

Historical and Archeological Resources

A record search was conducted by the South Coast Information Center on February 24, 1997, at the request of the permittee. This search revealed that a portion of the project area had been previously inventoried, and that no cultural resources had been identified.

On June 9, 1998, a cultural resources and paleontological survey with limited subsurface testing was conducted at the border crossing site. The primary purpose of the survey and subsurface testing was to determine whether cultural and paleontological resources exist in the ground disturbance portion of the project area that could be adversely affected by the placement of the pole and associated buried fiber optic cable. The entire area subject to surface disturbance, as well as a buffer area, was examined for the presence of both prehistoric and historic archaeological resources, and paleontological resources. A total of eight 12-centimeter-diameter auger test holes were excavated. No archaeological, historic or paleontological resources have been identified at the border crossing site.

During the June 1998 survey, a spot check was made at a utility pole at the southeast corner of Willow Road and Camino de la Plaza where a small excavation immediately adjacent to the pole is proposed. No evidence of cultural or paleontological resources was observed at this location. No historical resources are located along the proposed fiber optic cable line alignment.

Noise

The border crossing site is located within open space land that is used by the Border Patrol for control of illegal immigration. It is disturbed land with no structures. Like air quality pollutants, land uses considered to be sensitive receptors relative to noise typically include health-related facilities, child-care facilities and facilities where occupants may have limited mobility and/or long-term exposure to emissions. Such uses typically include long-term health-care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, retirement homes, residences, schools and playgrounds. There are no sensitive noise receptors present in the vicinity of the border crossing site on the U.S. side of the international border.

The nearest sensitive receptors relative to noise include Willow School located at 226 Willow Road, the South Bay Head Start facility located at 253 Willow Road, numerous residences

along streets traversed by the existing overhead transmission lines and underground transmission facilities, and the Cesar Chavez Community Center-San Ysidro at Larsen Field, located approximately 0.1 miles west of the alignment at 455 Sycamore Road. Temporary, unavoidable, local, construction-related, less-than-significant impacts are expected for noise.

Environmental Justice

The border crossing site is located on vacant land. No businesses or residences exist on or near the site on the U.S. side of the border. The population of Census Tract 100.09, which contains all of the border crossing site and the majority of the proposed fiber optic cable line alignment, was 4,584 as of January 1, 1998. According to a population estimate of the census tract by ethnicity, the population of the census tract is 87.8% of Hispanic origin, 5.6% White, 5.4% Black and 1.2% Asian/Other.

The median household income for the census tract was \$14,495 as of January 1, 1998. The largest percentage of households (30.0%) consisted of those in the \$10,000-\$14,999 income range, while 1.5% of households earned \$50,000-\$74,999 and none earned over \$75,000.

The population of the City of San Diego as a whole was 1,224,848 as of January 1, 1998. According to a population estimate by ethnicity, the population of San Diego is 24.3% of Hispanic origin, 54.7% White, 8.7% Black and 13.2% Asian/Other.

The median household income for the City was \$40,974 as of January 1, 1998. The largest percentage of households (19.8%) consisted of those in the \$50,000-\$74,999 income range, while 6.1% of households earned \$10,000-\$14,999 and 8.2% earned under \$10,000.

The general make-up of the population of the census tract containing the border crossing site is low-income and of Hispanic origin. No disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impacts on minority populations, low-income populations, or Native American Indian tribes are likely to result from construction or operation of the proposed fiber optic project.

Cumulative Impacts

Construction and operation of the proposed fiber optic cable project will not result in significant cumulative impacts. The proposed project would have no adverse impact on land use, recreation, biological resources, cultural

resources, geotechnical hazards or environmental justice. Temporary, unavoidable, local, construction-related, less-than-significant impacts are expected for air quality, traffic and socioeconomics (temporary partial disruption of access to local businesses). Temporary, unavoidable, local, construction-related, potentially significant impacts have been identified for noise, but these can be reduced to a level that is less-than-significant through successful application of the recommended mitigation measures. Mitigation is also recommended for air quality to further reduce the level of impact.

Conclusion

On the basis of the Environmental Assessment, the Department's independent review of that Assessment, information developed during the review of the application and Environmental Assessment, and comments received, it appears that none of the alignment alternatives (i.e. alternatives 1-4, described above) would have a significant impact on the human environment within the United States. Accordingly, a Finding of No Significant Impact ("FONSI") is adopted and an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Dated: September 14, 1999.

David E. Randolph,

*Coordinator, U.S.-Mexico Border Affairs,
Office of Mexican Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 99-24579 Filed 9-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-29-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 3125]

Office of Mexican Affairs; Notice of Issuance of a Presidential Permit to Cox Communications, Incorporated To Construct, Operate and Maintain an International Underground Tunnel at the International Boundary Between the United States and Mexico

AGENCY: Department of State.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of State has issued a Presidential Permit to Cox Communications, Incorporated to construct, operate and maintain an international underground tunnel at the international boundary between the United States and Mexico. The permit was issued August 31, 1999, pursuant to Executive Order 11423 of August 16, 1968, as amended by Executive Order 12847 of May 17, 1993.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Presidential Permit may be obtained from Mr. David

E. Randolph, Coordinator, U.S.-Mexico Border Affairs, Office of Mexican Affairs, Room 4258, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520, telephone (202) 647-8529.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of the application by Cox Communications, Incorporated to construct, operate and maintain an international underground tunnel at the international boundary between the United States and Mexico between San Diego, California and Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico was published in the **Federal Register** on November 13, 1998 at 63 FR 63520.

The tunnel will measure eight inches in diameter, 130 feet in length and be dug at a depth of ten feet. It will carry fiber optic cables.

The application for the Presidential Permit was reviewed and approved by numerous federal, state and local agencies. The final application and environmental assessment, which resulted in a finding by the Department of State of no significant impact ("FONSI") on the human environment, were reviewed and approved or accepted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, General Services Administration, Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Highway Administration, Food and Drug Administration, International Boundary and Water Commission—U.S. Section, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of State and the California Department of Transportation.

Dated: August 31, 1999.

David E. Randolph,

*Coordinator, U.S.-Mexico Border Affairs,
Office of Mexican Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 99-24580 Filed 9-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-29-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Inspector General

[Public Notice 3123]

State Department Performance Review Board Members (Office of Inspector General)

In accordance with section 4314(c)(4) of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-454), the Office of Inspector General of the Department of State has appointed the following individuals to its Performance Review Board register.

Lloyd W. Pratsch, Procurement Executive, Bureau of Administration, Department of State
Dennis Duquette, Deputy Inspector General for Management and Policy, Department of Health and Human Services

John Canaan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Department of Defense

Dated: September 13, 1999.

Jacquelyn L. Williams-Bridgers,

Inspector General.

[FR Doc. 99-24526 Filed 9-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-42-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33466]

Borough of Riverdale—Petition for Declaratory Order—The New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway Corporation

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of opening of declaratory order proceeding.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board has issued a decision in a case involving the Borough of Riverdale, NJ and The New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway Corporation instituting a declaratory order proceeding to address preemption issues. To provide guidance, the decision also summarizes various decisions concerning the reach of the express preemption in 49 U.S.C. 10501(b).

DATES: The New York Susquehanna and Western Railway Corporation and the Borough of Riverdale should file respective opening statements addressing the preemption issues by November 9, 1999. Other interested persons may file comments by December 9, 1999. The New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway Corporation and the Borough of Riverdale may file replies by December 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send an original plus 10 copies of any comments, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33466, to the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Evelyn Kitay at (202) 565-1563 [TDD for the hearing impaired (202) 565-1695.]

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To obtain a

copy of the decision, contact D.C. News & Data, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423, phone (202) 289-4357 or visit the Board's website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV".

Decided: September 10, 1999.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Clyburn, and Commissioner Burkes.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-24576 Filed 9-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Edouard Manet: The Still-Life Paintings"

AGENCY: United States Information Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985, 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978 (43 FR 13359, March 29, 1978), and Delegation Order No. 85-5 of June 27, 1985 (50 FR 27393, July 2, 1985), I hereby determine that the "Bouquet of Lilacs in a Vase," to be included in the exhibit "Edouard Manet: The Still-Life Paintings," imported from abroad for the temporary exhibition without profit within the United States, is of cultural significance. The object is imported pursuant to a loan agreement with a foreign lender. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the object at the Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland, from on or about January 21, 2001, to on or about July 29, 2001, and at a subsequent venue or venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public notice of these determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, contact Ms. Lorie Nierenberg, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, 202/619-6084. The address is Room 700, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547-0001.

Dated: September 13, 1999.

Les Jin,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 99-24489 Filed 9-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M