

speeds of 220 mph on mostly dedicated, fully graded-separated tracks, with state-of-the-art safety, signaling, and automated train control systems. The San Francisco to San Jose HST corridor selected by the Authority and FRA follows the Caltrain right-of-way from San Francisco to San Jose. The HST would operate in this area at speeds below 150 mph and would share tracks with Caltrain express commuter trains. Further engineering studies to be undertaken as part of this EIR/EIS process will examine and refine alignments in the Caltrain right-of-way. The entire alignment would be grade separated. The options to be considered for the design of grade separated roadway crossings would include (1) Depressing the street to pass under the rail line; (2) elevating the street to pass over the rail line; and (3) leaving the street as-is and constructing rail line improvements to pass over or under the local street. In addition, alternative sites for right-of-way maintenance, train storage facilities and a train service and inspection facility will be evaluated in the San Francisco to San Jose HST project area.

The preferred station in the City of San Francisco is the Transbay Transit Center; in the City of Millbrae the existing Millbrae BART/Caltrain Station, and in the City of San Jose the Intermodal Diridon Station. These locations were selected by the Authority and FRA through the Bay Area to Central Valley HST Final Program EIR/EIS considering the project purpose and need, and the program objectives. Potential station locations in the City of Redwood City at the existing Caltrain Station near downtown or in the City of Palo Alto at the existing Caltrain Station near downtown will also be evaluated in this project EIR/EIS. Alternative station sites at or near the selected station locations may be identified and evaluated in this Project EIR/EIS.

Probable Effects: The purpose of the EIR/EIS process is to explore in a public setting the effects of the proposed project on the physical, human, and natural environment. The FRA and the Authority will continue the tiered evaluation of all significant environmental, social, and economic impacts of the construction and operation of the HST system. Impact areas to be addressed include transportation impacts; safety and security; land use and zoning; land acquisition, displacements, and relocations; cumulative and secondary impacts; cultural resource impacts, including impacts on historical and archaeological resources and parklands/recreation areas; neighborhood

compatibility and environmental justice; natural resource impacts including air quality, wetlands, water resources, noise, vibration, energy, wildlife and ecosystems, including engendered species. Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts will be identified and evaluated.

The San Francisco to San Jose HST Project EIR/EIS will be prepared in accordance with FRA's Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts (64 FR 28545 [May 26, 1999]) and will address not only NEPA and CEQA but will also address as necessary other applicable statutes, regulations, and executive orders, including the Clean Air Act, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, the Endangered Species Act, and Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice.

This EIR/EIS process will also continue the NEPA/Clean Water Act Section 404 integration process established through the Statewide Program EIR/EIS process. The EIR/EIS will evaluate project alignment alternatives, station and maintenance facility locations to support a determination of the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative ("LEDPA") by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Scoping and Comments: FRA encourages broad participation in the EIS process during scoping and review of the resulting environmental documents. Comments are invited from all interested agencies and the public to ensure the full range of issues related to the proposed action and reasonable alternatives are addressed and all significant issues are identified. In particular, FRA is interested in determining whether there are areas of environmental concern where there might be a potential for significant site-specific impacts. Public agencies with jurisdiction are requested to advise FRA and the Authority of the applicable permit and environmental review requirements of each agency, and the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to the agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Public agencies are requested to advise FRA if they anticipate taking a major action in connection with the proposed project and if they wish to cooperate in the preparation of the Project EIR/EIS. Public scoping meetings have been scheduled as an important component of the scoping process for both the State and Federal environmental review. The scoping meetings described in this

Notice will also be the subject of additional public notification.

FRA is seeking participation and input of all interested federal, state, and local agencies, Native American groups, and other concerned private organizations or individuals on the scope of the EIR/EIS. Implementation of the San Francisco to San Jose section of the HST system is a federal undertaking with the potential to affect historic properties. As such, it is subject to the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f.). In accordance with regulations issued by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR part 800, FRA intends to coordinate compliance with section 106 of this Act with the preparation of the EIR/EIS, beginning with the identification of consulting parties through the scoping process, in a manner consistent with the standards set out in 36 CFR 800.8.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 18, 2008.

Mark E. Yachmetz,

Associate Administrator for Railroad Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

December 18, 2008.

The Department of Treasury is planning to submit the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 11020, 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before February 27, 2009 to be assured of consideration.

Office of Procurement

OMB Number: 1505-0107.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Regulation Agency Protests.

Description: The information being collected is obtained from contractors as part of their submissions whenever they file a bid protest with the Department or any of its Bureaus. The information is used by Treasury officials in deciding

how the protest should be resolved. Failure to collect this information would result in a non-uniform or unclear submission and delayed resolution of agency protests.

Respondents: Businesses and other for-profit institutions.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 46 hours.

OMB Number: 1505-0080.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Post-Contract Award Information.

Description: Information requested of contractors is specific to each contract and is required for Treasury to properly evaluate the progress made and/or management controls used by contractors providing supplies or services to the Government, and to determine contractors' compliance with the contracts, in order to protect the Government's interest.

Respondents: Businesses and other for-profit institutions.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 47,796 hours.

OMB Number: 1505-0081.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Solicitation of Proposal Information for Award of Public Contracts.

Description: Information requested of offerors is specific to each procurement solicitation, and is required for Treasury to properly evaluate the capabilities and experience of potential contractors who desire to provide the supplies or services to be acquired. Evaluation will be used to determine which proposal most benefits the Government.

Respondents: Businesses and other for-profit institutions.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 410,988 hours.

Clearance Officer: Jean Carter, Treasury Office of Procurement, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20220, (202) 622-6760.

OMB Reviewer: Nick Fraser (202) 395-5887, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Robert Dahl,

Treasury PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-30739 Filed 12-24-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

December 18, 2008.

The Department of Treasury will submit the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for

review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13, on or after the publication date of this notice. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 11000, 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

Dates: Written comments should be received on or before January 28, 2009 to be assured of consideration.

Bureau of Public Debt (BPD)

OMB Number: 1535-0091.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Regulations Governing U.S. Treasury Securities—State and Local Government Series.

Forms: PD F 1849.

Description: This collection is required by regulations governing U.S. Treasury Securities—State and Local Government Series.

Respondents: State, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 542 hours.

Clearance Officer: Brian Lallemond (304) 480-8150, Bureau of the Public Debt, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26106.

OMB Reviewer: Nick Fraser (202) 395-5887, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Robert Dahl,

Treasury PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-30740 Filed 12-24-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

December 19, 2008.

The Department of Treasury will submit the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 on or after the date of publication of this notice. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 11000, and 1750

Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

Dates: Written comments should be received on or before January 28, 2009 to be assured of consideration.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545-1417.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Indian Employment Credit.

Description: Employers can claim a credit for hiring American Indians or their spouses to work within an Indian reservation. The credit is figured by multiplying by 20% the increase in wages and health insurance costs over the comparable amount paid or incurred during calendar year 1993.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 4,332 hours.

Clearance Officer: Glenn P. Kirkland (202) 622-3428, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6516, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

OMB Reviewer: Nicholas A. Fraser (202) 395-5887, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Robert Dahl,

Treasury PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-30741 Filed 12-24-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation will meet on January 12, 2009, in the Carlton Room, at the St. Regis Washington, DC, 923 16th and K Streets, NW., from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on establishing and supervising a schedule to conduct periodic reviews of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

The Committee will receive briefings about studies on compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and other veteran benefits programs. An open forum for verbal statements from the public will be available in the afternoon. People wishing to make verbal statements before the Committee will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be provided three minutes per statement.