

providers. The contact information for the current providers is: (1) Verisign, Inc., NPiazzola@verisign.com, 410-691-2100 and (2) Betrusted US, Inc., TGreco@betrusted.com, 443-367-7052, or JTLazo@betrusted.com, 443-367-7011.

BLM will consider an electronic form submission to be: (1) Received at the date and time BLM receives the submission electronically by the BLM; and (2) Received in the proper office if filed on-line.

The *Government Paperwork Elimination Act of 1998* (GPEA) mandates that the Federal Government accept electronically submitted forms. The GPEA specifically states that electronic records and their related electronic signatures are not to be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability merely because they are in electronic form. The public may continue to use, and BLM will continue to accept, filings on paper forms.

In many cases, our existing regulations require a written signature and filing of a paper form in a specific office. GPEA supercedes these regulations. Our intention is to propose regulations to address the inconsistency and to clarify that digital signatures and on-line filing (when performed as described above) is an acceptable way to file applications and other documents.

For more information on electronic signatures and e-Government in general, please visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/ea.htm> and <http://www.egov.gov>.

Dated: September 8, 2004.

Lawrence E. Benna,

Assistant Director, Business and Fiscal Resources.

[FR Doc. 04-21785 Filed 9-30-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Colorado River Management Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon, AZ

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the draft environmental impact statement for the Colorado River Management Plan for Grand Canyon National Park.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to subsection 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, codified at 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), the National Park Service announces the availability of a Draft

Environmental Impact Statement for the Colorado River Management Plan, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon, Arizona. The document describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of several action alternatives, including a preferred alternative, for future visitor use management of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park, including the Lower Gorge. A no-action alternative is also evaluated.

DATES: The National Park Service will accept comments from the public on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for 90 days after publication of this notice. Public meeting dates will be posted on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp>.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement are available from the Office of the Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023. The document is also available on the Internet at: <http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp>.

You may submit comments to any one of several addresses: (1) You may mail comments to CRMP Project, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon Arizona 86023; (2) You may comment via the Internet to <http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp>; and (3) You may hand-deliver comments to Grand Canyon National Park at Park Headquarters, 1 Village Loop Drive, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Killeen, Project Assistant, Grand Canyon National Park, 928-638-7885.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document distribution and public meetings: The public review and comment process will involve distribution of the document and a comment form. Public meetings will be held in Denver, Colorado; Phoenix, Arizona; Flagstaff, Arizona; Salt Lake City, Utah; the San Francisco, California area; and the Washington, DC area.

Specific information on these meeting locations and their dates, and on any other locations and dates that may be added, will be posted at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp>. Specific information may also be obtained from the individuals listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, below.

Commenting by e-mail: Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: CRMP Project" and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we

have received your Internet message, contact Linda Jalbert 928-638-7909.

Confidentiality: 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 record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the 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. 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Killeen, 928-638-7885, or Linda Jalbert, 928-638-7909.

Dated: September 24, 2004.

Stephen P. Martin,

Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 04-22040 Filed 9-30-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Renewal of the Sacramento River

Settlement Contracts, Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Sutter, Yolo, and Sacramento Counties, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the draft environmental impact statement (Draft EIS) and notice of public hearing (DES 04-50).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (as amended), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as lead Federal Agency, has made available for public review a Draft EIS for the renewal of long-term contracts to deliver water from the Central Valley Project (CVP) to the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors. The Sacramento River Settlement Contractors are entities and individuals that typically receive both non-CVP water, referred to as base supply, and supplemental water from the CVP, referred to as Project Water. The proposed contract renewals would continue the delivery of base supply and Project Water for an additional 40 years. The Draft EIS describes and

presents the environmental effects of five alternatives, including no action, for the renewal of up to 145 contracts which include approximately 1.8 million acre-feet of base supply per year and approximately 380,000 acre feet of Project Water per year.

DATES: Submit written comments on the Draft EIS on or before Monday, November 15, 2004, to Mr. Buford Holt at the address provided below. One Public Hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 27, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Willows, CA.

ADDRESSES: The location for the October 27 Public Hearing is the Eubank Room in the Willows Public Library, 201 N. Lassen St., Willows, CA.

Copies of the Draft EIS may be requested from Ms. Sammie Cervantes, Public Affairs Office, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825 or by calling 916-978-5104, TDD 916-978-5608. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for locations where copies of the Draft EIS are available for public viewing.

Send written comments on the Draft EIS to Mr. Buford Holt, Bureau of Reclamation, Northern California Area Office, 16349 Shasta Dam Boulevard, Shasta Lake, CA 96019; by fax at (530) 275-2441; or by e-mail to bholt@mp.usbr.gov. Comments should be received on or before November 15, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Buford Holt, Environmental Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, Northern California Area Office, at (530) 275-1554, TDD 530-275-8991.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CVP was first authorized as a Federal project in 1935 and includes facilities on the Sacramento River. Prior to the authorization of the CVP, individuals and entities along the Sacramento River were diverting water for irrigation and municipal and industrial uses under various claims of right. Construction of CVP dams on the Sacramento River and the Trinity River modified the flows of the Sacramento River. In order to settle controversy over assertions of Sacramento River water rights, the United States, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, negotiated the Settlement Contracts to provide agreement on diversion of Sacramento River water and CVP water. Using jointly conducted studies, the parties negotiated to arrive at mutually agreed amounts of Base Supply and Project Water. "Base Supply" is water the Settlement Contractor's divert free of charge in recognition of their un-quantified water rights, which existed prior to the construction of the CVP. In

addition, Reclamation agreed to provide the Settlement Contractors with certain designated monthly quantities of CVP water, referred to as "Project Water", primarily in the months of July, August, and/or September. Project Water is subject to all of the pricing and other requirements of Federal Reclamation Law. The term of the initial Sacramento River Settlement Contracts was not to exceed 40 years, and the contracts were set to expire on March 31, 2004; however, Congress has granted a two-year extension of the contracts.

The Draft EIS addresses impacts related to the proposed March 2005 renewal of up to 145 Sacramento River Settlement Contracts to continue delivery of supplemental Project Water for agricultural and municipal and industrial (M&I) uses. Water would continue to be delivered through existing CVP facilities, with no new construction required. With the exception of Sutter Mutual Water Company and the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District, the proposed contracts provide for the continued delivery of the same quantities of Project Water provided for under the expiring Settlement Contracts. Under the proposed action, the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors would divert approximately 1.8 million acre-feet of Base Supply per year from the Sacramento River, and approximately 380,000 acre-feet of Project Water per year from the Sacramento River. Twenty of the 145 Settlement Contractors account for approximately 94 percent of the total Settlement Contract amount. The proposed contract-renewal amounts range in size from 10 to 825,000 acre-feet per year. Contracts would be renewed for a 40-year term. The renewal of contracts provides for continued delivery of CVP water to the same lands and for the same purposes of use, with the exception of Natomas Central Mutual Water Company which has requested a change from agricultural use to M&I use in the Metro Air Park portion of its service area. The Draft EIS describes and analyzes the effects of the proposed contract-renewals on fish resources, vegetation and wildlife, hydrology and water quality, recreation, cultural resources, land use, geology and soils, and air quality.

Copies of the Draft EIS are available for public viewing at the following locations:

- Natural Resources Library, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW., Main Interior Building, Washington, DC 20240-0001.
- Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Office Library, Building 67, Room 167,

Denver Federal Center, 6th and Kipling, Denver, CO 80225-0007, 303-445-2072;

- Bureau of Reclamation, Office of Public Affairs, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825-1898 (Sacramento County), 916-978-5100;

- Bureau of Reclamation, Northern California Area Office, 16349 Shasta Dam Boulevard, Shasta Lake CA 96019-8400 (Shasta County), 530-275-1554;

- Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Construction Office, 1140 West Wood Street, Willows, CA 95988-0988 (Glenn County), 530-934-7066.

- Bureau of Reclamation, Red Bluff Field Office, 22500 Altube Road, Red Bluff, CA 96080 (Tehama County), 530-529-3890.

It is Reclamation's practice to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that Reclamation withhold their home address from public disclosure, which Reclamation will honor to the extent allowed by law. There also may be circumstances in which Reclamation would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowed by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this request prominently at the beginning of your comment. Reclamation will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Special Services: Persons requiring any special services at the October 27, 2004, public meeting should contact Sammie Cervantes at (916) 978-5104. Please notify Ms. Cervantes as far in advance of the particular meeting as possible, but no later than 3 working days prior to the meeting to enable Reclamation to secure the services. If a request cannot be honored, the requester will be notified.

Dated: September 20, 2004.

John F. Davis,

Deputy Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region.
[FR Doc. 04-22048 Filed 9-30-04; 8:45 am]

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