Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW.,
Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646–2833.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of Texas is hereby amended to include the following areas among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the event declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of August 25, 2017.

Burleson, Grimes, Madison, and Washington Counties for Public Assistance.

Austin, Bastrop, and Lee Counties for Public Assistance [Categories C–G] (already designated for debris removal and emergency protective measures [Categories A and B], including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program).

The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Coral Brown Fund; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance Grant; 97.048, Disaster Housing Assistance to Individuals and Households; 97.039, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance Grant; 97.048, Disaster Housing Assistance to Individuals and Households in Presidentally Declared Disaster Areas; 97.049, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance—Disaster Housing Operations for Individuals and Households; 97.050 Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance to Individuals and Households; Other Needs; 97.036, Disaster Grants—Public Assistance [Presidentially Declared Disasters]; 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

Brock Long, 
Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

[FR Doc. 2017–21120 Filed 9–29–17; 8:45 am] 
BILLING CODE 9111–23–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–6035–N–02]

Notice of Regulatory Waiver Requests Granted for the Second Quarter of Calendar Year 2017

AGENCY: Office of the General Counsel, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 106 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (the HUD Reform Act) requires HUD to publish quarterly Federal Register notices of all regulatory waivers that HUD has approved. Each notice covers the quarterly period since the previous Federal Register notice. The purpose of this notice is to comply with the requirements of section 106 of the HUD Reform Act. This notice contains a list of regulatory waivers granted by HUD during the period beginning on April 1, 2017, and ending on June 30, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information about this notice, contact Ariel Pereira, Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 10282, Washington, DC 20410–0500, telephone 202–708–1793 (this is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing- or speech-impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at 800–877–8339.

For information concerning a particular waiver that was granted and for which public notice is provided in this document, contact the person whose name and address follow the description of the waiver granted in the accompanying list of waivers that have been granted in the second quarter of calendar year 2017.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 106 of the HUD Reform Act added a new section 7(q) to the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(q)), which provides that:

1. Any waiver of a regulation must be in writing and must specify the grounds for approving the waiver;
2. Authority to approve a waiver of a regulation may be delegated by the Secretary only to an individual of Assistant Secretary or equivalent rank, and the person to whom authority to waive is delegated must also have authority to issue the particular regulation to be waived;
3. Not less than quarterly, the Secretary must notify the public of all waivers of regulations that HUD has approved, by publishing a notice in the Federal Register. These notices (each covering the period since the most recent previous notification) shall:
   a. Identify the project, activity, or undertaking involved;
   b. Describe the nature of the provision waived and the designation of the provision;
   c. Indicate the name and title of the person who granted the waiver request; and
   d. Describe briefly the grounds for approval of the request; and
e. State how additional information about a particular waiver may be obtained.

Section 106 of the HUD Reform Act also contains requirements applicable to waivers of HUD handbook provisions that are not relevant to the purpose of this notice. This notice follows procedures provided in HUD’s Statement of Policy
on Waiver of Regulations and Directives issued on April 22, 1991 (56 FR 16337). In accordance with those procedures and with the requirements of section 106 of the HUD Reform Act, waivers of regulations are granted by the Assistant Secretary with jurisdiction over the regulations for which a waiver was requested. In those cases in which a General Deputy Assistant Secretary granted the waiver, the General Deputy Assistant Secretary was serving in the absence of the Assistant Secretary in accordance with the office’s Order of Succession.

This notice covers waivers of regulations granted by HUD from April 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017. For ease of reference, the waivers granted by HUD are listed by HUD program office (for example, the Office of Community Planning and Development, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, the Office of Housing, and the Office of Public and Indian Housing, etc.). Within each program office grouping, the waivers are listed sequentially by the regulatory section of title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) that is being waived. For example, a waiver of a provision in 24 CFR part 58 would be listed before a waiver of a provision in 24 CFR part 570.

Where more than one regulatory provision is involved in the grant of a particular waiver request, the action is listed under the section number of the first regulatory requirement that appears in 24 CFR and that is being waived. For example, a waiver of both § 58.73 and § 58.74 would appear sequentially in the listing under § 58.73.

Waiver of regulations that involve the same initial regulatory citation are in time sequence beginning with the earliest-dated regulatory waiver.

Should HUD receive additional information about waivers granted during the period covered by this report (the second quarter of calendar year 2017) before the next report is published (the third quarter of calendar year 2017), HUD will include any additional waivers granted for the second quarter in the next report.

Accordingly, information about approved waiver requests pertaining to HUD regulations is provided in the Appendix that follows this notice.

Dated: September 26, 2017.

Beth Zorc,
Principal Deputy General Counsel.

Appendix

Listing of Waivers of Regulatory Requirements Granted by Offices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development April 1, 2017 Through June 30, 2017

Note to Reader: More information about the granting of these waivers, including a copy of the waiver request and approval, may be obtained by contacting the person whose name is listed as the contact person directly after each set of regulatory waivers granted. The regulatory waivers granted appear in the following order:

I. Regulatory waivers granted by the Office of Community Planning and Development
II. Regulatory waivers granted by the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
III. Regulatory waivers granted by the Office of Housing
V. Regulatory waivers granted by the Office of Public and Indian Housing

I. Regulatory Waivers Granted by the Office of Community Planning and Development

For further information about the following regulatory waivers, please see the name of the contact person that immediately follows the description of the waiver granted.

- **Regulation:** 24 CFR 91.105(b)(4) and 24 CFR 91.115(b)(4).
  **Project/Activity:** On December 15, 2016, HUD issued CPD Notice #CPD–16–18 providing procedures for the submission and review of consolidated plans and action plans for FY 2017 funding prior to the enactment of a FY 2017 HUD appropriation bill. These procedures apply to any grantee whose consolidated/plan/plan submission deadline (45 days before the start of the program year) falls either before, or up to 60 days after, HUD’s announcement of the FY 2017 formula program funding allocations for CDBG, ESC, HOME and HOPWA formula funding. The Notice advised these grantees not to submit their consolidated plans and action plans until the FY 2017 formula allocations were announced.

- **Nature of Requirement:** The provisions at 24 CFR 91.105(b)(4) and 91.115(b)(4) require that grantees provide a period of not less than 30 days during which affected citizens may review and comment on the FY 2017 consolidated plan or action plan prior to its implementation.
  **Granted By:** Clifford Taffet, General Deputy Assistant Secretary, Community Planning and Development
  **Date Granted:** May 10, 2017, with corrected waiver on May 18, 2017, for immediate effect.

- **Reason Waived:** Under 24 CFR 91.15(a)(2), HUD cannot accept a consolidated plan or annual action plan submission later than August 16, 2017. If HUD does not receive a consolidated plan or action plan by August 16, 2017, a grantee automatically loses its FY 2017 CDBG funding. Implementation of the procedures provided in HUD Notice CPD–16–18 and the timing of the enactment of the FY 2017 appropriations act leaves insufficient time for grantees to complete the pre-submission or pre-amendment citizen participation publication and comment process before the August 16, 2017 deadline. Given the delay in appropriations and the need for HUD to award funds so that grantees may begin to address their housing and community development needs, HUD waived the requirements in 24 CFR 91.105(b)(4) and 91.115(b)(4) to allow grantees to reduce the public comment period to a minimum of 14 calendar days. This waiver ensures grantees do not lose their FY 2017 funding, while also affording citizens a meaningful public comment period. Any affected grantee taking advantage of this waiver must document in writing the conditions for the need to utilize this waiver and must maintain this documentation for HUD’s review. This waiver authority is only in effect until August 16, 2017.
  **Contact:** Steve Johnson, Director, Enforcement Communities Division, Office of Block Grant Assistance, Office of Community Planning and Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 7282, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708–1577.

II. Regulatory Waivers Granted by the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

For further information about the following regulatory waivers, please see the name of the contact person that immediately follows the description of the waiver granted.

- **Regulation:** 24 CFR 115.305(a).
  **Project/Activity:** Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) agencies nationwide.

- **Nature of Requirement:** Special Enforcement Effort (SEE) funds are funds that HUD will provide to an agency to enhance enforcement activities of the agency’s fair housing law. SEE funds will be a maximum of 20% of the agency’s total FHAP cooperative agreement for the previous contract year, based on approval of eligible activity or activities, and based on the appropriation of funds.
  **Granted By:** Bryan Greene, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.
  **Date Granted:** June 5, 2017.

- **Reason Waived:** Temporary waiver of the 20 percent limitation on SEE Funds for eligible FHAP agencies whose total cooperative agreement for fiscal year 2016 was less than $300,000.
  **Contact:** Joseph Pelletier, Director, Fair Housing Assistance Program, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing of Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Room 5206, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 402–2126.

III. Regulatory Waivers Granted by the Office of Housing—Federal Housing Administration (FHA)

For further information about the following regulatory waivers, please see the name of the contact person that immediately follows the description of the waiver granted.

- **Regulation:** 24 CFR 200.73 (c).
  **Project/Activity:** West Town Housing Preservation, Chicago, Illinois, Project No. 071–35892.

- **Nature of Requirement:** HUD’s regulation at 24 CFR 200.73(c) requiring that “not less
than five rental dwelling units [of an FHA insured multifamily housing project] shall be on one site. The property is a large, scattered-site portfolio of 68 apartment properties on 68 separate parcels. Forty-eight parcels have at least five units per site, so a majority of the sites meet the regulatory requirements. FHA will insure a loan through Section 221(d)(4) program to assist in the purchase and substantial rehabilitation of these properties. The unit counts for the buildings range from two to twelve, for a total of 318 units known as West Town Housing Preservation.

Granted By: Dana Wade, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing, H.
Date Granted: April 12, 2017.
Reason Waived: The property is "affordable", and it is in line with HUD’s mission to continue to ensure availability for residents in need of subsidized housing.

Additionally, the project is zip codes 60622 and 60647, which have seen some of the highest rates of property appreciation over the past several decades in Chicago. The preservation of these units as affordable housing is urgently needed due to the rapid gentrification that has taken place in the area in recent years. HUD is already subsidizing the property by the Section 8 contracts.

Contact: Daniel J. Sullivan, Acting Director, Office of Multifamily Production, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Room 6134, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 402–6130.

• Regulation: 24 CFR 200.73(c).

Project/Activity: Camden Townhomes, FHA Project Number 023–1145, Dorchester, Massachusetts. Rockport Mortgage Company has applied for mortgage insurance under the Section 223(f) program to refinance Fields Corner Granite as a single project.

Nature of Requirement: HUD’s regulation at 24 CFR 200.73(c) which, states that a site must contain no less than 5 rental dwelling units. Section 3.1.O.I.C.C of the Map Guide permits a project with two or more contiguous parcels of land when the parcels comprise one marketable, manageable real estate entity.

Granted By: Dana Wade, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing, H.
Date Granted: June 8, 2017.

Reason Waived: The waiver was granted to allow the Camden Townhomes to proceed with an approved new 20-year Section 8 PBV HAP contract. The project will be renovated using New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency’s (NJMFA) 4% LIHTC. The scattered sites were assembled and recognized as a single manageable and marketable development by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA). The project has been professionally managed as one project since its inception and has one operating budget. The property is “affordable” and meets HUD’s mission to continue to ensure availability for residents in need of subsidized housing. HUD is already subsidizing the property through the Section 8 contracts. The project is in Camden, New Jersey, where the occupancy has remained strong and there is a high demand for affordable rental housing.

Contact: Daniel J. Sullivan, Acting Director, Office of Multifamily Production, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Room 6134, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 402–6130.

• Regulation: 24 CFR 266.410(e).

Project/Activity: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency’s (Minnesota Housing) Risk Sharing Program, St. Paul, Minnesota.
Nature of Requirement: The 24 CFR 266.410(e) Amortization. Requires mortgages insured under the 542(c) Housing Finance Agency Risk Sharing Program to be fully amortized over the term of the mortgage. The waiver allows Minnesota Housing to provide loans that would have a minimum term of 17 years (“balloon loans”). Minnesota Housing would be able to provide additional financing options to their customers and better align the agency’s business practices with industry standards. The waiver would expire on December 16, 2018.

Granted By: Dana Wade, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing, H.
Date Granted: June 19, 2017.
Reason Waived: This will reduce Minnesota Housing Finance Agency’s cost of capital, and will support their preservation efforts. Application of this waiver is limited in both time and scope. The Department’s exposure is further limited with the condition that Minnesota Housing takes 50 percent or more of the risk on these transactions. Minnesota Housing anticipates that new construction or substantial rehabilitation projects that are awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) would use the balloon loan product, as well as clients who have been utilizing other financing option, such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, rather than Risk Share.

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency’s waiver approval is subject to the following conditions:

1. Minnesota Housing must elect to take 50 percent or more of the risk of loss on all transactions;

2. The waiver expires on December 31, 2018, or when HUD’s proposed rule revision becomes final, whichever event occurs first;

3. All other requirements of 24 CFR 266.410 remain applicable. The waiver is applicable only for new construction or substantial rehabilitation projects;

4. In accordance with 24 CFR 266.200(d), the mortgage may not exceed an amount supportable by the lower of Section 8, or comparable unassisted market rents;

5. If applicable, projects must comply with Davis–Bacon labor standards in accordance with 24 CFR 266.225;

6. Minnesota Housing must comply with regulations stated in 24 CFR 266.210 for insured advance or insurance upon completion transactions;

7. An Affordable Housing Deed restriction for 20 years must be recorded.

Contact: Daniel J. Sullivan, Acting Director, Office of Multifamily Production, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Room 6134, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 402–6130.

• Regulation: 24 CFR 290.30.

Project/Activity: La Casse/South Canal Apartments, FHA Project Number 023–105NI, Holyoke, MA. The Office of Multifamily Housing received a proposal from MassHousing, a state housing finance agency, to purchase a HUD-held Flexible Subsidy Operating Assistance Program note for $587,969 on a non-competitive basis. The balance on the Flexible Subsidy note was $6.7 million which alone was more than twice the as-is appraised value of the property. There was no equity in which to size a mortgage or utilize Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and therefore no ability to refinance all the existing debt on the property and defer the Freddie Mac Note with terms wherein it would be repayable.

Nature of Requirement: Section 290.30 requires that HUD shall sell HUD-held multifamily mortgages on a competitive basis.

Granted by: Genger Charles, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing.
Sale of Two HUD-Held Multifamily Mortgages

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing, H. Genger Charles, seeks approval to waive the non-competitive sale of a HUD-held multifamily mortgage. A waiver allows the Department to assign the mortgage to the Owner's new mortgagee to avoid paying mortgage recording tax in the State of New York.

Date Granted: May 4, 2017.
Reason Waived: The owner requested and was granted a waiver of the non-competitive sale of a HUD-held multifamily mortgage. A waiver allows the Department to assign the mortgage to the owner's new mortgagee to avoid paying mortgage recording tax in the State of New York.

Contact: Cindy Bridges, Senior Account Executive, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Room 6168, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 475–7908.

Nature of Requirement: The regulation at 24 CFR 990.250(b)(1), which governs the sale of HUD-held mortgages, states that "[e]xcept as otherwise provided in Section 990.250(b)(1), HUD will sell HUD-held multifamily mortgages on a competitive basis."

Granted by: Dee Ann R. Walker, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

Reason Waived: The Kennewick Housing Authority (ACHA) demonstrated good cause pursuant to 24 CFR 990.250(b)(1). ACHA, currently under HUD possession, faces economic hardship that severely impacts its financial stability, and limit the PHA's ability to complete an independent cost estimate to appeal their project expense level (PEL) funding.

Date Granted: May 19, 2017.
Contact: Monica Shepherd, Public Housing Management and Occupancy Division, Office of Public Housing and Voucher Programs, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Room 6168, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 475–7908.

Nature of Requirement: The regulation at 24 CFR 990.250(b)(1), which governs the sale of HUD-held mortgages, states that "[e]xcept as otherwise provided in Section 990.250(b)(1), HUD will sell HUD-held multifamily mortgages on a competitive basis."

Granted by: Cindy Bridges, Senior Account Executive, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Room 6168, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 475–7908.
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–5997–N–65]

30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: HUD Environmental Review Online System (HEROS)

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Information Officer, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: HUD is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD is requesting comment from all interested parties on the proposed collection of information. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 30 days of public comment.

DATES: Comments Due Date: November 1, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: HUD Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; fax: 202–395–5806, Email: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anna P. Guido, Reports Management Officer, QMAC, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410; email Anna P. Guido at Anna.P.Guido@hud.gov or telephone 202–402–5535. This is not a toll-free number. Person with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339. Copies of available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Ms. Guido.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice informs the public that HUD is seeking approval from OMB for the information collection described in Section A.

The Federal Register notice that solicited public comment on the information collection for a period of 60 days was published on June 16, 2017 at 82 FR 27718.

A. Overview of Information Collection

Title of Information Collection: HUD Environmental Review Online System (HEROS).

OMB Approval Number: 2506–0202.

Type of Request: Reinstatement with change of a previously approved collection.

Form Number: None.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: 24 CFR part 58, “Environmental Review Procedures for Entities Assuming HUD Environmental Responsibilities” requires units of general local government receiving HUD assistance to maintain a written environmental review record for all projects receiving HUD funding documenting compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality, related federal environmental laws, executive orders, and authorities, and Part 58 procedure. Various laws that authorize this procedure are listed in 24 CFR 58.1(b). 24 CFR part 50, “Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality,” implements procedures for HUD to perform environmental reviews for projects where Part 58 is not permitted by law. Under Part 50, HUD staff complete the environmental review records, but they may use any information supplied by an applicant or contractor, provided HUD independently evaluates the information and is responsible for its accuracy and prepares the environmental finding. HEROS allows users to complete, store, and submit their environmental review records and documents online. HEROS is currently optional for Responsible Entity and other non-HUD users, who may continue to use paper-based environmental review formats; however, HUD staff in many offices are required to use HEROS to complete their environmental reviews.

Respondents (i.e. affected public): The respondents are state and local governments receiving HUD funding who are required to complete environmental reviews.

Respondents (i.e. affected public): 3,932.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1.

Frequency of Response: 3,932.

Average Hours per Response: Varies depending on level of review (see table below). Reviews that are exempt or Categorically Excluded Not Subject To the related laws and authorities (CENST) take roughly 45 minutes to complete. Reviews that are exempt or Categorically Excluded Subject To the related laws (CEST) or require an Environmental Assessment (EA) take an average of 4 hours to complete.

Total Estimated Burdens: 7,752 hours or $258,391.

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B. Solicitation of Public Comment

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

1. Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. The accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

3. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.