

Dated: March 28, 2005.

John C. Weicher,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Public Law 106-503, the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee (SESAC) will hold its tenth meeting. The meeting location is the U.S. Geological Survey Menlo Park Science Center, Building 3, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, California 94025. The Committee is comprised of members from academia, industry, and State government. The Committee shall advise the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on matters relating to the USGS's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

The Committee will review the overall direction of the U.S. Geological Survey's Earthquake Hazards Program in the current and next fiscal years with particular focus on the Program's activities in earthquake physics and earthquake effects research.

Meetings of the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee are open to the public.

DATES: April 13, 2005, commencing at 9 a.m. and adjourning at 5 p.m. on April 14, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. David Applegate, U.S. Geological Survey, MS 905, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, (703) 648-6714.

Dated: March 24, 2005.

Kathleen M. Johnson,

Acting Associate Director for Geology.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-610-1610-DP]

Notice of Availability for the Proposed West Mojave Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) management policies, the BLM announces the availability of the Proposed West Mojave Plan (WMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This planning activity encompasses approximately 3.3 million acres of public lands administered by the BLM's California Desert District, located in Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties in southern California.

The Proposed WMP is being prepared in collaboration with State and local governments. This collaborative process is taking into account local, regional and national needs and concerns. The conservation strategy to be implemented on public lands includes measures that would be compatible with the development of a habitat conservation plan on 3.0 million acres of private and local government lands within the planning area.

DATES: BLM Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) state that any person who participated in the planning process, and has an interest that may be adversely affected, may protest. The protest must be filed within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes this notice in the **Federal Register**. More specific instructions and requirements for protests are contained in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Proposed WMP and Final EIS are available upon request from the District Manager, California Desert District Office, located at 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553. Copies may be examined at the BLM's California Desert District Office in Moreno Valley, and at BLM's Ridgecrest Field Office, located at 33S Richmond Road, Ridgecrest CA 93555, and Barstow Field Office located at 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow CA 92311, during regular business hours from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

Monday through Friday, except holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to the BLM's mailing list, contact Linda Hansen, California Desert District Manager, at (909) 697-5207.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Proposed WMP addresses the management of 3.3 million acres of public lands administered by the BLM in eastern Kern County, southern Inyo County, northern Los Angeles County and western San Bernardino County, all of which are within the State of California. The BLM's Ridgecrest and Barstow Field Offices administer most of these public lands. A small amount of acreage administered by the BLM's Needles and Palm Springs Field Offices is also affected. All public lands are within the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA), and all lie within the jurisdiction of the BLM's California Desert District.

The Proposed WMP is being prepared collaboratively with local jurisdictions, State and other Federal agencies. The purpose of the WMP is to develop conservation strategies for over 100 Federal and state-listed plant and animal species that are found within the western Mojave Desert, including the federally listed as threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and the state-listed Mojave Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*), and to simplify procedures for complying with the Endangered Species Act of 1974 as amended, and the California Endangered Species Act. Other issues addressed include the development of a motorized vehicle access network for public lands in the region, and effects of the program on regional economics, growth-inducing impacts, livestock grazing, mining, cultural resources and recreation. The WMP would be implemented on public lands through amendments to the BLM's CDCA Plan.

The Final EIS considers and analyzes seven (7) alternatives (A-G), including a No Action Alternative, with Alternative A identified as the BLM's Proposed Alternative. These Alternatives have been developed based on extensive public input following an initial round of scoping meetings in January 1992, extensive biological and field survey work in the late 1990's, nearly 50 "task group" meetings attended by representatives of the participating agencies and jurisdictions and the general public between December 1999 and May 2002, numerous other public meetings, a final round of scoping meetings in June and July 2002 and January 2003, and seven public hearings