

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

[Docket No. 301-117]

**Initiation of Section 301 Investigation
and Request for Public Comment:
Intellectual Property Laws and
Practices of the Government of
Paraguay**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of initiation of investigation; request for written comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has initiated a Section 301 investigation with respect to certain acts, policies and practices of the Government of Paraguay that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights. USTR invites written comments from the public on the matters being investigated.

DATES: This investigation was initiated on Tuesday, February 17, 1998. Written comments from the public are due on or before noon on Monday, March 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Claude Burcky, Director for Intellectual Property, (202) 395-6864; Kellie Meiman, Director for Southern Cone Affairs, (202) 395-5190; or GERALYN S. Ritter, Assistant General Counsel, (202) 395-6800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 182 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2242) requires the USTR to identify foreign countries that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights or that deny fair and equitable market access to persons that rely on intellectual property protection. Accordingly, on January 16, 1998, the USTR identified Paraguay as a Priority Foreign Country under that provision. In identifying Paraguay as a Priority Foreign Country, the USTR noted deficiencies in Paraguay's acts, policies and practices regarding intellectual property, including a lack of effective action to enforce intellectual property rights, as evidenced by the alarming levels of piracy and counterfeiting within the country and along its borders with Argentina and Brazil. The USTR also observed that the Government of Paraguay has failed to enact adequate and effective intellectual property legislation covering patents, copyrights and trademarks.

Investigation and Consultations

Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2412(b)(2)(A)), requires the USTR to initiate an investigation of any act, policy or practice that was the basis of the identification of a country as a Priority Foreign Country under section 182(a)(2) of the Trade Act, unless such acts, policies and practices are already subject to investigation or action under the Section 301 chapter of the Trade Act, or the investigation is not in the national economic interest. The purpose of the investigation initiated under Section 302 is to determine whether such act, policy or practice is actionable under Section 301 of the Trade Act.

As required by Section 303(a) of the Trade Act, the USTR has requested consultations with the Government of Paraguay regarding the issues under investigation. USTR will seek information and advice from appropriate representatives provided for under Section 135 of the Trade Act in preparing the U.S. presentations for such consultations.

Within 6 months after the date on which this investigation was initiated, (i.e., on or before August 16, 1998), pursuant to Section 304 of the Trade Act, the USTR must determine on the basis of the investigation and the consultations, whether any act, policy or practice described in Section 301 of the Trade Act exists. If that determination is affirmative, the USTR must decide what action, if any, to take under Section 301 of the Trade Act. The deadline for making these determinations may, however, be extended to 9 months after the date of initiation of this investigation if the USTR determines that certain conditions are met.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the acts, policies and practices of the Government of Paraguay which are the subject of this investigation; the amount of burden or restriction on U.S. commerce caused by these acts, policies and practices; and the determinations required under Section 304 of the Trade Act regarding whether they are actionable under Section 301 and, if affirmative, the appropriate action to take in response. Comments must be filed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 15 CFR 2006.8(b) (55 FR 20,593) and must be filed on or before noon on Monday, March 23, 1998. Comments must be in English and provided in twenty copies to: Sybia Harrison, Staff Assistant to the

Section 301 Committee, Room 416, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20508.

Comments will be placed in a file (Docket 301-117) open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2006.13, except confidential business information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15. Confidential business information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page on each of 20 copies, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. The nonconfidential summary shall be placed in the file that is open to public inspection. An appointment to review the docket (Docket No. 301-117) may be made by calling Brenda Webb (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is located in Room 101.

Irving A. Williamson,

Chairman, Section 301 Committee.

[FR Doc. 98-4680 Filed 2-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

**Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping
Requirements Agency Information
Collection Activity Under OMB Review**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for extension of a currently approved collection. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on December 2, 1997 (62 FR, 63745).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 30, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Weaver, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590. Telephone 202-366-2811.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Maritime Administration

Title: Port Facility Conveyance Information.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0524.

Affected Public: Eligible port entities.

Abstract: Public Law 103-160 authorizes the Department of Transportation to convey to public entities surplus Federal property needed for development or operation of a port facility. The information collection will allow the Maritime Administration to approve the conveyance of property and administer the port facility conveyance program.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collection is necessary for MARAD to determine whether (1) the community is committed to the redevelopment/reuse plan, (2) the redevelopment/reuse plan is viable and is in the best interest of the public, and (3) the property is being used in accordance with the terms of the conveyance and applicable statutes and regulations.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 2200 hours.

Estimated Annual Responses: 20 responses.

Address: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention DOT Desk Officer. Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 18, 1998.

Vanester M. Williams,

Clearance Officer, United States Department of Transportation.

[FR Doc. 98-4586 Filed 2-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Aviation Proceedings, Agreements Filed During the Ending February 13, 1998**

The following Agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation under the provisions of 49 U.S.C 412 and 414. Answers may be filed within 21 days of date of filing.

Docket Number: OST-1998-3482.

Date Filed: February 13, 1998.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC12 NMS-AFR 0036 dated February 3, 1998 r1-10; PTC12 NMS-AFR 0037 dated February 3, 1998 r11-25; Minutes-PTC12 NMS-AFR 0038 dated Feb. 10, 1998; Tables-PTC12 NMS-AFR Fares 0018 dated February 6, 1998; PTC12-PTC12 NMS-AFR Fares 0019 dated February 6, 1998

Intended effective date: May 1, 1998.

Paulette V. Twine,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 98-4629 Filed 2-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement: Los Angeles County, California**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Los Angeles County, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: C. Glenn Clinton, Chief, District Operations—South, Federal Highway Administration, 980-9th Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814-2724 Telephone: (916) 498-5037.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation and the City of Santa Clarita, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct the extension of Magic Mountain Parkway (State Route 126) from west of San Fernando Road to Via Princessa (2.5 miles) and to construct the extension of Via Princessa from Magic Mountain Parkway to Rainbow Glen Drive (1.7 miles). The proposed project includes constructing a 120-foot wide roadway, an interchange on Magic Mountain Parkway with San Fernando Road including a structure over the Los

Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Railroad, and widening the existing bridge over the South Fork of the Santa Clara River.

The new roadway will be approximately 4.5 miles in length. These improvements are intended to serve as a major east-west corridor to accommodate the substantial increases in traffic volumes associated with several large existing and planned developments in the area.

Alternatives under consideration include (1) Taking no action; (2) constructing an interchange and a six-lane, uncontrolled access arterial on new location; and (3) alignment variations as appropriate to minimize environmental effects of the project. Within the limits of the study area for this project, various environmental resources and issues are known to exist and include but are not limited to: cultural resources, wetlands, floodway and floodplain, wildlife habitat, growth inducement, economic, business relocation, noise, changes to vehicle traffic patterns, regional air quality, seismic exposure, land use planning, hazardous waste, and irrigation/drain systems.

Per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Notice of Preparation on an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this project was published on February 12, 1997, and a 45-day public comment period followed from February 12, 1997, to March 31, 1997, including a Public Scoping Meeting held on March 5, 1997. In addition to the comment period and scoping meeting, three public meetings were conducted by the City of Santa Clarita in November 1996. The public and review agencies have had the opportunity to comment on the scope and content of the project. Thus, this Notice serves as additional public notification of the preparation of an EIS. The public and agencies will have further opportunity to comment on the project when the draft EIS has been completed.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. At least one public meeting will be held in the City of Santa Clarita to solicit input from the local citizens on alternatives. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public Notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.