

the list on or before May 20, 1998, and will update the list regularly. The purpose of the list is to identify drugs for which certain information is necessary to determine if an approved drug can be used safely and effectively in the pediatric population. Inclusion of a drug on the list does not necessarily mean that the drug is entitled to pediatric exclusivity.

II. Procedure for Development of the Draft List

To develop a draft list, FDA requested that experts in pediatric research, trade organizations, and other interested persons, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association, the National Institutes of Health, the Pediatric Pharmacology Research Units Network, the National Pharmaceutical Alliance, the Generic Pharmaceutical Industry Association, the National Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, and the United States Pharmacopeia, identify drugs for possible inclusion on the list. FDA then reviewed the drugs identified by these experts to determine whether studies on the drugs might produce health benefits in the pediatric population. FDA is making available in the above docket the draft list created as a result of this process, as well as a statement of the criteria used by the agency to determine whether a drug may produce a health benefit in the pediatric population.

III. Request for Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments regarding the draft list on or before April 15, 1998, to the Dockets Management Branch (address above). Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. The draft list and received comments are available for public examination in the office above between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. FDA will consider the comments before publishing the list on May 20, 1998. Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the draft list by using the World Wide Web (WWW). For WWW access, connect to CDER at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/pediatric>.

Dated: March 4, 1998.

William B. Schultz,

Deputy Commissioner for Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4307-N-02]

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS); City of Porterville, CA Section 108 Loan Guarantee Funded Infrastructure Project

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of availability of DEIS and public comment dates.

SUMMARY: The Department of Housing and Urban Development gives notice that the City of Porterville, California, has prepared a combined Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for a Section 108 Loan Guarantee funded infrastructure project as described in this notice. This notice is in accordance with regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality under its rule (40 CFR part 1500).

Interested individuals, government agencies, and private organizations are invited to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning the project to the specified person or address indicated below.

Particularly solicited are comments on the draft EIR/EIS and the major issues identified below.

Federal agencies having jurisdiction by law, special expertise or other special interest should report their interests and indicate their readiness to aid in the final EIR/EIS effort.

DATES: *Effective date:* This notice shall be effective on March 16, 1998.

Comment due date: Written comments must arrive by May 1, 1998 at the address given below. We will consider all comments received in preparing the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

ADDRESSES: All interested agencies, groups and persons are invited to submit written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to the following contact person: Ronald J. Mauck, City of Porterville, Department of Community Development and Services, 291 North Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ronald J. Mauck (see address above), telephone (209) 782-7460.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A combined Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement has been completed and accepted for the proposed action described below. Comments on the Draft EIR/EIS are

requested and will be accepted by the contact person until May 1, 1998.

Title of Action: City of Porterville Section 108 Loan Guarantee Funded Infrastructure Project.

Description of Action: The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement examines the social, economic and environmental impacts on the City of Porterville and its environs from completion of the proposed action. Key objectives of the project include:

(1) Provision of new, and retention of existing, jobs through development of a variety of public infrastructure resulting in employment opportunities for low and moderate income persons; (2) rehabilitation of three central business district parking lots; and (3) provision of financial assistance in rehabilitating existing commercial structures or acquisition of sites for, and construction of new, commercial buildings.

The combined EIR/EIS analyzes potential environmental effects of five alternative projects. The alternative projects described here are illustrative of varying options for development, enabling an evaluation of the full range of impacts identified within the EIR/EIS alternative.

Alternative 1 would provide for extension of water and sewer trunk lines within Indiana Street and Teapot Dome Avenue connecting the existing City water and sewer infrastructure system with industrial designated lands along Tea Pot Dome Avenue and within the easterly sector of the Porterville Municipal Airport. Alternative 1 would also include development of a new highway interchange at the intersection of State Highway 65 and Teapot Dome Avenue. Approximately 280 acres of vacant and agricultural land currently designated by the City General Plan for future industrial development would ultimately be converted to urbanized use under Alternative 1.

Alternative 2 would provide for extension of water trunk lines within South Newcomb Street from River Avenue south across the Tule River to a point just south of the intersection of South Newcomb Street and State Highway 190. Alternative 2 would also provide for the construction of South Newcomb Street to arterial width from Heritage Avenue south across the Tule River, inclusive of construction of a bridge across the river, to a point just south of the intersection of South Newcomb Street and State Highway 190. Street improvements would include curb, gutter, sidewalk, and streetlights. Approximately 280 acres of vacant land currently designated by the City General Plan for low-density

residential uses would be ultimately converted to Industrial/Commercial Uses under Alternative 2.

Alternative 3 would provide for extension of sewer and water trunk lines from Indiana Street north of Gibbons Avenue to the intersection of Indiana Street and Scranton Avenue then west along Scranton Avenue across State Highway 65 to the intersection of Scranton Avenue and South Newcomb Street. Construction of State Highway on and off ramps at the intersection of State Highway 65 and Scranton Avenue would also be provided by Alternative 3. Approximately 300 acres of vacant land designated for highway commercial uses and 150 acres of primarily vacant land designated for industrial uses would ultimately be converted to urbanized uses under Alternative 3.

Alternative 4 (the Proposed Action) would provide for infrastructure improvements within two (2) distinctly separate locations. Alternative 4—Area No. 1 would provide for extension of water and sewer trunk lines in the vicinity of the Porterville Municipal Airport, improvement of Tea Pot Dome Avenue, and Newcomb and West Streets proximate to the Municipal Airport, improvements to the abandoned runway located at the Municipal Airport, and installation of master planned storm drain improvements in the vicinity of the municipal airport. Alternative 4—Area No. 2 would provide for extension of water trunk lines in the vicinity of South Jaye Street, State Highway 65 and Gibbons Avenue. South Jaye Street would be extended as an arterial width street from its southerly terminus to Gibbons Avenue. Alternative 4 would also accomplish installation of storm drain facilities in South Jaye Street and Gibbons Avenue. Under Alternative 4, approximately 380 acres of primarily vacant land designated for industrial uses would ultimately be converted to urbanized use.

Alternative 5 is the No Project alternative, consideration of which is required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under this alternative, the proposed infrastructure project would not occur precluding industrial/commercial development of any of the areas discussed in Alternatives 1–4.

Location: City of Porterville, Tulare County, California

Potential Environmental Impacts: Land use and planning; population and housing; water impacts; air quality impacts; transportation and circulation impacts; biological resource impacts; energy and mineral resource impacts;

hazards, noise impacts; demands on public services and utilities; aesthetic impacts; recreation impacts; and cumulative effects. Most of these impacts would be reduced to a level of insignificance following implementation of proposed mitigation measures.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement will be published on or about March 16, 1998 and will be on file at 291 North Main Street, Porterville, California 93257 and available for public inspection, or copies may be obtained at the same address, upon request.

Dated: March 11, 1998.

Richard H. Broun,

Director, Office of Community Viability.

[FR Doc. 98–6679 Filed 3–13–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit for the City of Austin for the Operation and Maintenance of Barton Springs Pool and Adjacent Springs

SUMMARY: The City of Austin has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The applicant has been assigned permit number PRT—839031. The requested permit, which is for a period of 15 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered Barton Springs salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*). The proposed take would occur as the result of the operation and maintenance of Barton Springs Pool and adjacent springs in Austin, Travis County, Texas.

The City of Austin has prepared an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take permit application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be made at least 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the application should be received on or before April 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Person wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Matthew Lechner, Ecological

Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490–0057). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8:00 to 4:30) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas.

Written data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, Austin, Texas, at the above address. Please refer to permit number PRT—839031 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Matthew Lechner at the above Austin Ecological Services Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the “taking” of endangered species such as the Barton Springs salamander. Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

Applicant

The City of Austin plans to maintain and operate Barton Springs Pool and the adjacent springs in Austin, Travis County, Texas. This action may cause the incidental take of less than 20 salamanders per year, for the 15-year term of the permit. The applicant proposes to minimize and mitigate for the incidental take of the Barton Springs salamander by placing 10 percent of the total revenues generated at Barton Springs Pool into a conservation fund. The fund would be used for enhancing habitat and for ecological and biological research on the Barton Springs salamander. In addition, mitigation measures are included in the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Don Ciccone,

Acting Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Receipt of Petition for Federal Acknowledgment of Existence as an Indian Tribe

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.