

Incidental Take Permit Issuance, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, CA, *Comment Period Ends:* November 19, 2002, *Contact:* Amedee Brickey (707) 822-8136.

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Amended Notices

EIS No. 020248, DRAFT EIS, COE, CA, Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration, Proposal to Removal up to 1.5 Million Cubic Yard of Sediment from the bottom of Lagoon to Allow Restoration of Tidal Movement and Eventual Restoration of Tidal Habitat, Marin County, CA, *Comment Period Ends:* October 1, 2002, *Contact:* Roger Golden (415) 977-8703. Revision of FR Notice Published on 7/19/2002: CEQ Comment Period Ending 8/15/2002 has been extended to 10/1/2002.

EIS No. 020304, FINAL EIS, NOA, CA, San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Proposes to Designate Three Sites: China Camp State Park, Brown's Island Regional Parks District, and Rush Ranch Open Space Preserve, Contra Costa, Marin and Solano Counties, CA, *Wait Period Ends:* August 26, 2002, *Contact:* Laurie McGilvray—ext 15 (301) 713-3132.

Revision of FR Notice Published on 7/19/2002: CEQ Wait Period Ending on 8/19/2002 has been Extended to 8/26/2002.

Dated: August 13, 2002.

Joseph C. Montgomery,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 02-20862 filed 8-15-02; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6632-2]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 12, 2002 (67 FR 17992).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-AFS-J65363-MT Rating EC2, Post Fire Vegetation and Fuels Management Project, Fuel Reduction, Bark Beetle Sanitation and Maintenance, and/or Restoration of Vegetative Communities, Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest, Wisdom and Pintler Ranger Districts, Beaverhead and Deerlodge Counties, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about proposed harvests in the Tie and Trail Creek drainages based on impacts to wetlands and the riparian areas. Monitoring to measure the effectiveness of harvesting for the prevention of spruce beetle epidemics should be included as well as additional seeding and revegetation and coordination with Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

ERP No. D-BLM-J02039-MT Rating 3, Montana Statewide Conventional Oil and Gas and Coal Bed Methane Gas Exploration and Development Management Plan within the Bureau of Land Powder River and Billings Resources Management Plan Areas and the State of Montana, Implementation, MT.

Summary: EPA concluded that the Draft EIS is inadequate based on the deficiencies in the water quality analysis; specifically by not addressing water management practices needed to assure attainment of water quality standards under the Clean Water Act. In addition, impacts to air quality, Tribal communities and their natural resources, and wildlife have not been adequately analyzed. EPA recommended: (1) Adopting the scientific analyses of water quality criteria being prepared by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, (2) preparing a Watershed Management Framework for each watershed and (3) including all additional key information in a Revised or Supplemental Draft EIS.

ERP No. D-BLM-J65358-WY Rating EU3, Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project, Extraction, Transportation and Oil and Natural Gas Resources Sale, Application for a Permit to Drill (APD), Special Use Permit and Right-of-Way Grants, Campbell, Converse, Johnson and Sheridan Counties, WY.

Summary: EPA found the potential environmental impacts of the preferred alternative Environmentally Unsatisfactory based on degradation of water quality and subsequent impacts to irrigated agriculture. In addition, the Draft EIS did not adequately consider an alternative that would meet state water quality standards. EPA recommended: (1) Adopting the scientific analyses of

water quality criteria being prepared by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, (2) prepare a Watershed Management Framework for each watershed and (3) include all additional key information in a Revised or Supplemental Draft EIS.

ERP No. D-COE-K30031-CA Rating EC2, Imperial Beach Shore Protection Project, Shore Protection and Prevention of Damage to Adjacent Beachfront Structures, Silver Strand Shoreline, City of Imperial Beach, San Diego County, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns and requested additional information on alternative sources of sand for beach nourishment and water quality survey and monitoring efforts for the project.

ERP No. D-FHW-K40251-CA Rating EC2, Butte 70/149/99/191 Highway Improvement Project, Update State Route 149 to Four-Lane Expressway from 70 north of Oroville to Route 99 south of Chico, Funding, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and US Army Section 404 Permit Issuance, Butte County, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns that cumulative impacts and induced growth impacts are not thoroughly analyzed. Impacts to resources such as habitat, water and air quality should be analyzed in further detail.

ERP No. DA-NOA-G64002-00 Rating LO, Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan, Secretarial Amendment 1, 10-Year Rebuilding Plan for Red Grouper, with Associated Impacts on Gag and Other Groupers, Gulf of Mexico.

Summary: While EPA has no objection to the action as proposed, it did request clarification information on protective measures on threatened and endangered species, especially sea turtles, that may become entangled in the fishing gear.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-AFS-L65343-ID

Whiskey Campo Resource Management Project, Implementation, Elmore County, ID.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-BLM-K65235-AZ

Las Cienegas Resource Management Plan, Implementation, Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (NCA) and Sonoita Valley Acquisition Planning District, AZ.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-FHW-H40171-NE

Lincoln South and East Beltways Project, Circumferential Transportation System Completion linking I-80 on the north and US 77 on the west, Funding and US Army COE Section 404 Permit and NPDES Permit Issuance, Lancaster County, NE.

Summary: EPA's environmental concerns were adequately addressed in the FEIS, therefore EPA has no objections to the proposed action.

ERP No. F-FRC-J03014-00

Kern River 2003 Gas Transmission Project, Expansion of the existing (KRG T) Interstate Pipeline System from southwestern Wyoming to southern California, Right-of-Way Grant, NPDES and US Army COE Section 404 Permits Issuance, (FERC Docket NO. CP01-422-000), WY, UT, NV and CA.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-GSA-E80003-GA

Chamblee Campus Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Expansion, Atlanta Metro Area, City of Chamblee, Dekalb County, GA.

Summary: While EPA has no objection to the action as proposed, it did request that our previous comments on the draft EIS be further addressed during the final project design and implementation phase.

ERP No. F-HUD-C85043-NY

1105-1135 Warburton Avenue, River Club Apartment Complex Development and Operation, Funding, City of Yonkers, Westchester County, NY.

Summary: EPA has no objection to the action proposed as our previous issues have been adequately addressed.

ERP No. F-NOA-A91067-00

Deep-sea Red Crab (*Chaconne quinque-dens*) Fisheries, Fishery Management Plan, Development and Implementation, Norfolk Canyon in the south to the Haque Line in the north, Continental United States and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Summary: EPA has no objection to the action as proposed.

Dated: August 13, 2002.

Joseph C. Montgomery,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 02-20863 Filed 8-15-02; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7260-2]

ISCMEM Interagency Steering Committee on Multimedia Environmental Modeling; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The annual public meeting of the Federal Interagency Steering Committee on Multimedia Environmental Modeling (ISCMEM) will convene to review progress by the working groups and to discuss initiatives for FY 2003.

DATES: September 12, 2002, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) (Thomas Jefferson Auditorium), 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Designated Federal Official: Gary J. Foley, 919-541-2106; General Information: Dave Brown, 706-355-8300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

On July 5, 2001, six Federal agencies entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on research and development of multimedia environmental models. The MOU establishes a framework for facilitating cooperation and coordination among the following agencies (the specific research organization within the agency is in parenthesis): U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Engineer Research and Development Center); U.S. Department of Agriculture (Agricultural Research Service); U.S. Department of Energy (Office of Science and Technology); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Office of Research and Development); U.S. Geological Survey; and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research) in research and development (R&D) of multimedia environmental models, software and related databases, including development, enhancements, applications and assessments of site-specific, generic, and process-oriented multimedia environmental models as they pertain to human and environmental health risk assessment. Specifically, the MOU supports the exchange of technical information through data bases, information systems, clearinghouses, conferences, workshops, activities for developing a

common model-data framework, collaboration on scientific projects supporting the modeling framework, and other means pertaining to multimedia model development, enhancements and applications focusing on environmental risk assessments.

Goals of the MOU

Provide a mechanism for the cooperating Federal Agencies to pursue a common technology in multimedia environmental modeling with a shared scientific basis; Reduce redundancies and improve the common technology through exchange and comparisons of multimedia environmental models, software and related databases; Seek mutual benefit from their respective R&D programs related to multimedia environmental model development and enhancement activities, and to ensure effective exchange of information between their technical staff and contractors; Facilitate the establishment of working partnerships among the cooperating Federal Agencies' technical staff and designated contractors in order to enhance productivity and mutual benefit through collaboration on mutually-defined research studies such as the development of a common model-data framework; Develop high-quality research and modeling products and commit to following established quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) procedures.

Focus of the MOU

Exchange of information related to multimedia environmental modeling tools and supporting scientific information for environmental risk assessments, protocols for establishing linkages between disparate databases and models, and development and use of a common model-data framework; Research and development programs include development and field applications of a wide variety of software modules, data processing tools, and uncertainty assessment approaches for understanding and predicting contaminant transport processes including the impact of chemical and non-chemical stressors on human and ecological health.

Public Meeting Purpose

The annual public meeting provides an opportunity for the scientific community, other Federal and State agencies, and the public to be briefed on the progress of the MOU working groups and their initiatives for the upcoming year, and to discuss technological advancements in multimedia environmental modeling. Copies of the