

result in impairment of resources on Alcatraz Island.

The Reduced Project Alternative includes many of the safety and historic preservation actions identified under the Proposed Action. Implementation of mitigation measures during construction activity, as in the Proposed Action, would reduce impacts to biological resources. However, the repair and stabilization of three structures (the Water Tower, New Industries "Laundry" Building, and Quartermaster Building) located on the north end of the Island in or near a biologically sensitive area would be minimal. Over the long-term, this alternative would allow continued access to the Island and would meet human health and safety needs in areas currently open to the public. However, the loss of three important historic structures under this alternative would have an indirect effect on the interpretive and recreational values provided on the Island. In addition, the three structures are contributing features of the Alcatraz Island Historic Landmark District and without a more complete rehabilitation these structures will eventually fail. Loss of these cultural resources and others in the same area would cause the loss of the National Historic Landmark District status, which would be considered impairment of the cultural resource values on Alcatraz Island.

The No Action Alternative does not include any of the proposed construction or repair projects. Under this alternative only routine maintenance or other current repair projects would be implemented. As a result, potential construction related impacts to biological resources would be avoided. This alternative would continue the neglect of the Island's significant cultural resources resulting in deterioration of buildings and structures and the eventual loss of the Alcatraz Island Historic Landmark District status. Serious public health and safety threats would result in closure of individual buildings or areas, leading to the closure of the Island to visitors. The irreparable damage to the historic structures associated with this alternative and the eventual closure of the Island would constitute impairment of the cultural resource values and recreational use values, respectively, on Alcatraz Island.

#### Public Comment

During the scoping process leading to preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the National Park Service received comments from the individuals, groups, and agencies. NPS staff consulted with Native

Americans who participated in the Indian Occupation of Alcatraz Island from 1969 through 1971 to obtain information about the cultural importance of the Indian Occupation. Scoping also included consultation with regulatory agencies, including the State Office of Historic Preservation, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The information gathered was reviewed and used during the preparation of the DEIS.

The DEIS was available for public review from March 27, 2001 to June 11, 2001. The National Park Service (NPS) received 9 letters and verbal comments at the public meetings. Responses were submitted from five organizations, two from individuals, and two public agencies during the comment period. Comments include written letters and oral-testimony given during two meetings of the Advisory Commission for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore on March 27, 2001 and April 24, 2001. The public comments received regarding natural resources focused on the potential impacts to nesting waterbirds from construction activities particularly those associated with the New Industries "Laundry" Building and the Water Tower and the potential for phasing these projects. Concerns were also raised regarding implementation of the adaptive management program and the future of public input into the implementation process. Comments were also received supporting the Proposed Action noting that it would have a beneficial effect on cultural resources by providing for the stabilization of historic structures. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supplied comments requesting that additional information be provided in the Final EIS on the removal of hazardous substances encountered during project activities. No comments were received from Native American Tribes or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Responses to public comments are addressed in the Final EIS.

Additionally, NPS staff consulted with regulating agencies concerning the rehabilitation of the dock. The National Marine Fisheries Service concurred with the DEIS determination that the proposed project along with mitigation measures would not likely adversely affect listed species or essential fish habitat. In addition, the NPS obtained authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a consistency determination from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development

Commission, and authorization from the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

#### Copies

Printed copies of the Final EIS are available at park headquarters, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Building 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, 94123 or by calling (415) 561-4936. Public copies of the FEIS will be available for review as well as at libraries in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The document can also be retrieved via internet at <http://www.nps.gov/goga/admin/planning>.

During the "no action" period following release of the Final EIS, if any individuals submit comments and request that their name or/and address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There also may be circumstances wherein the NPS will withhold a respondent's identity as allowable by law. As always: NPS will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses; and, anonymous comments may not be considered.

#### Decision

A Record of Decision may be approved by the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, no sooner than 30 days after publication of a Notice of Availability of this Final EIS by the Environmental Protection Agency. The official responsible for the final decision is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region; subsequently the official responsible for implementation will be the Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Dated: October 12, 2001.

**Patricia L. Neubacher,**

*Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Environmental Assessment for Proposed Improvements Within Jones Point Park Under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project

**AGENCY:** National Park Service.

**ACTION:** Availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed mitigation to Jones Point Park (JPP), associated with the Woodrow

Wilson Bridge project. JPP is an approximately 60-acre park owned by the National Park Service (NPS) under the jurisdiction of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) located in the southeastern corner of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality regulations and NPS policy, the NPS announces the availability of an EA for the proposed mitigation to JPP, associated with the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project within the GWMP. The EA examines several alternatives aimed to develop a long-range plan for JPP, identify desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, consider feasible alternatives for future development of JPP and provide educational and recreational opportunities for visitors while protecting park resources. The need of the proposed action is based on the lack of a current comprehensive management plan for JPP and the need for mitigation and protection of park resources and recreational opportunities for visitors in conjunction with the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project. The NPS is soliciting comments on this EA. These comments will be considered in evaluating it and making decisions pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

**DATES:** The EA will remain available for public comment 30 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. Written comments should be received no later than this date.

**ADDRESSES:** If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to: Ms. Audrey F. Calhoun, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia 22101. You may hand deliver comments to GWMP Headquarters, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home addresses from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or

businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. The EA will be available for public inspection at several libraries in Alexandria, Fairfax and Arlington, Virginia.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This EA for JPP is tiered, *i.e.*, procedurally connected to the large-scale Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Specifically, this EA addresses the impacts of improvements to JPP, relative to a 1984 Development Concept Plan, as well as a part of the mitigation measures outlined in the 2000 Record of Decision and 1997 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) required for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project. The 1997 MOA was prepared by the Federal Highway Administration in consultation with the NPS, the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Virginia SHPO, the District of Columbia SHPO, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, and representatives of a number of other concurring parties. JPP contains many recreational amenities such as soccer fields, natural areas, fishing piers, historic resources, pedestrian trails, and bike paths. The park is traversed by the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, which is currently being considered in a larger EIS for safety improvements. The proposed improvements to JPP are divided into several areas including a park entrance area along South Royal Street; a woodland area on the north side of the park; an active recreation area north of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge; a waterfront area along the Potomac River and Hunting Creek; a parking and ancillary active recreation area under the bridge; and a passive/interpretive area south of the bridge. All interested individuals, agencies, and organizations are urged to provide comments on the EA. The NPS, in making a final decision regarding this matter, will consider all comments received by the closing date.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Dan Sealy (703) 289-2531.

**Audrey F. Calhoun,**  
*Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, Fritch, TX

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a Plan of Operations, an Environmental Assessment, and a Statement of Findings for a 30-day public review at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, Potter County, Texas.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service (NPS), in accordance with section 9.52(b) of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations and Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, has received from Luxor Oil and Gas, Inc. a Plan of Operations and an Environmental Assessment for the continued operations of two natural gas wells at Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument and the exploratory drilling of a new natural gas well at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area. Additionally, the NPS has prepared a Statement of Findings for the siting of the new exploratory well above the 100-year flood event and below the 500-year flood event to protect cultural resources.

**DATES:** The Plan of Operations, an Environmental Assessment, and the Statement of Findings are available for public review and comment for a period of 30-days from the publication date of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** The Plan of Operations, an Environmental Assessment, and the Statement of Findings are available for public review and comment in the Office of the Superintendent, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, 419 E. Broadway, Fritch, Texas. Copies are available, for a duplication fee, from the Superintendent, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 1460, Fritch, TX 79306-1460.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Eubank, Environmental Protection Specialist, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, P.O. Box 1460, Fritch, TX 79036, Telephone: 806-865-3874.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by mailing them to the post office address provided above, or you may hand-deliver comments to the park at the street address provided above. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of responders, available for public review during regular business hours.