

Coordinator no later than February 14, 2018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah Mott, Council Coordinator, by phone at 703-358-1784; by email at [dbhc@fws.gov](mailto:dbhc@fws.gov); or by U.S. mail at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike MS: MB, Falls Church, VA 22041. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 during normal business hours. Also, FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**About the Council**

In accordance with the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Pub. L. 101-233, 103 Stat. 1968, December 13, 1989, as amended; NAWCA), the State-private-Federal North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) meets to consider wetland acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and management projects for recommendation to, and final funding approval by, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (Commission).

**North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants**

NAWCA provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Project proposal due dates, application instructions, and eligibility requirements are available on the NAWCA website at [www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php](http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php).

**Public Input**

*Submitting Written Information or Questions*

Interested members of the public may submit relevant information or questions to be considered during the teleconference. If you wish to submit a written statement so information may be made available to the Council for their consideration prior to the teleconference, you must contact the Council Coordinator by the date in **DATES**. Written statements must be supplied to the Council Coordinator in both of the following formats: One hard

copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via email (acceptable file formats are Adobe Acrobat PDF, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, or rich text file).

*Giving an Oral Presentation*

Individuals or groups requesting to make an oral presentation during the teleconference will be limited to 2 minutes per speaker, with no more than a total of 10 minutes for all speakers. Interested parties should contact the Council Coordinator by the date in **DATES**, in writing (preferably via email; see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), to be placed on the public speaker list. Nonregistered public speakers will not be considered during the meeting. Registered speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, or those who had wished to speak but could not be accommodated on the agenda, are invited to submit written statements to the Council within 30 days following the teleconference.

**Meeting Minutes**

Summary minutes of the Council teleconference will be maintained by the Council Coordinator at the address under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Teleconference meeting notes will be available by contacting the Council Coordinator within 30 days following the teleconference. Personal copies may be purchased for the cost of duplication.

Dated: January 26, 2018.

**Michael J. Johnson,**

*Acting Assistant Director, Migratory Birds.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Office of the Secretary**

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DNINR0000.000000 DX61104]**

**Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Committee; Call for Nominations**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Interior.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council is soliciting nominations for the Public Advisory Committee to fill a membership vacancy that represents conservation and environmental interests. The Public Advisory Committee advises the Trustee Council on decisions related to the planning, evaluation, funds allocation, and conduct of injury assessment and restoration activities related to the T/V *Exxon Valdez* oil spill of March 1989. The Secretary of the Interior will select

a Public Advisory Committee member to fill the vacancy and serve the remainder of a term which will end on December 2, 2018.

**DATES:** All nominations must be received by March 5, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** A complete nomination package should be submitted by hard copy to Elise Hsieh, Executive Director, *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council, 4230 University Drive, Suite 220, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4650, or via email at [elise.hsieh@alaska.gov](mailto:elise.hsieh@alaska.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions should be directed to Cherri Womac, *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council, 4230 University Drive, Suite 220, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4650, 907-278-8012 or 800-478-7745 or via email at [cherri.womac@alaska.gov](mailto:cherri.womac@alaska.gov); or Philip Johnson, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, 1689 C Street, Suite 119, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5126, 907-271-5011.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Public Advisory Committee was created by Paragraph V.A.4 of the Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree entered into by the United States of America and the State of Alaska on August 27, 1991, and approved by the United States District Court for the District of Alaska in settlement of *United States of America v. State of Alaska*, Civil Action No. A91-081 CV. The Public Advisory Committee was created to advise the Trustee Council on matters relating to decisions on injury assessment, restoration activities, or other use of natural resource damage recoveries obtained by the government.

The Trustee Council consists of representatives of the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and Alaska Department of Law. Appointment to the Public Advisory Council will be made by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Public Advisory Committee consists of 10 members to reflect balanced representation from each of the following principal interests: Aquaculture/mariculture, commercial tourism, conservation/environmental, recreation, subsistence use, commercial fishing, public-at-large, native landownership, sport hunting/fishing, and science/technology. As stated above, the only vacancy at this time is for the conservationist/environmentalist.

Nominations for membership may be submitted by any source. Nominations should include a resume providing an adequate description of the nominee's qualifications, including information that would enable the Department of the Interior to make an informed decision regarding meeting the membership requirements of the Public Advisory Committee and permit the Department of the Interior to contact a potential member.

Individuals who are federally registered lobbyists are ineligible to serve on all FACA and non-FACA boards, committees, or councils in an individual capacity. The term "individual capacity" refers to individuals who are appointed to exercise their own individual best judgment on behalf of the government, such as when they are designated Special Government Employees, rather than being appointed to represent a particular interest.

Public availability of comments. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your nomination/comment, you should be aware that your entire nomination/comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your nomination/comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2

**Michaela E. Noble,**

*Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

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#### Notice of Intent To Amend the California Desert Conservation Area, Bakersfield, and Bishop Resource Management Plans and Prepare Associated Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** On September 14, 2016, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued the Record of Decision (ROD) for

the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Land Use Plan Amendment (DRECP), which amended the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMP), and the Bakersfield RMP in the Mojave and Colorado/Sonoran Desert regions of southern California. On March 28, 2017, the President issued Executive Order 13783, "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth," which directs all Federal agencies to review all actions that could "potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources." To facilitate the BLM's review of the DRECP, including potential burdens on domestic renewable energy production in California, the BLM, by this notice, is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process for the potential plan amendments and associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until March 19, 2018. The dates and locations of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local news media, newspapers and the BLM website at [www.blm.gov/california/drecp](http://www.blm.gov/california/drecp). In order to be included in the analysis, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft Plan Amendment and NEPA document.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria to the BLM-California State Director, 2800 Cottage Way, Rm W-1623, Sacramento, CA 95825 or electronically to [BLM\\_CA\\_DRECP@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CA_DRECP@blm.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeremiah Karuzas, Renewable Energy Lead, 916-978-4644, 2800 Cottage Way, Rm W-1623, Sacramento, CA 95825; email: [jkaruzas@blm.gov](mailto:jkaruzas@blm.gov). Documents relevant to this planning process can be found at the above address. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to reach the BLM contact person. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On July 29, 2011, the BLM and the Fish and

Wildlife Service initiated a process to jointly prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the NEPA for the DRECP. After the BLM prepared an EIS, on September 14, 2016, it issued a DRECP ROD that amended the CDCA Plan, Bishop RMP, and Bakersfield RMP in the Mojave and Colorado/Sonoran Desert regions of southern California. The DRECP Planning Area covered approximately 22,587,000 acres of both Federal and non-Federal land—including portions of seven counties (Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego). The BLM manages approximately 10.8 million acres of the DRECP planning area.

The BLM's DRECP makes available just over 800,000 acres (7%) of the 10.8 million acres of land potentially available for renewable energy development, of which 388,000 acres (4%) were designated as Development Focus Areas, considered to be areas with substantial renewable energy potential and low resource conflict. The ROD allocated a total of 6.5 million acres (60%) as conservation areas, to include California Desert National Conservation Lands, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, wildlife allocations, and National Scenic and Historic Trail corridors—which limit or are closed to renewable energy. The ROD also designated a little over 3.5 million acres (33%) as Special Recreation Management Areas and Extensive Recreation Management Areas—which the ROD states are also generally closed to renewable energy.

As a result of concerns voiced by multiple parties throughout the public comment periods of the DRECP planning process, the BLM seeks additional comment on the DRECP ROD, including the renewable energy and conservation designations made through that decision. In 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger signed an executive order that required that 33 percent of California's energy production be via renewable energy in 2020. In October 2015, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. signed into law a measure which requires retail sellers and publicly owned utilities to procure 50 percent of their electricity from renewable energy resources by 2030. And, on March 28, 2017, the President issued Executive Order 13783, "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth," which directs all Federal agencies to review all actions that could "potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources." In recognition of these goals and direction, BLM seeks comment on the potential impacts that land use