

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 52**

[CA 009-0090b; FRL-6142-4]

Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision; Ventura County Air Pollution Control District**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to approve revisions to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP) which concern rules from the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD). The intended effect of this proposed action is to remove rules from the SIP that are no longer in effect in VCAPCD, in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, as amended in 1990 (CAA or the Act). In the Rules section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the State's SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial action and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for this approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this rule. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will not take effect and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period on this rule. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by September 18, 1998.**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to: Andrew Steckel, Rulemaking Office (AIR-4), Air Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901.

Copies of the rules and EPA's evaluation report of each rule are available for public inspection at EPA's Region IX office during normal business hours. Copies of the submitted rescission requests are also available for inspection at the following locations:

Environmental Protection Agency, Air Docket (6102), 401 "M" Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

California Air Resources Board, Stationary Source Division, Rule Evaluation Section, 2020 "L" Street, Sacramento, CA 95812.

Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, 669 County Square Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mae Wang, Rulemaking Office (AIR-4), Air Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901, Telephone: (415) 744-1200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This document concerns the following rules from the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District: Rule 61, Effluent Oil Water Separators; Rule 65, Gasoline Specifications; and Rule 66, Organic Solvents. These rules were submitted to EPA for removal from the California State Implementation Plan. For further information, please see the information provided in the direct final action which is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: August 3, 1998.

David P. Howekamp,*Acting Regional Administrator, Region IX.*

[FR Doc. 98-22320 Filed 8-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 17****Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reopening of Comment Period on the Proposed Endangered Status of Keck's Checker-mallow****AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Proposed rule; notice of reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), provides notice of the reopening of the comment period for the proposed endangered status for Keck's checker-mallow (*Sidalcea keckii*). The comment period has been reopened in response to a request from the Bureau of Reclamation.

DATES: Comments from all interested parties must be received by October 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments, materials, data, and reports concerning this proposal should be sent to the Field Supervisor, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento, California 95821-6340. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during

normal business hours, at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Fuller or Jan Knight, at the address above (telephone 916/979-2120; facsimile 916/979-2128).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The San Joaquin Valley of California is a large, north-south oriented, alluvial valley that is mostly farmed or urbanized. The San Joaquin Valley, from Stockton in the north to Bakersfield in the south, is approximately 515 kilometers (km) (320 miles (mi)) long and 217 km (135 mi) wide. Tulare County, one of ten counties in the San Joaquin Valley, is located toward the southern end of the valley. A single population of *Sidalcea keckii* occurs toward the southern end of the valley, in south-central Tulare County.

Sidalcea keckii is a slender, hairy, erect annual herb belonging to the mallow family (Malvaceae). The species grows 1.5 to 3.3 decimeters (dm) (6 to 13 inches (in.)) tall. The lower leaf blades have 7 to 9 shallow lobes. The upper leaves have a tapered base with 2 to 5 notches in the upper lobes. A few deep pink flowers, 10 to 20 millimeters (mm) (0.4 to 0.8 in.) wide, appear in April through May. Seeds are smooth and pink-tinted. *Sidalcea keckii* closely resembles four other annual species of *Sidalcea*—*S. calycosa*, *S. diploscyha*, *S. hartwegii*, and *S. hirsuta*. *Sidalcea calycosa* and *S. diploscyha* have ranges that overlap with *S. keckii*. *Sidalcea keckii* can be variously separated from similar species by the number and size of flowers, the arrangement of stamens, the lengths of the bract and calyx, the presence of an aggregation of linear stipules and bracts surrounding the flower at maturity, the size and shape of the stem leaves, the density of hairs on the stems, and the presence of a purplish spot on the flower (Hickman 1993).

Wiggins (1940) described *Sidalcea keckii* from specimens collected in 1935 and 1938 near White River, Tulare County. *Sidalcea keckii* was known historically from three populations occurring between 120 to 425 meters (m) (400 to 1,400 feet (ft)) in elevation, but it has not been seen at two of these population sites for about 53 years. It was considered to be extinct until 1992, when the third, and only extant, population of *S. keckii* was discovered by consultants conducting a site inventory as part of the environmental compliance prior to construction of a subdivision (Woodward and Clyde Consultants, 1992). The population of *S.*

keckii occurs on 20 to 40 percent slopes of red or white-colored clay in sparsely-vegetated annual grasslands. The clays are thought to be derived from serpentine (magnesian or ultramafic) soils. The population covers an area measuring 30 m by 100 m (100 ft by 320 ft) and had a total of only 60 plants in 1992. It occurs on a privately-owned, 280 hectare (ha) (700 acre (ac)) parcel of land that is currently used for livestock grazing. *Sidalcea keckii* is threatened by urban development, agricultural land conversion (particularly to citrus orchards), and naturally occurring random events.

On July 28, 1997, the Service published a proposed rule to list *Sidalcea keckii* as endangered. Although the original comment period

was to close on September 26, 1997, the comment period was extended until November 10, 1997, to accommodate a request for a public hearing which was held in Visalia, California, on October 21, 1997. In a memo dated June 15, 1998, the Bureau of Reclamation requested that the comment period be reopened to allow the Service to consider new information regarding the distribution of *S. keckii*.

References Cited

- Hickman, J.C. (editor) 1993. The Jepson Manual-higher plants of California. University of California Press. Berkley, California. 1400 pp.
- Wiggins, I. 1940. A new species of *Sidalcea*. Contributions to the Dudley Herbarium 3:55-56.

Woodward and Clyde Consultants. 1992. Focused biological surveys for eight target species in Tulare County. Unpublished report, Appendix J-1.

Author. The primary author of this notice is Ken Fuller, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority

The authority of this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: August 10, 1998.

Michael J. Spear,

Manager, California and Nevada Operations Office.

[FR Doc. 98-22261 Filed 8-18-98; 8:45 am]

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