

The outcome of this planning process will be a CCP to guide refuge management for the next 15 years, and associated NEPA document.

It is estimated that a draft CCP and NEPA document will be made available for public review in spring 1999.

Dated: December 21, 1998.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 98-34499 Filed 12-29-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for an Incidental Take Permit for Construction and Operation of a Residential and Commercial Development on Approximately 471.5 Acres of the 714-Acre Balfour Tract, Austin, Travis County, Texas

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: BRE/Baldwin, L.P. (Applicant) 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 TE-003593-0. The requested permit, which is for a period of 30 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*). The proposed take would occur as a result of the construction and operation of a residential and commercial development on approximately 471.5 acres of the 714-acre Balfour Tract located in Austin, Travis County, Texas.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will not be made until 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 the National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the application should be received on or before January 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by

writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Sybil Vosler, Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0063). Documents will be available for public inspection by appointment only during normal business hours (8:00 to 4:30). Written data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Supervisor, Ecological Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Rd., Austin, Texas 78758. Please refer to permit number TE-003593-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sybil Vosler at the above Austin Ecological Service Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the golden-cheeked warbler. 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: BRE/Baldwin, L.P. plans to construct a residential and commercial development on the 714-acre tract and will preserve a minimum of 121 acres of golden-cheeked warbler habitat on-site. An additional 124 acres of golden-cheeked warbler habitat will be purchased and preserved off-site. The construction will be located at the Balfour Tract, located approximately 1-mile east of the City of Lakeland Park (across the Colorado River) and approximately 3 miles northeast of the Village of Bee Cave and roughly 11 miles west of the downtown City of Austin. The preserved areas will be maintained in their natural state and title or conservation easement granted in perpetuity and will be held by a non-profit conservation organization or governmental agency approved by the Service.

Alternatives to this action were considered; however, increased development would result in greater levels of take of golden-cheeked warblers, and selling or not developing the subject property with federally listed species present was not economically feasible.

Geoffrey L. Haskett,

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

[FR Doc. 98-34496 Filed 12-29-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Bureau of Land Management

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Federal Permits Associated With Construction and Operation of the High Desert Power Plant Project, Victorville, San Bernardino County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior (Lead Agency); Bureau of Land Management, Interior (Cooperating Agency).

ACTION: Notice of intent; announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service, with the Bureau of Land Management as a cooperator, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. This Impact Statement will consider the Federal actions associated with the High Desert Power Plant Project. Specifically, the Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to issue an Endangered Species Act permit to the High Desert Power, Limited Liability Company, and other project proponents for take of the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), a threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act, and for the future take, should it be needed, of the Mohave ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*) and the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a threatened species and a sensitive species, respectively, under the California Endangered Species Act. Take of these species would be incidental to the construction and operation of a natural gas power plant, electric lines, gas lines, and water lines associated with the High Desert Power Project. As part of the proposed action for the project, the Bureau of Land Management proposes to issue a right-of-way grant under Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to the Southwest Gas Corporation for the construction and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline through Federal lands designated as desert tortoise critical habitat and managed by the Bureau.

The purpose of scoping is to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the range of issues and alternatives to be considered in preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be made available to the public. This notice is provided pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for

implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22).

DATES: Oral and written comments will be accepted at public meetings to be held on January 28, 1999, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Written comments should be received on or before February 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District Office, Board Chambers (2nd floor), 15428 Civic Drive, Victorville, California. Comments should be addressed to Diane Noda, Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003. Written comments may be sent by facsimile to (805) 644-3958.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise Washick, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address (telephone 805-644-1766).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Project Description

The High Desert Power Plant Project is located on a 25-acre parcel in the northeast corner of the Southern California International Airport, formerly part of George Air Force Base, in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The project site is bordered by Perimeter Road on the east, Southern California International Airport taxiways to the west, abandoned bunkers adjacent to Phantom Street on the south, and existing evaporation ponds on the north. The project site is located in Section 24, Township 6 North, Range 5 West. The site has been previously graded and leveled.

The High Desert Power Project, Limited Liability Company (lead project proponent), and others propose to construct and operate a 680- to 830-megawatt natural gas-fueled electricity generation power plant on a 25-acre site located in the northeast corner of the Southern California International Airport. In addition to the power plant, an additional 24 acres, which is currently graded, will be used as a staging area. The project includes the construction of 7 water extraction wells within the Mojave River watershed. The linear facilities associated with the project include a 7-mile electrical transmission line; a 3.5-mile natural gas pipeline; and construction of 2 water pipelines with pipeline #1 measuring 2.5 miles and pipeline #2 measuring 6.5 miles. These linear facilities are all to be constructed within private lands.

As part of the project, the High Desert Power Project, Limited Liability

Company, proposes to prepare a habitat conservation plan to be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service as part of an application for an Endangered Species Act incidental take permit for the desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, and burrowing owl. The latter two species would be listed on the permit with a delayed effective date. Should these species be listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act in the future, the permit for incidental take would become effective concurrent with their listing.

Construction of a 32-mile natural gas pipeline through Federal lands designated as desert tortoise critical habitat and managed by the Bureau of Land Management are also part of the High Desert Power Plant Project. The Bureau proposes to issue a right-of-way permit under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to Southwest Gas Corporation for the construction and maintenance of this pipeline.

Supplemental Reports

The High Desert Power Project, Limited Liability Company, has prepared several reports required by the California Energy Commission, including an Application for Certification. The Commission is serving as the lead licensing and environmental review agency in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The Commission required preparation of a Draft Biological Resources Mitigation Implementation Plan and a Draft Erosion Control and Revegetation Plan for the High Desert Power Plant Project. These plans have been prepared for the project site and all linear facilities including the 32-mile natural gas pipeline which is also being permitted as part of the High Desert Power Plant Project. Copies of the reports may be requested by contacting Ms. Amy Cuellar at Resource Management International, Inc., 3100 Zinfandel Drive, Suite 600, P.O. Box 15516, Sacramento, California 95670-1516, or calling (916)-852-1300. Copies may also be reviewed at the following libraries:

California Energy Commission, Energy Library, 1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814; California State Library, Government Publication Section, 914 Capitol Mall, Room 400, Sacramento, California 95814; Fresno County Library, Central Headquarters, 2420 Mariposa Street, Fresno, California 93721; Humboldt Library, 421 "I" Street, Eureka, California 95501; Norman Feldheym Central Library, 555 West Sixth Street, San Bernardino, California 92415; San Bernardino

County Library, Adelanto Branch, 11744 Bartlett Avenue, Adelanto, California 92301; San Bernardino County Library, Victorville Branch, 15011 Circle Drive, Victorville, California 92392; San Diego Public Library, 920 E Street, San Diego, California 92101; San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, San Francisco, California 94102; UCLA, University Research Library, Public Affairs Service, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90024; California Depository Specialist, Acquisitions—Green Library, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305-6004.

Dated: December 15, 1998.

Elizabeth Stevens,

Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dated: December 14, 1998.

Tim Read,

Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Field Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the current list of tribal entities recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs by virtue of their status as Indian tribes. This notice is published pursuant to Section 104 of the Act of November 2, 1994 (Pub. L. 103-454; 108 Stat. 4791, 4792).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daisy West, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Tribal Government Services, MS-4631-MIB, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240. Telephone number: (202) 208-2475.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published in exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs under 25 U.S.C. 2 and 9 and 209 DM 8.

Published below are lists of federally acknowledged tribes in the contiguous 48 states and in Alaska. The list is updated from the last such list published in October 23, 1997 (62 FR 55270), to include name changes or corrections. There have been no new tribal entities added to the list. The listed entities are acknowledged to have the immunities and privileges available