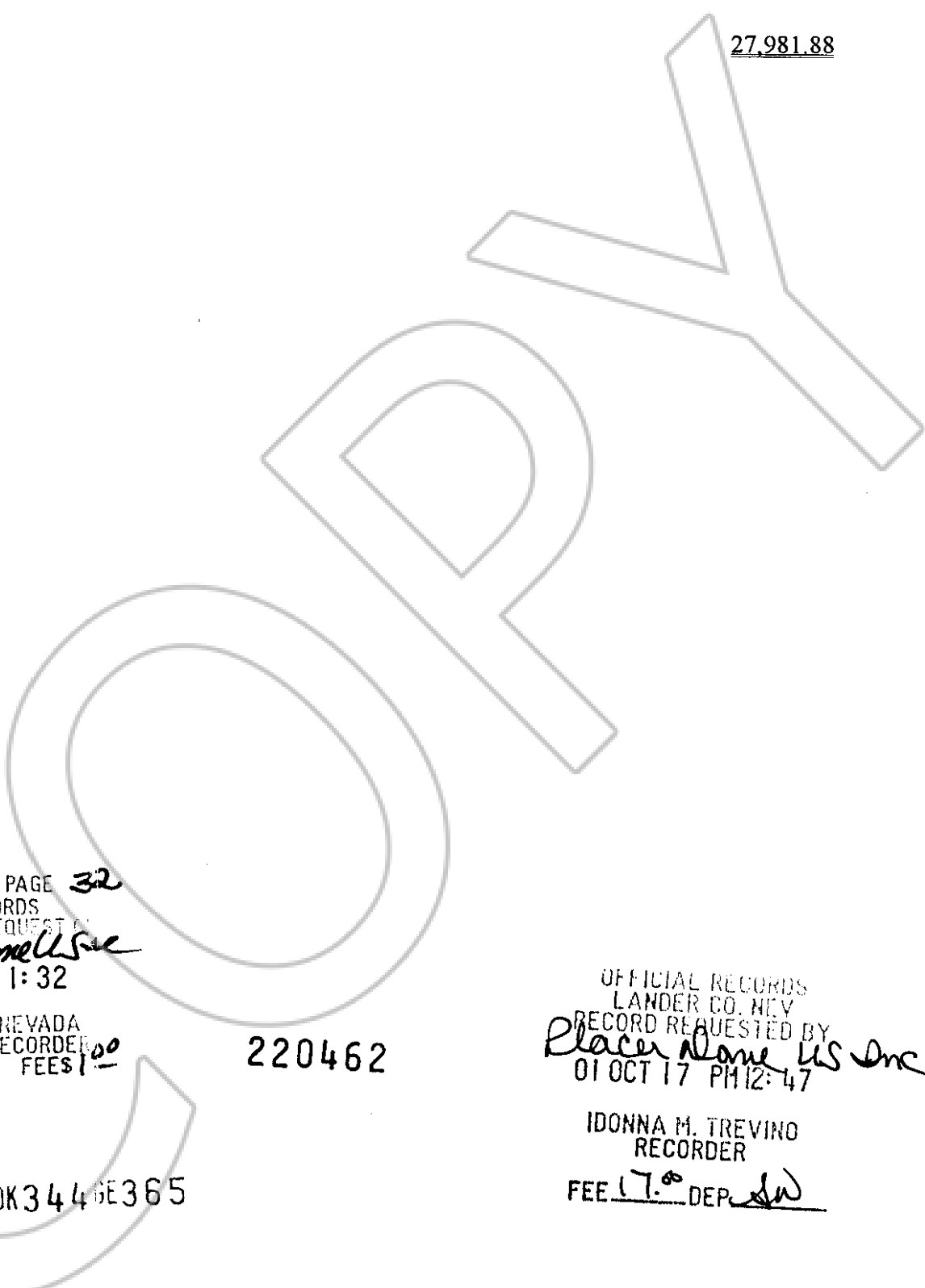
EXHIBIT "A"

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY
EUEKA AND LANDER COUNTIES, NEVADA

<u>Township/Range</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Subdivision</u>	<u>Approx. Acres</u>
28N-49E		all	640.80
		all	640.68
		all	640.00
		all	640.00
		all	640.00
		all	640.00
		N1/2	320.00
	all	640.00	
28N-50E		Lots 1, 2	14.52
		Lots 1, 2	17.00
		Lots 1, 2	15.99
		all	625.57
		all	640.00
		all	640.00
		all	640.00
		all	640.00
		all	640.00
		all	628.28
		all	640.00
28N-51E		all	601.08
		all	623.40
		all	640.00
29N-49E		all	640.00
		all	640.00
		all	640.00
		all	640.00
		all	640.00
		all	640.00
29N-50E		all	817.16
		all	816.20
		all	621.00
		all	640.00
29N-50E, continued		all	640.00
		E1/2, N1/2NW1/4, N1/2S1/2NW1/4, S1/2SW1/4, S1/2N1/2SW1/4	560.00
		all	640.00
	all	640.00	

	all	624.00
	all	640.00
	all	640.00
	all	640.00
	all	640.00
	all	640.00
	all	625.80
	all	640.00
	all	640.00
29N-51E	all	<u>590.40</u>
TOTAL:		<u>27,981.88</u>

2855081_1.DOC



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 OFFICIAL RECORDS
 RECORDED AT THE REQUEST OF
Placer Dome US Inc
 01 OCT 25 PM 1:32

EUREKA COUNTY NEVADA
 M.N. REBALEATI, RECORDER
 FILE NO. FEES 1.00

220462

177130

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OFFICIAL RECORDS
 LANDER CO. NEV
 RECORD REQUESTED BY
Placer Dome US Inc
 01 OCT 17 PM 12:47

IDONNA M. TREVINO
 RECORDER

FEE 17.00 DEP *SW*