

In your request for documents, please reference the Oklahoma City draft EA/HCP.

DEA and HCP: A limited number of CD-ROM and printed copies of the dEA and HCP are available, by request, from Ms. Jonna Polk, Field Supervisor, Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 9014 E. 21st St., Tulsa, OK 74129; telephone 918-581-7458; facsimile 918-581-7467.

ITP application: The ITP application is available by mail from the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 1306, Room 6034, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

Submitting Comments: Regarding any of the documents available for review, you may submit written comments by one of the following methods. In your comments, please reference the Oklahoma City draft EA/HCP.

Email: OKES_NEPA@fws.gov.

Facsimile: 918-581-7467, Attn: Oklahoma City HCP EA.

U.S. Mail: Field Supervisor, Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 9014 E. 21st St., Tulsa, OK 74129.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonna Polk, Field Supervisor, by U.S. mail at the Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office (address above), or by phone at 918-581-7458. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The City of Oklahoma City and the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust (applicants) have applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The requested ITP, which would be in effect for a period of 8 years, if granted, would authorize incidental take of the federally endangered American burying beetle (ABB; *Nicrophorus americanus*) during otherwise lawful activities associated with construction of a public water supply pipeline, the Second Atoka Pipeline Project. The project extends in a largely straight course from Atoka Lake to Lake Stanley Draper and passes through Atoka, Cleveland, Coal, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, and Seminole Counties, Oklahoma. The entire project is approximately 100 miles in length, of which 78.4 miles would occur within the known range of the ABB. Activities potentially causing take include site preparation; construction of the pipeline, pump stations, and other ancillary facilities; use of temporary

work areas; construction of pipe stockpile sites and contractor yards; construction and maintenance of access roads; removal of surge facilities; post-construction restoration activities; and hydrostatic testing of the installed pipeline. The applicants have proposed a habitat conservation plan (HCP) that would be implemented to address project impacts to the ABB.

We are notifying the public of the applicant's proposal of an HCP and request to the Service for an ITP to cover incidental take of the ABB associated with construction of the Second Atoka Pipeline Project. In addition, we are notifying the public of the Service's preparation of a draft environmental assessment (EA) regarding impacts of the requested action or feasible alternatives, of an opportunity for public comment on our action, and of our intention to finalize the EA after consideration of public comment.

Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that the entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments and materials we receive, as well as supporting documentation used in preparing the EA, will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Service's Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office in Tulsa, Oklahoma (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority

We publish this notice in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32).

Amy Lueders,

Regional Director, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2020-N021;
FXES1114080000-201-FF08EVEN00]

Categorical Exclusion and Draft City of Santa Cruz Operations and Maintenance Habitat Conservation Plan; Santa Cruz County, California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received an application for a permit to conduct activities with the potential for take of endangered species that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activities. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act prohibits certain activities that may impact endangered species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. We invite comments on this application which we will take into consideration before issuing a permit.

DATES: We will receive public comments on the draft habitat conservation plan and draft categorical exclusion screening form until October 13, 2020.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* You may download a copy of the draft habitat conservation plan and draft categorical exclusion screening form at <http://www.fws.gov/ventura/> or you may request copies of the documents by U.S. mail (below) or by phone (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Submitting Written Comments: Please send your written comments using one of the following methods:

- *U.S. mail:* Stephen P. Henry, Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003.

- *Email:* chad_mitcham@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chad Mitcham, Biologist, by phone at 805-677-3328, via the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 for TTY assistance, or at the Ventura address (see **ADDRESSES**).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The City of Santa Cruz (applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The applicant is requesting an ITP with a 30-year term, for incidental take of six wildlife species likely to result from

implementation of activities covered by the applicant's habitat conservation plan (HCP). The species included in the HCP are indicated in the table below.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), we advise the public of the availability of the

proposed HCP and our draft categorical exclusion screening form.

Common name	Scientific name	Federal status*	State status**
<i>Invertebrates (2)</i>			
Ohlone tiger beetle.	<i>Cicindela ohlone.</i>	E.	
Mount Hermon June beetle.	<i>Polyphylla barbata.</i>	E.	
<i>Fish (2)</i>			
Tidewater goby.	<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi.</i>	E.	
Pacific lamprey.	<i>Lampetra tridentata.</i>	SCC
<i>Amphibians (4)</i>			
California red-legged frog.	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	T	SSC
<i>Reptiles (1)</i>			
Western pond turtle.	<i>Actinemys marmorata.</i>	SSC
<i>Plants (4)</i>			
Ben Lomond spineflower.	<i>Chorizanthe pungens</i> var. <i>hartwegiana.</i>	E.	
Robust spineflower.	<i>Chorizanthe robusta</i> var. <i>robusta.</i>	E
Santa Cruz tarplant.	<i>Holocarpha macradenia.</i>	T	E
San Francisco popcornflower.	<i>Plagiobothrys diffusus.</i>	E

* Federal Status: Candidate (C); Endangered (E); Threatened (T).

** State Status: Species of Special Concern (SSC); Threatened (T); Endangered (E).

Background

Section 9 of the ESA prohibits take of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered (16 U.S.C. 1538). Under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)(B)), we may issue permits to authorize take of listed fish and wildlife species that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are set forth in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at part 17, section 17.22.

The NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) requires Federal agencies to analyze their proposed actions to determine whether the actions may significantly affect the human environment. In these

NEPA analyses, the Federal agency will identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, as well as possible mitigation for effects on environmental resources that could occur with implementation of the proposed action and alternatives.

Public Review

If you wish to comment on the draft HCP and categorical exclusion screening form, you may submit comments by one of the methods in **ADDRESSES**.

Any comments we receive will become part of the decision record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your

entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Stephen Henry,

Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, Ventura, California.

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