

Purpose of Meeting: The Council will continue its study of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

Agenda: The agenda items will include the formulation of recommendations for the Council's 1996 report to the President and Congress and a discussion of general program issues.

Recommendations for the report may address administrative and legislative changes for WIC and CSFP as determined by the Council.

Meetings of the Council are open to the public. Members of the public may participate, as time permits. Members of the public may file written statements with the contact person named below before or after the meeting.

Persons wishing additional information about this meeting should contact Tama Eliff, Supplemental Food Programs Division, Food and Consumer Service, Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 540, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. Telephone: (703) 305-2730.

Dated: July 2, 1996.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-18254 Filed 7-17-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Changes in the State Technical Guides in California

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service), USDA.

ACTION: Notice of change.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 343 of Subtitle E of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIRA) that requires the Secretary of Agriculture to provide public notice and comment under Section 553 of Title 5, United States Code, with regard to any future revisions to those provisions of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State technical guides that are used to carry out Subtitles A, B, and C of Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 *et seq.*), the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, gives notice of revisions to all conservation practices in Section IV of the State technical guides in California. The distribution of these revisions and an updated index of conservation practice standards and specifications will be via California Technical Guide Notice 14 during August 1996.

These revisions to conservation practices in Section IV of State technical

guides are subject to these provisions since one or more are used or could be used as a part of a conservation management system to comply with the Highly Erodible Land Conservation or Wetland Conservation requirements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles W. Bell, State Resource Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, 2121-C Second Street, Suite 102, Davis, CA 95616-5475. FAX (916) 757-8382 or Internet: cbell@ca.nrcs.usda.gov

A copy of the new index and any of the revised items can be obtained from Charles W. Bell. These items will also be available at each of the NRCS field offices in California beginning in September 1996. Comments can be sent at anytime to Charles W. Bell or to the District Conservationist at any NRCS field office in California.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In California, "State technical guides" refers to the State Office Technical Guide maintained by the NRCS State Resource Conservationist in Davis, California; to the Area Office Technical Guide maintained at each NRCS Area Office in Red Bluff, Salinas, and Fresno, California; and to the Field Office Technical Guide maintained at each NRCS Field Office in California.

The last revisions to conservation practices in State technical guides in California were issued via California Technical Guide Notice Number 9 on December 14, 1995. The current California "Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications" is dated November 1995.

Revisions include word changes, reformatting sections of practice standards to be consistent with new national guidelines, name changes, renumbering, additions, deletions, and redating.

The revised conservation practices and Revised Index will be dated July 1996 and include all of the 171 conservation practice standards, 122 conservation practice specifications and their practice requirements sheets, 9 conservation practice material specifications, and 8 conservation practice construction standards.

Revisions include deletion of two practice standards and four practice specifications and their practice requirements sheets, the addition of four new practice standards and 24 new practice specifications and their practice requirements sheets, modifications to the names of 9 practices, renumbering 37 practice standards and 28 practice specifications and their practice requirements sheets, the deletion of material specification 606, and the addition of material specification 606A.

Dated: July 11, 1996.

Henry C. Wyman,

Deputy State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[FR Doc. 96-18235 Filed 7-17-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Comments on Information Collection Package

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13, this Notice announces the Rural Housing Service's (RHS's) intent to request approval of an Information Collection package in support of the direct Single Family Housing (SFH) programs of the Agency.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than close of business September 16, 1996. Comments received after such date will not be considered; therefore, the commentor should allow sufficient mailing and delivery time. RHS encourages the submission of comments within 30 days.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For inquiries on the Information Collection Package, contact Barbara Williams, Information Collection Coordinator, RHS at (202) 720-9734. For program content, contact David J. Villano, Special Assistant to the Administrator, RHS at (202) 720-1628. Comments should be submitted to Ms. Williams at USDA-RHS, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Ag Stop 0743, Washington, D.C. 20250-0743.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Direct Single Family Housing Handbooks Supporting 7 CFR Part 3550.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: On April 8, 1996, the RHS published a Proposed Rule in the Federal Register reengineering and reinventing the direct Section 502 and 504 Single Family Housing (SFH) programs (61 FR 15395). That action proposed the consolidation of 16 separate regulations guiding the direct SFH programs into one streamlined rule. RHS proposed a significant 90 percent reduction in CFR coverage. To accomplish this objective, in part, we removed administrative guidance from the 16 regulations and proposed to provide same in Handbooks which would not be published in the Federal Register. In our Proposed Rule, we stated we would publish a Notice in the Federal Register on or about July 1,

1996, providing a 60-day comment period on the information collection requirements of the Handbooks. This Notice accomplishes that proposal.

Section 501 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to administer such programs and to prescribe regulations to ensure that these loans and grants made with Federal Funds are made to eligible applicants for authorized purposes, and that subsequent servicing and benefits provided to borrowers are consistent with the authorizing statute.

RHS offers a supervised credit program to extend financial assistance to construct, improve, alter, repair, replace or rehabilitate dwellings, which will provide modest, decent, safe, and sanitary housing to eligible individuals living in rural areas. To assist individuals in obtaining affordable housing, a borrower's house payment may be subsidized to an interest rate as low as 1% and under the deferred mortgage program the subsidy can be reduced further. The amount of subsidy is based on the borrower's household income. The information requested by RHS is vital to be able to process applications for RHS assistance and make prudent credit and program decisions. It includes borrower financial information such as household income, assets and liabilities and monthly expenses. Without this information the Agency is unable to determine if a borrower would qualify for any services or if assistance has been granted that the borrower may not have been eligible for. In addition, proper liquidation and debt settlement decisions are made.

Another integral part of Agency lending requires borrowers to refinance to other credit when they are able to do so. If a borrower is unable to find other credit available at reasonable rates and terms, the Agency will continue to review the borrower for possible refinancing at periodic intervals. If it is determined that all loan servicing efforts have failed to produce a successful outcome the account will be liquidated through voluntary liquidation or foreclosure. The Agency may also accept a deed in lieu of foreclosure if it is in the best interest of the Government. The Agency may also settle debts through charge-off, compromise or adjustment.

The RHS has over 725,000 direct Sections 502 and 504 loans with approximately 625,000 customers in its portfolio. With our Fiscal Year (FY) 1996 direct sections 502 and 504 loan appropriation, the Agency anticipates making 35,000 new direct SFH loans this year. The accounting system

established by RHS's predecessor Agency, the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) to maintain its vast farm, housing, community and business loan programs is severely outdated and not capable of expansion to keep pace with an ever increasingly automated society. FmHA was not able to provide the same level of customer service provided by commercial lenders such as the escrow of real estate taxes and insurance for its customers and toll free telephone numbers to contact a servicing representative. These features are critical for RHS to provide prudent supervised credit to its very-low and low income customers and assist these families in becoming successful homeowners.

In May 1995, the RHS awarded a contract to Fiserv, Inc. and its subsidiary, Data-Link systems for the purchase of a commercial-off-the-shelf Dedicated Loan Origination and Servicing System (DLOS) which includes escrow capability. This system will replace the Agency's current Program Loan Accounting System (PLAS) and the Management Records System (MRS) and will provide agency personnel with the tools to deliver high quality customer services to its customers. RHS intends to adopt processes and techniques currently utilized by the private sector including centralized servicing and automation of many forms and processes. The system is being customized to provide the additional features and servicing benefits available to RHS customers to assist them in becoming successful homeowners. The Agency intends to begin implementing this system on October 1, 1996 with two pilot states. Other states will be phased into the DLOS system through FY 1996 with full implementation anticipated by September 30, 1997.

The centralized servicing unit will be located in St. Louis, Missouri, and will assume primary responsibility for the functions associated with servicing and managing the loan portfolio such as collection of loan payments, day to day loan servicing, escrowing, and accounting in a focused effort to monitor and reduce loan defaults thereby achieving our goal of having successful homeowners that can eventually refinance to commercial credit. The centralized unit will be staffed with many existing RHS employees.

RHS has been aggressively analyzing all existing burden imposed upon the public to obtain and retain SFH program assistance. A Task Force of RHS and Rural Development employees at the local, state and national level was

established and worked with the DLOS team to eliminate all unnecessary burden. This significant effort included input from the private sector manufacturers of the DLOS system. The system which RHS has already purchased includes many industry standard forms. Wherever possible, RHS intends to utilize these industry standard forms, eliminate duplicative FmHA forms and make full use of our new expanded automation capabilities. For example, most forms which a current RHS borrower must complete can be system generated and contain all relevant system information such as the borrower's account number, address, property description, real estate taxes, insurance, income data, etc., thereby reducing unnecessary burden imposed on our customers. This will reduce the time it takes the public to complete required information, reduce the need to stock forms throughout Rural Development offices, and result in cost savings to the public. RHS has reduced the burden in many of its existing information collection dockets.

While many information collection dockets have been decreased, through thorough analysis and consolidation of existing regulations, and the narrower scope in which the Paperwork Burden Act of 1995 defines an information collection "burden," many new areas of burden have surfaced which now appear in this proposed package. RHS has made every effort to analyze and reduce such burden to the maximum extent possible.

The information is collected from applicants, borrowers, application packagers, contractors, real estate brokers, employers, etc. In brief, all applicants and borrowers and any person with any type of a pecuniary interest in that of an applicant or recipient of a direct SFH loan or grant. The information is collected by RHS and Rural Development staff. RHS provides forms and guidelines to assist in the collection and submission of this information.

The information collected is used by the Agency to verify program eligibility requirements; continued eligibility requirements for borrower assistance; servicing of loans; eligibility for special servicing assistance such as: payment subsidies, moratorium (stop) on payments, delinquency workout agreements; liquidation of loans, and debt settlement. The information is also used to ensure that the direct SFH programs are administered in a manner consistent with legislative and administrative requirements. The information is typically submitted via hand delivery or the U.S. Postal Service

to the RHS or Rural Development office. Occasionally, information is submitted directly to RHS or Rural Development offices.

Public burden for the direct SFH programs is currently approved in several information collection dockets. These existing information collection dockets will be handled as follows:

- 7 CFR Part 1910, Subpart A—Receiving and Processing Applications. The direct SFH programs have no burden included in the existing approved information collection docket (0575-0134).

- 7 CFR Part 1944, Subpart A—Section 502 Rural Housing Loan Policies, Procedures, and Authorizations. The existing approved information collection docket (0575-0059) will be deleted at the final rule stage for Part 3550. The burden under this existing regulation is included in this proposed information collection docket.

- 7 CFR Part 1944, Subpart J—Section 504 Rural Housing Loans and Grants. The existing approved information collection docket (0575-0062) will be deleted at the final rule stage for 7 CFR Part 3550. The burden under this existing regulation is included in this proposed information collection docket.

- 7 CFR Part 1951, Subpart C—Offsets of Federal Payments to FmHA Borrowers. RHS will make a technical correction to the existing approved information collection docket (0575-0119) at the final rule stage of Part 3550 to remove the public burden for the direct Section 502 and 504 loan and grant programs. The burden for the direct SFH programs in this existing regulation is included in this proposed information collection docket.

- 7 CFR Part 1951, Subpart F—Analyzing Credit Needs and Graduation of Borrowers. RHS will make a technical correction to the existing approved information collection docket (0575-0093) at the final rule stage of Part 3550 to remove the public burden for the direct Section 502 and 504 loan and grant programs. The burden under this existing regulation for the direct SFH programs is included in this proposed information collection docket.

- 7 CFR Part 1951, Subpart G—Borrower Supervision, Servicing and Collection of Single Family Housing Loan Accounts. The existing approved information collection docket (0575-0060) will be deleted at the final rule stage for 7 CFR Part 3550. The burden under this existing regulation is included in this proposed information collection docket.

- 7 CFR Part 1951, Subpart M—Servicing Cases Where Unauthorized

Loan or Other Financial Assistance Was Received—Single Family Housing. The existing approved information collection docket (0575-0105) will be deleted at the Final Rule stage for 7 CFR Part 3550. The burden under this existing regulation is included in this proposed information collection docket.

- 7 CFR Part 1955, Subpart A—Liquidation of Loans Secured by Real Estate and Acquisition of Real and Chattel Property. RHS will make a technical correction to the existing approved information collection docket (0575-0109) at the final rule stage to delete the public burden for the direct Section 502 and 504 loan and grant programs. The burden under this existing regulation for the direct SFH programs is included in this proposed information collection docket.

- 7 CFR Part 1955, Subpart B—Management of Property. RHS will make a technical correction to the existing approved information collection docket (0575-0110) at the final rule stage to delete the public burden for the direct Section 502 and 504 loan and grant programs. The burden under this existing regulation is included in this proposed information collection docket.

- 7 CFR Part 1956, Subpart B—Debt Settlement—Farmer Programs and Housing. RHS will make a technical correction to the existing approved information collection docket (0575-0118) at the final rule stage to delete the public burden for the direct Section 502 and 504 loan and grant programs and transfer this regulation and information collection docket to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The burden under this existing regulation for the direct SFH programs is included in this proposed information collection docket.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to range from 5 minutes to 1.5 hours per response.

Respondents: Applicants seeking financial assistance through RHS to purchase adequate housing in rural America, borrowers who have received such assistance and any person with a pecuniary interest in an applicant or borrower.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 750,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.3.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 839,763.

A complete copy of the Information Collection Package and DRAFT Handbooks is available from Barbara Williams, Information Collection Coordinator, RHS at the aforementioned address.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments must be received on or before September 16, 1996, to be assured of consideration. Comments received after such date will not be considered, therefore; the commentor must allow for sufficient mailing and delivery time. RHS encourages the submission of comments within 30 days. All responses to this notice will be summarized, included in the request for OMB approval, and will become a matter of public record. Comments should be submitted to Barbara Williams, Information Collection Coordinator, RHS, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ag. Stop 0743, Washington, DC 20250-0743. A comment to RHS is best assured of having its full effect if RHS receives it within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Dated: July 12, 1996.

Maureen Kennedy,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 96-18192 Filed 7-17-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 56-96]

Foreign-Trade Zone 181—Akron-Canton, Ohio Area; Application for Expansion

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Akron-Canton Regional Airport Authority, grantee of Foreign-Trade Zone 181, requesting authority to expand its zone in the Akron-Canton, Ohio area, adjacent to the Cleveland/Akron Customs port of entry. The application was submitted pursuant to