

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

43 CFR Part 414

Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Rule and Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Offstream Storage of Colorado River Water and Interstate Redemption of Storage Credits in the Lower Division States

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) published a notice of proposed rulemaking on December 31, 1997 (62 FR 68491), which included the text of a proposed rule titled, "Offstream Storage of Colorado River Water and Interstate Redemption of Storage Credits in the Lower Division States." Reclamation also published a notice of availability of a draft programmatic environmental assessment on December 31, 1997 (62 FR 68465). The notice of proposed rulemaking stated that Reclamation would hold public hearings upon request made no later

than 4 p.m. Pacific time on January 30, 1998. In response to that notice, Reclamation received one request for a public hearing in Ontario, California and has scheduled a public hearing.

DATES: The public hearing will be held on February 23, 1998, at 1 p.m., Ontario, California.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Ontario, 222 North Vineyard, Ontario, California. Address comments/requests to testify to Mr. Dale Ensminger, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any person wishing to testify at this public hearing can also contact Mr. Dale Ensminger at telephone (702) 293-8659 or fax (702) 293-8402.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The hearing will commence at 1 p.m. and will continue until all persons wishing to testify have had an opportunity to do so. In order to allow an opportunity to everyone who wishes to testify, initial oral statements will be limited to 10 minutes. After all persons wishing to testify have had a chance to be heard, Reclamation will consider allowing additional time to those who request it.

In order to assist the transcriber and to ensure an accurate record, Reclamation requests that each person who testifies at the hearing give the transcriber a copy of that oral testimony.

Any person, whether or not that individual attends the public hearing or submits oral testimony at the hearing, may submit written comments on the proposed rule and the draft programmatic environmental assessment. There is no limit to the length of written comments. However, written comments should be specific, confined to the issues pertinent to the proposed rule or the draft programmatic environmental assessment, and should explain the reason for any recommended change. Reclamation will accept written comments through March 2, 1998, in accordance with the criteria set forth in the notice of proposed rulemaking published in the **Federal Register** on December 31, 1997 (62 FR 68491).

Dated: February 11, 1998.

John E. Redlinger,

Deputy Area Manager, Boulder Canyon Operations Office.

[FR Doc. 98-3979 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-94-P