

which the Chief of Mission uses to evaluate eligibility of SIV applicants. The DS-157 is only being used by Afghan SIV applicants for Chief of Mission approval.

Methodology

Applicants are required to complete the DS-157, along with other required documentation, and to submit their package to the appropriate SIV email address.

Edward Ramotowski,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2018-03496 Filed 3-8-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 10350]

Secretary of State's Determination Under the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016

The Secretary of State's designation of "entities of particular concern" for religious freedom violations. Pursuant to Section 408(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-292), notice is hereby given that, on March 5, 2018, the Secretary of State, under authority delegated by the President, has designated each of the following as an "entity of particular concern" under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016 (Pub. L. 114-281), for having engaged in particularly severe violations of religious freedom: al-Nusra Front, al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula, al-Qa'ida, al-Shabab, Boko Haram, ISIS, ISIS-Khorasan, and the Taliban.

Daniel L. Nadel,

Director, Office of International Religious Freedom, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2018-04718 Filed 3-8-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Little Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake County, Utah

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: FHWA, on behalf of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), is issuing this notice to advise the

public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for proposed transportation improvements in and near Little Cottonwood Canyon in Salt Lake County, Utah.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brandon Weston, Environmental Services Director, Environmental Services Division, UDOT 4501 South 2700 West, P.O. Box 141265, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-1265; Telephone: (801) 965-4603, email: brandonweston@utah.gov. John Thomas, PE, Little Cottonwood Canyon Project Manager, UDOT Region 2, 2010 South 2760 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84104-4592; Telephone: (801) 550-2248, Email: johnthomas@utah.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being or have been carried out by UDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated January 17, 2017, and executed by FHWA and UDOT. UDOT, as the assigned National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) agency, will prepare an EIS for proposed improvements to SR-210, a two-lane roadway, in Little Cottonwood Canyon in Salt Lake County, Utah. The proposed project study area extends from the intersection of SR-210 and SR-190/Fort Union Boulevard in Cottonwood Heights, Utah to the terminus of SR-210 in the town of Alta, Utah. Transportation improvements are needed to address congestion, improve safety for all users, and enhance the availability of public transportation options in the canyon. To address these needs, UDOT is proposing to make operational improvements, introduce demand-management measures, and support efforts by transit providers to implement increased transit service in the project study area. UDOT has developed this proposal based on numerous previous studies and public involvement efforts carried out by a range of agencies and stakeholders regarding the need for potential transportation improvements in the project study area. The project may require FHWA to appropriate National Forest System lands and transfer such lands to UDOT for highway use, pursuant to authority under 23 U.S.C. 317. The project may also require approvals by the USDA Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and/or other agencies.

UDOT will consider a range of alternatives based on the purpose of and need for the project and taking into account agency and public input. The currently contemplated alternatives

include: (1) Taking no action; (2) multiple, combined actions, including:

- Transportation System Management (TSM);
- Making operational improvements;
- Introducing demand-management measures;
- Tolling and/or high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) programs;
- Facilitating implementation of improved public transit service;
- Enhancing safety, access, and mobility in the area through improved information sharing and adding designated parking areas; and
- Roadway improvements;

(3) different combinations of any of the above; and (4) other alternatives if identified during the scoping process. Alternatives that do not meet the project purpose and need or that are otherwise not reasonable will not be carried forward for detailed consideration.

A Coordination Plan is being prepared to define the agency and public participation procedure for the environmental review process. The plan will outline (1) how agencies and the public will provide input during the scoping process; (2) the development of the purpose and need; and (3) alternatives development. UDOT anticipates that the USDA Forest Service will be invited to serve as a cooperating agency in the NEPA process.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies as well as to Native American tribes and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed, or who are known to have, an interest in this proposal. A public scoping meeting will be held on April 10, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Cottonwood Heights City Hall, 2277 East Bengal Boulevard, Cottonwood Heights, Utah 84121. Public notices announcing the meeting will be published in the region. Information regarding this meeting and the project may also be obtained through a public website maintained by UDOT at www.udot.utah.gov/littlecottonwoodeis.

During the NEPA process, other public meetings will be held as appropriate to allow the public, as well as Federal, state, and local agencies, and tribes, to provide comments on the purpose of and need for the project, potential alternatives, and social, economic, and environmental issues of concern.

In addition, a public hearing will be held following the release of the Draft EIS. Public notice advertisements and direct mailings will notify interested

parties of the time and place of the public meetings and the public hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action is addressed and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Written comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to UDOT representatives at the mail or email addresses provided above by May 4, 2018. For additional information please visit the project website at www.udot.utah.gov/littlecottonwoodeis. Information requests or comments can also be provided by email to littlecottonwoodeis@utah.gov.

(Catalog of Federal and Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Dated: March 5, 2018.

Ivan Marrero,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Salt Lake City, Utah.

[FR Doc. 2018-04808 Filed 3-8-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2018-0027]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws: Vessel PRIMA STELLA; Invitation for Public Comments

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below.

DATES: Submit comments on or before April 9, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2018-0027. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140,

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. You may also send comments electronically via the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bianca Carr, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W23-453, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-9309, Email Bianca.carr@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel PRIMA STELLA is: —*Intended Commercial Use of Vessel:* “Passenger Charter” —*Geographic Region:* “California”

The complete application is given in DOT docket MARAD-2018-0027 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388, that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter’s interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in section 388.4 of MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

Privacy Act

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT/MARAD solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT/MARAD posts these comments, without edit, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice, DOT/ALL-14 FDMS, accessible through www.dot.gov/privacy. In order to facilitate comment tracking and response, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. Whether or not commenters identify themselves, all timely comments will be fully considered. If you wish to provide

comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact the agency for alternate submission instructions.

(Authority: 49 CFR 1.93(a), 46 U.S.C. 55103, 46 U.S.C. 12121)

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: March 6, 2018.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2018-04763 Filed 3-8-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2018-0031]

Request for Comments on the Renewal of a Previously Approved Information Collection: Procedures for Determining Vessel Services Categories for Purposes of the Cargo Preference Act

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below is being forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comments. The Maritime Administration will use the data submitted by vessel operators to create a list of Vessel Self-Designations and determine whether the Agency agrees or disagrees with a vessel owner’s designation of a vessel. A **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following information collection was published on December 5, 2017.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 9, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the burden estimate, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the Department’s performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for the Department to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request