

requested and will be accepted by the contact person until December 3, 1999.

Title of Action: Monterey Park Towne Plaza Section 108 Loan Guarantee/Economic Development Initiative Grant (EDI) Project.

Description of Proposed Action: The City of Monterey Park, acting on behalf of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, has prepared a Draft EIR/EIS to analyze potential impacts of developing a triangular-shaped, 47.1-acre piece of property, located in the southeast portion of the City of Monterey Park immediately north of the Pomona Freeway (State Route 60) and west of Paramount Boulevard. The proposed project would consist of a 515,382-square foot retail center including a home improvement store with a garden center, three restaurants, and various other retail uses. The project site includes a net 0.1-acre land dedication to Caltrans that results from an approximately 1-acre land trade. The proposed project would also include roughly 4.4-acres of Southern California Edison property to the northwest and east of the site to be used for surface parking and an access road. The new access road would require realignment of the intersection of Paramount Boulevard/Neil Armstrong Street. An existing berm located along the southern boundary of the site would also be leveled.

Approximately 10 acres of the western portion of the site contain a historic landfill ("North Parcel Landfill"), that received municipal solid waste between 1948 and 1975. Due to the past landfill operations, the project site is currently designated as a Superfund site. A leachate treatment plant (LTP) is also located on the site and currently processes collected groundwater (leachate) from a landfill located just south of the Pomona Freeway ("South Parcel Landfill"), which stopped accepting waste in 1984. The LTP will continue to operate on-site in this capacity following the closure of the South Parcel Landfill in the year 2000. The North Parcel Landfill is currently being remediated based upon guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Other businesses that currently occupy the site include Ecology Auto Wrecking, Aman Brothers Pavement Crushing, Manhole Adjustment Inc., and Recycled Wood Products. Other than the LTP, all of the tenants will vacate the project site prior to development of the site.

The Draft EIR/EIS analyzes potential environmental effects of three alternative projects. The alternative projects described here are illustrative

of varying options for development, enabling an evaluation of the full range of impacts identified within the EIR/EIS alternative.

The No Action Alternative would not implement the proposed Monterey Park Towne Plaza Project, and the environmental effects from implementation of the Proposed Action or the other alternatives would not occur. The existing on-site tenants would remain on the project site and the LTP would continue to treat leachate from the South Parcel Landfill.

Under the Reduced Density Alternative, all land uses associated with the Proposed Action would be reduced by 25 percent. As such, this alternative would involve approximately 386,538 square feet of commercial retail development. The site plan for the Reduced Density Alternative would be similar to that of the Proposed Action in terms of location and orientation of buildings, parking lots, and internal roadways. Buildings would be the same height as the Proposed Action but the building pads would be slightly smaller. This alternative would also involve the same site improvements as the Proposed Action, including: (1) New utility infrastructure; (2) leveling of the freeway berm; and (3) provision of a new access road from Paramount Boulevard. The LTP would remain on the project site under this alternative.

Under the Existing Zoning Alternative, Retail Buildings "G," "H," "I," and Restaurant 3 associated with the Proposed Action would be replaced with a 126,000-square foot theatre and a 186,300-square foot parking structure. Excluding the parking structure, the Existing Zoning Alternative would involve approximately 656,742 square feet of commercial retail development. The site plan for the Existing Zoning Alternative would be similar to that of the Proposed Action and the Reduced Density Alternative in terms of location and orientation of buildings, parking lots, and internal roadways. Building heights under this alternative would also be the same as the Proposed Action but the building pads for some retail uses (*i.e.*, Retail "A" and Pad 2) would be slightly larger. This alternative would involve the same site improvements as the Proposed Action, including: (1) New utility infrastructure; (2) leveling of the freeway berm; and (3) provision of a new access road from Paramount Boulevard. The LTP would remain on the project site under this alternative.

Location: City of Monterey Park, Los Angeles County, California.

Potential Environmental Impacts: Transportation/circulation; air quality;

noise; geology/seismicity; human health hazards; hydrology/water quality; land use; aesthetics/views; light and glare; population, employment and housing; public services; utilities; and cumulative effects. Most of these impacts would be reduced to a level of insignificance following implementation of proposed mitigation measures.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement will be published on or about October 14, 1999 and will be on file at the City of Monterey Park, Community Development Department, 320 West Newmark Avenue, Monterey Park, California, 91754 and available for public inspection, or copies may be attained at the same address, upon request to Mr. Ray Hamada, Planning Manager (626) 307-1463.

Dated: October 20, 1999.

Richard H. Broun,

Director, Office of Community Viability.

[FR Doc. 99-28121 Filed 10-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Issue the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Associated Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge in the Southwest Region

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared a Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), associated Environmental Assessment (EA), and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge (National Wildlife Refuge), Okmulgee, Oklahoma pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and its implementing regulations. The Regional Director, Southwest Regional Office, upon issuing a FONSI for the Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge EA considered ranges of alternatives for that document.

Approval of the Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge CCP formalizes ten goals which will result in: (1) Protection and enhancement of wetlands; (2) Protection, restoration, and maintenance of the bottomland hardwood forest

community; (3) Protection and enhancement of habitat for migratory birds; (4) Protection and enhancement of Refuge habitat to sustain healthy populations of native fish and wildlife in addition to migratory birds; (5) Restoration of native threatened and endangered species on Refuge lands; (6) Development of a database of pertinent scientific information regarding Refuge habitats and wildlife; (7) Provision of quality consumptive and non-consumptive wildlife-dependent public use; (8) Development of education and outreach programs that enable the public to 1—understand, enjoy and value the fish and wildlife resources found on and off the Refuge, 2—understand events and issues related to these resources, and 3—act to promote fish and wildlife conservation; (9) Compliance with historic and archaeological resource protection laws and regulations; and (10) Institution of an efficient administration that supports accomplishment of Refuge objectives. Some of the specific actions proposed to achieve these goals include but are not necessarily limited to the following strategies:

- Acquire lands within the proposed refuge boundary as they become available from willing sellers;
- Restore bottomland hardwood forest in floodplain areas previously converted to pecan orchard, cropland or pasture;
- Control excessive or prolonged flooding in bottomland forests through the installation of water control structures in existing beaver dams and/or control of problem beaver populations;
- Develop green tree reservoirs, moist soil units and other managed wetlands where conditions support their creation to enhance habitat for waterfowl;
- Develop a recreational trail and visitor contact center;
- Map and monitor wildlife habitats;
- Establish three waterfowl sanctuaries closed to all public entry (2,500 acres total);
- Convert all exotic grass pastureland to bottomland hardwood, wetland or tallgrass prairie conditions that originally existed on the sites.

Based on a review and evaluation of the information contained in the CCP and EA for Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge, the Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has determined that the approval of the individual or cumulative approaches reflected in the Proposed Alternative and CCP Goals, Objectives and Strategies, is not deemed to constitute a major Federal action which would significantly affect the

quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. However, it is the intent of the Service to revisit questions of potential significant environmental consequences in accordance with NEPA upon consideration of the implementation of site specific proposals called for and discussed in the final plan document.

ADDRESSES: Copies may be obtained by writing to: Mr. John Slown, AICP, Biologist/Conservation Planner, Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is Service policy to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process has considered many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public and recreational uses, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process has assisted in the development of these documents. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service considered comments and advice generated in response to a draft document issued April 1999. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CCP policy to advise other agencies and the public of the availability of the final documents.

Dated: October 7, 1999.

Stephen W. Perry,

Acting Regional Director, Albuquerque, NM.

[FR Doc. 99-28124 Filed 10-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Incidental Take of Threatened Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of permit issuance.

On June 3, 1999, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, vol. 64, no. 106 and FR 29873, that an application was filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Douglas County, Colorado, for a permit to incidentally

take, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1539), as amended, Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) in Douglas County, Colorado, pursuant to the terms of Maytag Trail Habitat Conservation Plan.

Notice is hereby given that on October 12, 1999, as authorized by the provisions of the Act, the Service issued a permit (PRT-TE018090) to the above named party subject to certain conditions set forth therein. The permit was granted only after the Service determined that it was applied for in good faith, that granting the permit would not be to the disadvantage of the threatened species, and that it was consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in the Endangered Species Act, as amended.

Additional information on this permit action may be requested by contacting the Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, telephone (303) 275-2370, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays.

Dated: October 20, 1999.

Terry T. Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 99-28140 Filed 10-27-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

RIN 1018-AF63

Proposed Policy on General Conservation Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Service announces a proposed policy to enhance the use of permits as conservation tools by granting general conservation permits under a number of wildlife and plant laws and treaties. The policy recognizes scientific and conservation professionals and institutions as partners in resource conservation and management and provides incentives for them to work with protected species and their habitats. It establishes a framework for us to evaluate permit applications based on a risk assessment and grant a general conservation permit under certain circumstances to professionals conducting scientific, management, and conservation activities. This proposed policy is intended to complement the current system used to process permit applications.