

the Federal Government associated with the awarding and monitoring of SBIR funding agreements.

As a result, SBA believes there will be negligible costs to the Federal Government with respect to the award and monitoring of SBIR funding agreements as a result of this rule. In addition, the potential decrease in the number of SBIR awards is not enough to significantly affect current small businesses.

SBA expects the increase in award amount guidelines to allow participating agencies to more effectively cover the costs of some SBIR projects. This could increase the likelihood of success for some SBIR-funded projects.

III. Alternatives to Regulatory Action

In determining the appropriate adjustment to the threshold amounts, SBA considered the past changes in prices for the economy as a whole and for inputs into R&D activity. While different technology sectors have increased at different rates, SBA identified the general rise in prices of R&D inputs and decided to adjust the program-wide threshold amounts accordingly. SBA also determined that there are program advantages and efficiencies to maintaining the threshold amounts as relatively stable and rounded figures. SBA therefore rounded the inflation-adjusted amounts.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) requires agencies to analyze the economic impact of proposed regulations on small entities and consider alternatives that would minimize the burden on these entities. 5 U.S.C. 603. This RFA requirement only applies to regulations that are subject to notice and comment under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) or any other law. 5 U.S.C. 533(b). Generally, the notice and comment requirement does not apply to interpretive rules, general statements of policy, or rules of agency organization, procedure and practice. *Id* at § 553(b)(A). The SBIR Policy Directive is not a rule for RFA purposes. The Policy Directive is issued under authority of the Small Business Act (Act), which provides that the SBA shall "issue policy directives for the general conduct of the SBIR program within the Federal Government * * *" 15 U.S.C. 638(j)(1). Therefore, no RFA analysis is required.

Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Policy Directive; Small Business Innovation Research Program

To: The Directors, Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program
Subject: Proposed Revisions to the SBIR Program Policy Directive concerning Phase I and Phase II Threshold Amounts

1. *Purpose.* Section 9(j)(3) of the Small Business Act (Act) (15 U.S.C. 638(j)(3)) requires the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to modify the SBIR Program Policy Directive as required for the general conduct of the SBIR Program within the Federal Government. Specifically, § 9(j)(2) of the Act requires the SBA to increase the award amounts for Phase I and II to adjust for inflation or other economic or programmatic considerations once every five years.

2. *Authority.* These proposed amendments to the Policy Directive are issued under the authority of 15 U.S.C. 638(j).

3. *Procurement Regulations.* The Federal Acquisition Regulations may need to be modified to conform to the requirements. Regulatory provisions that pertain to the areas of SBA responsibility will require approval of the SBA Administrator or designee. The SBA's Office of Technology is the appropriate office for coordinating such regulatory provisions.

4. *Personnel Concerned.* All Federal Government personnel who are involved in the administration of the program, including those involved with the issuance and management of funding agreements of the SBIR Program and the establishment of goals for small business concerns in research or research and development procurements or grants.

5. *Distribution.* Federal Government agencies and departments participating in the SBIR Program and those required to establish small business research development goals as directed by § 9 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 638(j)).

6. *Originator.* Office of Technology, SBA.

7. *Dates.* The SBIR Program is authorized through September 30, 2008. These proposed amendments will be effective when issued as final in the **Federal Register**.

Authorized By: Edsel Brown, Jr.,
Assistant Director, Office of
Technology, U.S. Small Business
Administration.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, SBA proposes to amend the SBIR Policy Directive as follows:

1. Amend § 7(h)(1) by removing "\$100,000" and adding in its place

"150,000" and by removing "\$750,000" and replacing it with "\$1,000,000".

2. Amend § 7(h)(2) by removing "\$100,000" and adding in its place "150,000" and by removing "\$750,000" and adding in its place "\$1,000,000".

3. Amend § 10(b)(7) by removing "\$100,000" and adding in its place "150,000" and by removing "\$750,000" and adding in its place "\$1,000,000".

Jovita Carranza,

Acting Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-18914 Filed 8-14-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Rustic Canyon Ventures SBIC, L.P. License No. 09/79-0450; Notice Seeking Exemption Under Section 312 of the Small Business Investment Act, Conflicts of Interest

Notice is hereby given that Rustic Canyon Ventures SBIC, L.P., 2425 Olympic Blvd., Suite 6050 West, Santa Monica, CA 90404, a Federal Licensee under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended ("the Act"), in connection with the financing of a small concern, has sought an exemption under Section 312 of the Act and Section 107.730, *Financings which Constitute Conflicts of Interest of the Small Business Administration* ("SBA") Rules and Regulations (13 CFR 107.730 (2008)). Rustic Canyon Ventures SBIC, L.P. proposes to provide equity security financing to Fulcrum BioEnergy, Inc., 2425 Olympic Blvd., Suite 560 East, Santa Monica, CA 90404. The financing is contemplated for development and expansion of production facilities and for general corporate purposes.

The financing is brought within the purview of § 107.730(a)(1) of the Regulations because US Renewables Group HoldCo III, LLC ("USRG"), an Associate of Rustic Canyon Ventures SBIC, L.P., owns more than ten percent of Fulcrum BioEnergy, Inc. Therefore, Fulcrum BioEnergy, Inc., is also considered an Associate of Rustic Canyon Ventures SBIC, L.P., as defined at 13 CFR 107.50 of the SBIC Regulations.

Notice is hereby given that any interested person may submit written comments on the transaction to the Associate Administrator for Investment, U.S. Small Business Administration,

409 3rd Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416.

A. Joseph Shepard,

Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. E8-18798 Filed 8-14-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 6322]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Alexander Calder: The Paris Years, 1926-33"

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999, as amended, and Delegation of Authority No. 257 of April 15, 2003 [68 FR 19875], I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition "Alexander Calder: The Paris Years, 1926-33," imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with the foreign owners or custodians. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, from on or about October 16, 2008, until on or about February 15, 2009, and at possible additional exhibitions or venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the exhibit objects, contact Carol B. Epstein, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202/453-8048). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: August 11, 2008.

C. Miller Crouch,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E8-18952 Filed 8-14-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 6321]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Art and Power in the Central African Savanna"

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999, as amended, and Delegation of Authority No. 257 of April 15, 2003 [68 FR 19875], I hereby determine that the objects in the exhibition: "Art and Power in the Central African Savanna," imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with the foreign owners or custodians. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Menil Collection, Houston, TX, from on or about September 26, 2008, until on or about January 4, 2009, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH, from on or about March 1, 2009, until on or about June 7, 2009, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, from on or about June 28, 2009, until on or about October 11, 2009, and at possible additional exhibitions or venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the exhibit objects, contact Julie Simpson, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202-453-8050). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: August 11, 2008.

C. Miller Crouch,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E8-18951 Filed 8-14-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 6319]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Shigeyuki Kihara: Living Photographs"

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999, as amended, and Delegation of Authority No. 257 of April 15, 2003 [68 FR 19875], I hereby determine that the objects in the exhibition: "Shigeyuki Kihara: Living Photographs," imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to a loan agreement with the foreign owner or custodian. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, from on or about October 7, 2008, until on or about February 1, 2009, and at possible additional exhibitions or venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the exhibit objects, contact Julie Simpson, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202-453-8050). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: August 11, 2008.

C. Miller Crouch,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E8-18962 Filed 8-14-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Privacy Act of 1974: System of Records

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation (DOT).