

**INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION****Sunshine Act Meetings**

**TIME AND DATE:** August 30, 2021, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Via tele-conference.

**STATUS:** Meeting of the IAF Board of Director, closed to the public as provided for by 22 CFR 1004.4(b)

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

- Executive Session

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Aswathi Zachariah, General Counsel, (202) 683–7118.

*For Dial-in Information Contact:*  
Karen Vargas, Board Liaison, (202) 524–8869.

The Inter-American Foundation is holding this meeting under the Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(b).

**Aswathi Zachariah,**  
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2021–18569 Filed 8–25–21; 11:15 am]

**BILLING CODE 7025–01–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2021–0094;  
FF08ESMF00–FXES11140800000–212]

**DifWind VII & IX Reclamation Project, Alameda County, California; Draft Categorical Exclusion and Draft Habitat Conservation Plan**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of permit application; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the receipt of an application from DifWind Farms Limited VII and DifWind Farms Limited IX (collectively, the applicants) for a 6-year incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), along with the applicants' draft habitat conservation plan. We also announce the availability of the associated draft National Environmental Policy Act categorical exclusion screening form. The applicants have applied for an incidental take permit under the ESA for the DifWind VII & IX Reclamation Project in Alameda County, California. The permit would authorize the take of two species incidental to the reclamation of a decommissioned commercial wind energy project. We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on the application and related documents. Before issuing the requested permit, we

will take into consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

**DATES:** We must receive your written comments on or before September 27, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Obtaining Documents:* The draft categorical exclusion screening form (CatEx), draft habitat conservation plan (HCP), and any comments and other materials that we receive are available for public inspection at <http://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2021–0094.

*Submitting Comments:* To submit comments, please use one of the following methods, and note that your information requests or comments are in reference to the draft CatEx, draft HCP, or both.

- *Internet:* Submit comments at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2021–0094.
- *U.S. Mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2021–0094; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

For more information, see Public Comments and Public Availability of Comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Vincent Griego, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, or Ryan Olah, Chief, Coast Bay Division, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, by phone at 916–414–6600 or via the Federal Relay Service at 800–877–8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the receipt of an application from DifWind Farms Limited VII, and DifWind Farms Limited IX (collectively, the applicants), for a 6-year incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), along with the applicants' draft habitat conservation plan. We also announce the availability of the associated draft National Environmental Policy Act categorical exclusion screening form (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). The applicants have applied for an incidental take permit under the ESA for the DifWind VII & IX Reclamation Project in Alameda County, California. The permit would authorize the take of two species incidental to the reclamation of a decommissioned commercial wind energy project. We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on the application and related documents. Before issuing the requested permit, we will take into

consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

An ITP application requires the preparation of an HCP with measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of incidental take to the maximum extent practicable. The applicants prepared and submitted for Service review their Draft DifWind VII & IX Reclamation Project Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. The Service then prepared a draft categorical exclusion screening form consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR 1501.4, and now is making it available in accordance with provisions within 40 CFR 1506.6. The purpose of the screening form is to confirm that the agency action is within a category of actions previously determined, pursuant to agency NEPA procedures, not to normally have significant effects on the natural and human environment, and thus does not require further NEPA evaluation, and that there are no extraordinary circumstances that indicate that an otherwise-excluded action may warrant further NEPA evaluation.

**Background**

Section 9 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544 *et seq.*) and Federal regulations (50 CFR 17) prohibit the taking of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the ESA. Regulations governing allowable exceptions to prohibited take of endangered and threatened species via permits are at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32. For more about the Federal habitat conservation plan program, go to <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/hcp.pdf>.

**National Environmental Policy Act Compliance**

The proposed permit issuance triggers the need for compliance with NEPA. The draft CatEx was prepared to analyze the impacts of issuing an ITP based on the draft HCP and to inform the public of the proposed action, any alternatives, and associated impacts, and to disclose any irreversible commitments of resources. The draft CatEx further confirms if an action is within a category of categorically excluded activities indicating further NEPA evaluation is not necessary.