

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 420(c), Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 5 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 420(c), Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); Fax: (703/358-2281).

Dated: December 5, 1995.

Caroline Anderson,
Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.
[FR Doc. 95-30023 Filed 12-8-95; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*):

Applicant: Richard Olsen, Santa Cruz, CA, PRT-809107.

The applicant requests a permit for the import of one male and three female Chinese Monals (*Lophophorus lhuysis*) bred in captivity at the Forestry Department of Sichuan Province aviary, Baoxing, China, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through propagation.

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Fairfax Drive, Room 420(c), Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); Fax: (703/358-2281).

Dated: December 1, 1995.

Caroline Anderson,
Acting Chief, Branch of Permits Office of Management Authority.
[FR Doc. 95-30024 Filed 12-08-95; 8:45 am]
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Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for Operations of ARCO Western Energy, Kern County, California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that ARCO Western Energy has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (Act). The application has been assigned permit number PRT-809228. The proposed permit would authorize the incidental take of the endangered San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia silus*), Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides*), giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*), San Joaquin woolly threads (*Lembertina congdonii*), Kern mallow (*Eremalche kernensis*) and the threatened Hoover's eriastrum (*Eriastrum hooveri*) and/or their habitat during the implementation of oil exploration activities. The permit will become effective for the following currently unlisted, covered species if they are listed under the Act: San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*), southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*), short-nosed kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratooides brevinasus*), San Joaquin LeConte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei macmillanorum*), western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*), slough thistle (*Cirsium crassicaule*) and the recurved larkspur (*Delphinium recurvatum*).

The Service also announces the availability of an environmental assessment (EA) for the incidental take permit application, which includes the proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP) fully describing the proposed project and mitigation, and the accompanying implementing agreement (IA). This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments,

including names and addresses, received will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application, EA and IA should be received on or before (January 10, 1996).

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the application or adequacy of the EA and IA should be addressed to Mr. Joel Medlin, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Field Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1823, Sacramento, California 95825. Please refer to permit number PRT-809228 when submitting comments. Individuals wishing copies of the application, EA or IA for review should immediately contact the above office (916-979-2725).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Horton or Ms. Jody Brown, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Field Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1823, Sacramento, California 95825 (916-979-2725).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents

Individuals wishing copies of the documents should immediately contact the Service's Sacramento Field Office at the above referenced address, or by telephone at (916) 979-2725. Documents will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

Background

Section 9 of the Act, and implementing regulations, prohibit the "taking" of a species listed as threatened or endangered. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take listed species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered and threatened species are promulgated at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32, respectively.

ARCO Western Energy proposes to conduct on-going oil production, operations and transportation activities on approximately 330 acres in Kern County, California. The age of the field makes routine maintenance, repair and sometimes replacement of active equipment necessary. In addition, ARCO Western Energy seeks coverage for operations and maintenance activities for pipeline, powerline, and emergency response activities outside of the Coles Levee oil field. Though the proposed project would remove 330 acres of suitable habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, giant

kangaroo rat, Kern mallow and Hoover's eriastrum, the HCP involves implementation of measures to minimize effects to the environment by utilizing previously disturbed lands for construction related activities to the greatest extent practicable, and designating Habitat Management Lands to compensate for the loss of natural lands. Compensation ratios for permanently disturbed habitat areas will be 3:1 (3 acres will be preserved for every 1 acre permanently disturbed); for areas considered to be temporarily disturbed, a ratio of 1.1:1 will be used (1.1 acres will be preserved for every 1 acre temporarily disturbed). In addition, direct harassment of any covered species will be avoided to the greatest extent practicable.

The EA considers the environmental consequences of four alternatives. The no project alternative would result in no immediate environmental impacts. However, state and Federal agencies regulating oil and gas activities would still require a variety of abandonment activities to occur over time; these activities may result in take of listed species. Thus, this alternative may place ARCO in violation of state and/or Federal regulations while denying ARCO Western Energy the opportunity to develop, recover and maintain potential oil resources. For these reasons, this alternative was rejected. Alternative 1, the proposed action, was selected because: (1) It best satisfies the needs and purpose of the proposed project; (2) it is likely to result in a relatively low level of incidental take; (3) impacts are mitigated through the establishment of the Coles Levee Ecosystem Preserve and the use of take reduction methods; (4) funding is available for the project as designed; and (5) high quality compensation habitat is present on the Coles Levee Ecosystem Preserve. It is anticipated that up to 330 acres of endangered species habitat may be impacted by implementation of this alternative. Alternative 2 involves the full development of the Coles Levee area for oil production. It is anticipated that up to 3,000 acres of endangered species habitat may be impacted by implementation of this alternative. This alternative was rejected because: (1) The level of incidental take would likely be greater than under the preferred alternative; (2) the additional level of mitigation funding is not economically feasible; (3) this intensity of development is not appropriate at this site based on oil reserves and extraction techniques. Alternative 3 involves the development of oil production facilities

on an alternative site. This alternative is severely constrained by the lack of facilities on-site, the costs of constructing alternative facilities, land purchase, and the likelihood of any other areas suitable for oil production in this portion of California having similar endangered species concerns. It is anticipated that up to 10,000 acres of endangered species habitat may be impacted by implementation of this alternative. For these reasons this alternative was rejected.

The Service considers implementation of the proposed HCP in connection with a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, to be an effective means to reconcile oil drilling activities with the section 9 listed species take prohibition and other conservation mandates under the Act.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The Service will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of NEPA regulations and section 10(a) of the Act. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the listed species. The final NEPA and permit determination will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: December 5, 1995.

Thomas Dwyer,

Deputy Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 95-30058 Filed 12-8-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

National Park Service

Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore Advisory Commission Notice of Public Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and Point Reyes National Seashore Advisory Commission will be held at 7:30 p.m. (PST) on Wednesday, January 24, 1996 at GGNRA Park Headquarters, Building 201, Fort Mason, Bay and Franklin Streets, San Francisco, California to hear presentations on issues related to management of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore. This meeting was previously scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 1995, but due to the federal shutdown affecting

national parks that week, the meeting was rescheduled.

The Advisory Commission was established by Public Law 92-589 to provide for the free exchange of ideas between the National Park Service and the public and to facilitate the solicitation of advice or other counsel from members of the public on problems pertinent to the National Park Service systems in Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. Members of the Commission are as follows:

Mr. Richard Bartke, Chairman
 Ms. Amy Meyer, Vice Chair
 Ms. Naomi T. Gray
 Dr. Howard Cogswell
 Mr. Michael Alexander
 Mr. Jerry Friedman
 Ms. Lennie Roberts
 Ms. Yvonne Lee
 Ms. Sonia Bolaos
 Mr. Trent Orr
 Mr. Redmond Kernan
 Ms. Jacqueline Young
 Mr. Merritt Robinson
 Mr. R. H. Sciaroni
 Mr. John J. Spring
 Dr. Edgar Wayburn
 Mr. Joseph Williams
 Mr. Mel Lane

The main agenda item at this meeting will be a presentation of a GGNRA Staff Report on the Golden Gate Bridge Seismic Upgrade Project. A public hearing on this project was held on Wednesday, December 13, 1995 at the Board of Supervisors and Planning Chambers, Marin County Civic Center, San Rafael, California. An overview of the Golden Gate Bridge District Seismic Retrofit Project was presented to this Advisory Commission on August 16, 1995 by Merv Giacomini, District Engineer, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District. The major impacts to the park are anticipated to be on lands directly under the bridge, at Fort Point National Monument (requiring the Fort to close for several days a week during the one-year construction period), the Fort Scott area of the Presidio (which will be a staging area for construction work), and the north end of the bridge. Following approval of the Staff Report and approval of a Negative Declaration by the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District board, and a Finding of No Significant Impact by the Federal Highway Administration and the National Park Service, a permit for construction activities on GGNRA land will be issued by the National Park Service incorporating agreed upon mitigation.

Also on the agenda at this meeting will be briefings on the status of a park