

on December 16, 2003.³ The notice provided that comments on the proposed rule change should be submitted to the Commission by January 6, 2004.

Section 19(b)(2) of the Act⁴ provides that within thirty-five days of the publication of notice of the filing of a proposed rule change, or within such longer period as the Commission may designate up to ninety days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding the Commission shall either approve the proposed rule change or institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved. That thirty-five day period will end on January 20, 2004, with respect to the proposed rule change. The Commission has received comments on the proposed rule change, which it is still reviewing. The Commission finds it appropriate to designate a longer period within which to take action on the proposed rule change so that it has sufficient time to consider the comments.

Accordingly, the Commission hereby designates March 15, 2004 as the date by which the Commission shall either approve the proposed rule change or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove it.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁵

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-1456 Filed 1-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3555]

State of California (Amendment #4)

In accordance with a notice received from the Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency, effective January 14, 2004, the above numbered declaration is hereby amended to establish the incident period for this disaster as beginning October 21, 2003, and continuing through February 2, 2004.

The incident type has also been expanded specifically for flooding, mudflow and debris flow directly related to the wildfires.

All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing

applications for physical damage remains as January 9, 2004, and for economic injury the deadline is July 27, 2004.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: January 15, 2004.

Herbert L. Mitchell,
Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 04-1396 Filed 1-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Public Federal Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Roundtable; Region VI Regulatory Fairness Board

The Small Business Administration Region VI Regulatory Fairness Board and the SBA Office of the National Ombudsman will hold a Public Roundtable on Thursday, February 12, 2004, at 8:30 a.m. at the New Orleans Airport Plaza Hotel, 2150 Veterans Blvd., Kenner, Louisiana 70062, to provide small business owners and representatives of trade associations with an opportunity to share information concerning the Federal regulatory enforcement and compliance environment.

Anyone wishing to attend or to make a presentation must contact Loretta Poree in writing or by fax, in order to be put on the agenda. Loretta Poree, Business Development Specialist, SBA Louisiana District Office, 365 Canal Street, Suite 2820, New Orleans, LA 70130, phone (504) 589-2853, fax (504) 589-2793, e-mail:

loretta.poree@sba.gov.

For more information, see our Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman.

Dated: January 16, 2004.

Peter Sorum,
National Ombudsman (Acting).

[FR Doc. 04-1395 Filed 1-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Project in Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro, California

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Alameda Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit), will prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Project (East Bay BRT), an approximately 18-mile transit improvement through the cities of Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro. Project features include: dedicated bus lanes along arterial streets connecting downtown Berkeley, the University of California, downtown Oakland, downtown San Leandro, and the Bayfair shopping mall in San Leandro; light-rail-like stations and low-level boarding platforms; proof-of-payment fare verification; transit priority signal treatments; and modern, high-capacity, low-floor, multi-door buses. The EIS/EIR will evaluate the following alternatives: (1) A No-Project Alternative; (2) a Build Alternative with alignment options, hereinafter referred to as the East Bay BRT Alternative; and (3) any additional reasonable alternatives that emerge from the study process. The East Bay BRT Alternative could be constructed in stages. The staging of improvements will be identified during the studies.

Previous studies relevant to this action include the recently completed AC Transit Berkeley/Oakland/San Leandro Corridor Major Investment Study (AC Transit, September 2002) and the Alternative Modes Analysis (AC Transit and DKS Associates, April 1993). EIS/EIR preparation will be initiated through a formal NEPA scoping process, which solicits input on issues and potential project impacts to consider in the environment studies. Scoping will be accomplished through meetings and correspondence with interested persons, organizations, the general public, and federal, state, and local agencies. Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments have been sent to the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, and to private organizations and individuals.

Scoping under NEPA is being complemented by informational meetings conducted under California CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act), which guides the preparation and content of the project EIR. AC Transit has conducted four information meetings in the study corridor, at which presentations were given on the environmental process to be undertaken and general features of the proposed project. Local, state and federal agencies and the general public were invited to these meetings, held May 28, June 2,

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48875 (December 4, 2003), 68 FR 70072.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(31).