

93.306; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: September 8, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98-24654 Filed 9-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4349-N-36]

Submission for OMB Review: Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: *Comments due date.* October 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments must be received within thirty (30) days from the date of this Notice. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or

OMB approval number and should be sent to: Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., OMB Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wayne Eddins, Reports Management Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, Southwest, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708-1305. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of the proposed forms and other available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Eddins.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department has submitted the proposal for the collection of information, as described below, to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

The Notice lists the following information: (1) the title of the information collection proposal; (2) the office of the agency to collect the information; (3) the OMB approval number, if applicable; (4) the description of the need for the information and its proposed use; (5) the agency form number, if applicable; (6) what members of the public will be affected by the proposal; (7) how frequently information submissions will be required; (8) an estimate of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information submission including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response; (9)

whether the proposal is new, an extension, reinstatement, or revision of an information collection requirement; and (10) the names and telephone numbers of an agency official familiar with the proposal and of the OMB Desk Officer for the Department.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 35, as amended.

Dated: September 8, 1998.

David S. Cristy,

Director, IRM Policy and Management Division.

Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB

Title of Proposal: Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Office: Government National Mortgage Association.

OMB Approval Number: 2503-0031.

Description of the Need for the Information and Its Proposed Use: The purpose of this information collection will be to evaluate existing Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) services and programs. The survey results will help Ginnie Mae evaluate, develop and modify customer service standards.

Form Number: 11773.

Respondents: Federal Government and Business or Other-For-Profit.

Frequency of Submission: On Occasion.

Reporting Burden:

	Number of respondents	×	Frequency of response	×	Hours per response	=	Burden hours
Survey	520		1		.25		130

Total Estimated Burden hours: 130.
Status: Reinstatement without changes.

Contact: Sonya Suarez, HUD, (202) 708-2772 x4772; Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., OMB, (202) 395-7316.

[FR Doc. 98-24661 Filed 9-14-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for two Pacific Gas and Electric Company Projects, Santa Clara County, California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and receipt of application.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Gas and Electric Company has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The Service proposes to issue a 3-year permit to Pacific Gas and Electric that would authorize the take of the bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*), federally listed as threatened, and modification of its habitat incidental to otherwise lawful activities. Such take would occur during the rewiring of the Metcalf-Edenvale 115-kilovolt transmission line and the installation of the 4th circuit on the Metcalf-Monta Vista 230-kilovolt line in Santa Clara County, California.

We request comments from the public on the permit application, which is available for review. The application

includes a Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan). The Plan describes the proposed project and the measures that the Pacific Gas and Electric Company would undertake to minimize and mitigate project impacts to the bay checkerspot butterfly.

We also request comments on our preliminary determination that the Plan qualifies as a "low-effect" Habitat Conservation Plan, eligible for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act. We explain the basis for this determination in an Environmental Action Statement, available for public review.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before October 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Mr. Wayne White, Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento,

California 95821-6340. Comments may be sent by facsimile to (916) 979-2744.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Lori Rinek or Mr. William Lehman, Fish and Wildlife Biologists, at the above address or telephone (916) 979-2129.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

Please contact the above Fish and Wildlife Service office if you would like copies of the application, Plan, and Environmental Action Statement. Documents also will be available for review by appointment, during normal business hours, at the above address.

Background

Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act and Federal regulation prohibit the take of wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened, respectively. Under the Act, the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect listed wildlife, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The Service may, under limited circumstances, issue permits to authorize incidental take; i.e., take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing permits for threatened and endangered species are found in 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22.

To meet the electrical needs of customers in the rapidly growing Silicon Valley area of northern California (Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Cupertino, San Jose, and Fremont), the Pacific Gas and Electric Company plans to make changes to the existing Metcalf-Edenvale 115-kilovolt power lines and the existing Metcalf-Monta Vista 230-kilovolt transmission lines. The changes to the Metcalf-Edenvale line involve replacing the existing 6 wires with 12 wires along approximately 4.9 miles of transmission line, and installing fiber optic cables. The changes to the Metcalf-Monta Vista transmission line involve installation of a 4th circuit that would affect the first 7 miles of this 28-mile-long line.

In May 1998, biologists surveyed the proposed project areas for potential habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered species and other biological features that could be affected by the projects. Based upon the surveys, the Service concluded that only one federally listed species, the threatened bay checkerspot butterfly, has the potential to be impacted by the proposed project.

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company has agreed to implement the following measures to minimize and mitigate impacts that may result from incidental take of the bay checkerspot butterfly: (1) conduct construction activities during time periods when take of the bay checkerspot butterfly is less likely to occur; (2) ensure that a qualified biologist is present to monitor and oversee technical issues relative to compliance with the mitigation and conservation measures for each project; (3) restrict work activities to a 50-foot radius area from the center of most towers; (4) ensure that photographs are taken to document serpentine habitat conditions immediately prior to the start of work and also to document post-project conditions; (5) ensure that a revegetation plan is prepared and implemented if the bay checkerspot habitat has not reverted to its native cover state in the impact areas post-construction; (6) ensure that contingencies are put in place if unanticipated early rains occur prior to the completion of the projects; (7) ensure that construction equipment disturbance will be minimized; (8) ensure construction personnel receive worker awareness training; (9) ensure that measures are taken to prevent accidental wildfires; and (10) contribute to a fund managed by the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society for conservation of the bay checkerspot butterfly.

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Plan qualifies as a "low-effect" habitat conservation plan as defined by our Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook (November 1996). Low-effect plans are those involving: (1) minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats; and (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources. The Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Plan qualifies as a "low-effect" plan for the following reasons:

1. Approval of the Plan would result in minor or negligible effects on the bay checkerspot butterfly and its habitat. The Service does not anticipate significant direct or cumulative effects to the bay checkerspot butterfly resulting from rewiring of the lines or addition of a 4th circuit. Less than 6 acres of butterfly habitat will be temporarily disturbed, and only 0.002 acres will be permanently disturbed by the proposed action.

2. Approval of the Plan would not have adverse effects on unique

geographic, historic or cultural sites, or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

3. Approval of the Plan would not result in any cumulative or growth inducing impacts and, therefore, would not result in significant adverse effects on public health or safety.

4. The project does not require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, nor does it threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

5. Approval of the Plan would not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

The Service therefore has preliminarily determined that approval of the Plan qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act, as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1). Based upon this preliminary determination, we do not intend to prepare further National Environmental Policy Act documentation. The Service will consider public comments in making its final determination on whether to prepare such additional documentation.

The Service provides this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act. We will evaluate the permit application, the Plan, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10 (a) of the Act. If the requirements are met, the Service will issue a permit to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company for the incidental take of the bay checkerspot butterfly during the rewiring of the Metcalf-Edenvale 115-kilovolt transmission line and during installation of the 4th circuit on the Metcalf-Monta Vista 230-kilovolt line. We will make the final permit decision no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: September 9, 1998.

Vicki M. Finn,

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

[FR Doc. 98-24659 Filed 9-14-98; 8:45 am]

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