

northern California and the Colorado River.

Extensive evaluations have been conducted over the past seven years to define and determine the feasibility of a reclamation project. A study was performed by OCWD to evaluate the water supply alternatives to meet the future needs of Orange County Water District's customers. The OCR Project was identified to be one of the most reliable and cost effective project alternatives to providing a new local water supply to Orange County. The project is proposed to be implemented in three phases. Phase I is proposed to be implemented by the year 2003 and would supply 50,000 acre-feet per year (afy) (one afy is enough water to supply two families of four for an entire year). Phases II and III would supply an additional 25,000 afy by the years 2010 and 2020 respectively, or sooner if required.

An EIS will be prepared and a full environmental analysis will be completed to address any significant impacts the project may have on the surrounding environment. The draft EIS is expected to be completed and available for review and comment by April, 1998.

The present investigation began in 1994. Since that time, OCWD and CSDOC have held public meetings to discuss study progress with interested individuals and affected agencies. Additional public meetings will be scheduled to encourage public and agency involvement in the study and the environmental analysis.

Dated: October 21, 1997.

**John A. Johnson,**

*Deputy Director, Resource Management Office.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Ecosystem Roundtable Meeting

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Ecosystem Roundtable (a subcommittee of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council) (BDAC) will meet in November to discuss the following issues: an update on restoration coordination and the CVPIA FY 98 annual workplans. The Ecosystem Roundtable will also meet in December to discuss the following issues: the planning and decision making process for the 1998 funding cycle. Interested persons may make oral

statements to the Ecosystem Roundtable or may file written statements for consideration.

**DATES:** The Ecosystem Roundtable will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, November 14, and 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 4, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The Ecosystem Roundtable will meet in Room 1412, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA for the November meeting and Room 1131, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA for the December meeting.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** For the Ecosystem Roundtable meeting contact Kate Hansel, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, at (916) 657-2666. If reasonable accommodation is needed due to a disability, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Office at (916) 653-6952 or TDD (916) 653-6934 at least one week prior to the meeting.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta system) is a critically important part of California's natural environment and economy. In recognition of the serious problems facing the region and the complex resource management decisions that must be made, the state of California and the Federal government are working together to stabilize, protect, restore, and enhance the Bay-Delta system. The State and Federal agencies with management and regulatory responsibilities in the Bay-Delta system are working together as CALFED to provide policy direction and oversight for the process.

One area of Bay-Delta management includes the establishment of a joint State-Federal process to develop long-term solutions to problems in the Bay-Delta system related to fish and wildlife, water supply reliability, natural disasters, and water quality. The intent is to develop a comprehensive and balanced plan which addresses all of the resource problems. This effort, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program), is being carried out under the policy direction of CALFED. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is exploring and developing a long-term solution for a cooperative planning process that will determine the most appropriate strategy and actions necessary to improve water quality, restore health to the Bay-Delta ecosystem, provide for a variety of beneficial uses, and minimize Bay-Delta system vulnerability. A group of citizen advisors representing California's agricultural, environmental, urban, business, fishing, and other interests who have a stake in finding long term

solutions for the problems affecting the Bay-Delta system has been chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) as the BDAC to advise CALFED on the program mission, problems to be addressed, and objectives for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. BDAC provides a forum to help ensure public participation, and will review reports and other materials prepared by CALFED staff. BDAC has established a subcommittee called the Ecosystem Roundtable to provide input on annual work plans to implement ecosystem restoration projects and programs.

Minutes of the meetings will be maintained by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Suite 1155, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday within 30 days following the meeting.

Dated: October 29, 1997.

**Roger Patterson,**

*Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

#### Request for Determination of Valid Existing Rights Within the Monongahela National Forest

**AGENCY:** Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for determination of valid existing rights, reopening and extension of the comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is in the process of determining whether Mr. Walter D. Helmick has valid existing rights (VER) to surface mine coal on Federal lands within the Monongahela National Forest in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. By this notice, OSM is reopening and extending the comment period during which interested persons may submit relevant factual material on the matter. **DATES:** OSM will accept written materials on this request for a VER determination until 5 p.m. local time on November 12, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Hand deliver or mail written materials to: Peter R. Michael, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center, room 218, Three Parkway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15200.