

for public inspection in their entirety. Comments and materials we receive are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section.

#### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

In compliance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), we have made an initial determination that the activities proposed by this permit are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: April 17, 2007.

Lynn Lewis,

Deputy Assistant Regional Director,  
Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling,  
Minnesota.

[FR Doc. E7-9266 Filed 5-14-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Receipt of Application for Endangered Species Permit

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The public is invited to comment on the following application to conduct certain activities with endangered species.

**DATES:** We must receive written data or comments on the application at the address given below, by June 14, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents and other information submitted with the application are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: David Dell, HCP Coordinator).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Dell, telephone 404/679-7313; facsimile 404/679-7081.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The public is invited to comment on the following application for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered and threatened species. This notice is provided under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et*

*seq.*). If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of the following methods. You may mail comments to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES** section) or via electronic mail (e-mail) to [david\\_dell@fws.gov](mailto:david_dell@fws.gov). Please include your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Fish and Wildlife Service that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed above (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Fish and Wildlife Service office listed above (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Before including your address, telephone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

*Applicant:* Jackson Environmental Consulting Services, LLC, Jeremy Lynn Jackson, Richmond, Kentucky, TE102292-3.

The applicant requests authorization to renew and amend an existing permit authorization to take (capture, identify, release) the gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and Virginia big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*) while conducting presence/absence surveys in West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Dated: April 9, 2007.

Cynthia K. Dohner,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. E7-9273 Filed 5-14-07; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly for the Metcalf-El Patio Recondutor and Metcalf-Hicks/Vasona Recondutor, Santa Clara County, CA

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

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

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (applicant) for a 3-year incidental take permit for the federally threatened bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*) under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The application addresses the potential for "take" of the butterfly incidental to proposed recondutoring and conservation management activities at the Metcalf-El Patio 115 kV and Metcalf-Hicks/Vasona 230 kV transmission line site in Santa Clara County, California (plan area). We request comments on the applicant's application and low-effect habitat conservation plan (plan), and on our preliminary determination that the Plan qualifies as a "low-effect" habitat conservation plan eligible for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). We discuss our basis for this determination in our environmental action statement (EAS), which is also available for review.

**DATES:** We must receive any written comments on or before June 14, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Please address written comments to Lori Rinek, Chief, Conservation Planning and Recovery Division, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825. Alternatively, you may send comments by facsimile to (916) 414-6713.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Eric Tattersall, Chief, Conservation Planning Branch, or Cori Mustin, Senior Biologist, at the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, at (916) 414-6600 (telephone).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Availability of Documents

You may obtain copies of the permit application, plan, and EAS from the individuals named under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Documents will

also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during regular business hours at the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (see **ADDRESSES**).

#### Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your 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.

#### Background Information

Section 9 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing Federal regulations prohibit the “take” of fish or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. “Take” is defined under the Act to include the following activities: To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect listed animal species, or to attempt to engage in such conduct. However, under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act, the Service may issue permits to authorize incidental take of listed species. “Incidental take” is defined by the Act as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing incidental take permits for endangered and threatened species, respectively, are in the Code of Federal Regulations at 50 CFR 17.22 and 50 CFR 17.32.

The applicant seeks a permit for take of one federally listed species, the threatened bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*). This species is referred to as the “covered species” in the plan. The proposed reconductoring activities would temporarily affect approximately 2.4 acres (ac) of habitat, which comprises approximately 0.0084 percent of the species’ designated critical habitat. The applicant would receive “No Surprises” assurances for the covered species under our “No Surprises” regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)).

Only one species listed under the Act, the bay checkerspot butterfly, has the potential to occur on the project site and to be incidentally taken by the proposed project. Several other sensitive species are located in the vicinity of the plan area, including: (1) California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), federally listed as threatened; (2) California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), federally listed as threatened; (3) Santa Clara Valley dudleya (*Dudleya setchellii*), federally listed as

endangered; and (4) Metcalf Canyon jewelflower (*Streptanthus albidus albidus*), federally listed as endangered. However, the Service determined that there would be no take of California tiger salamander or California red-legged frog. It was also determined that there would be no project-related effects on Santa Clara Valley dudleya or Metcalf Canyon jewelflower. Therefore, bay checkerspot butterfly is the only covered species in the plan.

The applicant proposes to reductor two Metcalf transmission lines within the plan area. As discussed in the plan, proposed covered activities include the following: (1) Constructing crossing structures, (2) pulling new conductors, (3) accessing the plan area, (4) staging in the plan area, (5) implementing fire prevention/suppression measures, and (6) implementing a conservation strategy for the bay checkerspot butterfly.

The applicant proposes to avoid and minimize take and associated adverse project impacts to the covered species by fully implementing the plan. The applicant will minimize and mitigate the impacts of taking the bay checkerspot butterfly by implementing the following measures: (1) Conducting construction activities during summer and late fall; (2) ensuring that a qualified biologist is present to monitor and oversee technical issues relative to compliance with the mitigation and conservation measures; (3) restricting work activities to a 50-foot radius area from the center of most towers; (4) documenting serpentine (type of soil) habitat conditions with photographs before and after reductoring activities; (5) developing and implementing, as appropriate, a re-seeding plan; (6) planning for rain that may occur prior to the completion of the project; (7) ensuring minimal disturbance caused by construction equipment; (8) ensuring that construction personnel receive worker awareness training; (9) ensuring that measures are taken to prevent accidental wildfires; and (10) halting project activities if bay checkerspot larvae or adults are found on site and coordinating with us regarding next steps. The applicant’s plan also describes measures and funding sources that ensure that the elements of the plan would be implemented in a timely manner, actions to be taken if unforeseen events occur, and other required elements.

Our proposed action consists of approving the applicant’s plan and issuing an incidental take permit for the applicant’s project. As required by the Act, the applicant’s plan also considers

alternatives to the take considered under the proposed action. The plan considers the environmental consequences of one alternative to the proposed action, the No Action alternative. The proposed action alternative consists of issuance of the incidental take permit for the applicant’s proposed project, which includes the activities described above. The proposed action alternative would result in temporary impacts to 2.4 ac of serpentine habitat. To mitigate for temporary impacts, the applicant agrees to purchase and conserve at least 1.2 ac of bay checkerspot butterfly habitat at a ratio of 0.5 to 1, of acres permanently protected to acres temporarily affected.

Under the No Action alternative, no permit would be issued, no construction associated with reductoring activities would occur, and no take would occur. Under this alternative, the applicant would not be able to provide a safe and reliable power supply to its south San Jose service area, which is currently operating close to its maximum load rating. Additionally, an outage on one of the existing circuits could result in power curtailments or outages in the area, which would put the public’s health, welfare, and safety at risk and could also result in substantial damage to the applicant’s electrical system. No conservation areas would be protected under the No Action alternative.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

As described in our EAS, we have made the preliminary determination that approval of the proposed plan and issuance of the permit would qualify as a categorical exclusion under NEPA, as provided by Federal regulations (40 CFR 1500.5(k), 1507.3(b)(2), 1508.4) and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2 and 516 DM 8). Our EAS found that the proposed plan qualifies as a “low-effect” habitat conservation plan, as defined by the Service’s Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook (November 1996). Determination of low-effect habitat conservation plans is based on the following three criteria: (1) Implementation of the proposed plan would result in minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats; (2) implementation of the proposed plan would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) impacts of the plan, considered together with the impacts of other past, present and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects, would not result, over time, in cumulative effects to environmental values or resources which would be

considered significant. Based upon the preliminary determinations in the EAS, we do not intend to prepare further NEPA documentation. We will consider public comments when making the final determination on whether to prepare an additional NEPA document on the proposed action.

#### Public Review

We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and the NEPA public-involvement regulations (40 CFR 1500.1(b), 1500.2(d), and 1506.6). We will evaluate the permit application, including the plan, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. If the requirements are met, we will issue a permit to the Pacific Gas & Electric Company for incidental take of the bay checkerspot butterfly during Metcalf reconductoring work. We will make the final permit decision no sooner than 30 days after the date of this notice.

Dated: May 9, 2007.

**Susan K. Moore,**

*Field Supervisor, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, Sacramento, California.*

[FR Doc. E7-9277 Filed 5-14-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AK-990-07-5101-NH-FLO7]

#### Notice of Public Meeting of the Federal/State Joint Pipeline Office Executive Council

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the **Federal Register** requirements to announce meetings the Federal/State Joint Pipeline Office will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held June 13, 2007, at the Alaska State Library Talking Book Center at 344 West 3rd Avenue, Suite 125, in Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m.

The council will accept public comment at 1 p.m. Time for individual comments may be limited depending on the number of people wishing to give comment. The council will accept written comments.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rhea DoBosh, Joint Pipeline Office, 411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 2C, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; by phone, 907-257-1338; by fax, 907-257-1397; or by e-mail, [rdobosh@jpo.doi.gov](mailto:rdobosh@jpo.doi.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 12-member Federal/State Executive Council was created in March 1990 to provide full partnership for State and Federal agencies in monitoring of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). At this meeting, topics to be presented and discussed include:

- History and overview of the Joint Pipeline Office.
- Update on the TAPS Strategic Reconfiguration Project.
- Agency reports.
- Future scope of work.
- Other topics the Council may raise.

All meetings are open to the public. If you plan to comment on an agenda item, please be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information of address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment—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. The public may present written comments to the Council.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, transportation, or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the Joint Pipeline Office so arrangements can be made.

To connect to the meeting via telebridge, dial 1-877-934-3608, then dial code 190500#. When the automated voice instructs you to say your name, say "Your Name/Office" then press #.

Dated: May 8, 2007.

**Sharon K Wilson,**

*Acting State Director.*

[FR Doc. E7-9284 Filed 5-14-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Quarterly Status Report of Water Service, Repayment, and Other Water-Related Contract Negotiations

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of contractual actions that have been proposed to the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and are new, modified, discontinued, or completed since the last publication of this notice on February 27, 2007. This notice is one of a variety of means used to inform the public about proposed contractual

actions for capital recovery and management of project resources and facilities consistent with section 9(f) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939. Additional announcements of individual contract actions may be published in the **Federal Register** and in newspapers of general circulation in the areas determined by Reclamation to be affected by the proposed action.

**ADDRESSES:** The identity of the approving officer and other information pertaining to a specific contract proposal may be obtained by calling or writing the appropriate regional office at the address and telephone number given for each region in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sandra L. Simons, Manager, Contract Services Office, Bureau of Reclamation, PO Box 25007, Denver, Colorado 80225-0007; telephone 303-445-2902.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Consistent with section 9(f) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 and the rules and regulations published in 52 FR 11954, April 13, 1987 (43 CFR 426.22), Reclamation will publish notice of proposed or amendatory contract actions for any contract for the delivery of project water for authorized uses in newspapers of general circulation in the affected area at least 60 days prior to contract execution. Announcements may be in the form of news releases, legal notices, official letters, memorandums, or other forms of written material. Meetings, workshops, and/or hearings may also be used, as appropriate, to provide local publicity. The public participation procedures do not apply to proposed contracts for the sale of surplus or interim irrigation water for a term of 1 year or less. Either of the contracting parties may invite the public to observe contract proceedings. All public participation procedures will be coordinated with those involved in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act. Pursuant to the "Final Revised Public Participation Procedures" for water resource-related contract negotiations, published in 47 FR 7763, February 22, 1982, a tabulation is provided of all proposed contractual actions in each of the five Reclamation regions. When contract negotiations are completed, and prior to execution, each proposed contract form must be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, or pursuant to delegated or redelegated authority, the Commissioner of Reclamation or one of the regional directors. In some instances, congressional review and approval of a report, water rate, or other terms and