

- 05, 1998, Contact: David J. Dorworth (202) 514-6470.
- EIS No. 980078, FINAL EIS, USN, FL, SC, VA, NC, Cecil Field Naval Air Station, Realignment of F/A-18 Aircraft and Operational Functions, to Other East Coast Installations; NAS Oceana, VA; MCAS Beaufort, SC and MCAS Cherry Point, NC, Implementation, COE Section 404 Permit, FL, SC, NC and VA, Due: April 20, 1998, Contact: J. Daniel Cecchini (703) 604-5469.
- EIS No. 980079, DRAFT EIS, IBR, CA, Programmatic—CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Long-Term Comprehensive Plan to Restore Ecosystem Health and Improve Water Management, Implementation, San Francisco Bay—Sacramento/San Joaquin River Bay-Delta, CA, Due: June 01, 1998, Contact: Rick Brietenbach (916) 657-2666.
- EIS No. 980080, DRAFT EIS, IBR, CA, NV, CA, NV, Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA, Modify Operation and Selected Non-Federal Reservoirs, Implementation, Truckee River Basin, EL Dorado, Nevada, Placer and Sierra Counties, CA and Douglas, Lyon, Storey and Washoe Counties, NV, Due: June 19, 1998, Contact: David Overvold (702) 884-8367.
- EIS No. 980081, DRAFT EIS, NOA, AK, Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) Management Plan, Operations and Development, Southcentral, AK, Due: May 04, 1998, Contact: Stephanie Thornton (301) 713-3125.
- EIS No. 980082, FINAL EIS, AFS, MT, Poorman Project, Implementation, Harvesting and Road Construction, Helena National Forest, Lincoln Ranger District, Lewis and Clark County, MT, Due: April 20, 1998, Contact: Thomas J. Andersen (406) 449-5201 ext. 277.
- EIS No. 980083, FINAL EIS, MMS, AK, Beaufort Sea Planning Area Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sale 170 (1997) Lease Offering, Offshore Marine, Beaufort Sea Coastal Plain, North Slope Borough of Alaska, Due: April 20, 1998, Contact: George Valiulis (703) 787-1662.
- EIS No. 980084, FINAL EIS, FHW, RI, Newport Marine Facilities Project, To Develop the Marine Mode of the Intermodal Gateway Transportation Center, Selected siting in various locations within the City of Newport, Towns of Middletown and Portsmouth, Funding, COE Section 404 Permit and US Coast Guard Permit, Aquidneck Island, RI, Due: April 20, 1998, Contact: Daniel Berman (401) 528-4541.

EIS No. 980085, FINAL EIS, AFS, CA, Liberty Forest Health Improvement Project, Implementation, Tahoe National Forests, Sierraville Ranger District, Sierra and Nevada Counties, CA, Due: April 20, 1998, Contact: John Kennedy (530) 994-3401.

#### Amended Notices

EIS No. 980018, DRAFT EIS, AFS, AK, Crane and Rowan Mountain Timber Sales, Implementation, Tongass National Forest, Stikine Area, Kuiu Island, AK, Due: March 30, 1998, Contact: Everett Kissenger (907) 772-3841.

Published FR 02-06-98—Review Period extended.

EIS No. 970500, DRAFT SUPPLEMENT EIS, AFS, MT, Asarco Rock Creek Copper and Silver Mining Construction and Operation Project, Plan of Operations Approval, Special Use Permit (s), Road Use Permit, Mineral Material Permit, Timber Sale Contract and COE Section 404 Permit Issuance, Kootenai National Forest, Sanders County, MT, Due: 04-10-98, Contact: Paul Kaiser, (406) 293-6211. Published FR 01-09-98—Review Period extended.

Dated: March 17, 1998.

**William D. Dickerson,**

*Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.*

[FR Doc. 98-7355 Filed 3-19-98; 8:45 am]

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5490-1]

#### Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared March 02, 1998 Through March 06, 1998 pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of FEDERAL ACTIVITIES AT (202) 564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 11, 1997 (62 FR 16154).

#### Draft EISs

ERP No. D-COE-E30039-FL Rating EC2, Sunny Isles (North Miami) Proposed Modification to a segment of the Dade County Beach Erosion Control

and Hurricane Protection Project, Dade County, FL.

**Summary:** EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding unavoidable losses of biotic resources and how effectively they will be mitigated.

ERP No. D-COE-K30030-CA Rating EO2, Unocal Avila Beach Cleanup Project, Petroleum Hydrocarbon Contamination, Approval and Implementation, US Army COE Section 10 and 404 Permits Issuance, San Luis Obispo County, CA.

**Summary:** EPA expressed environmental objections that the DEIS did not adequately address the environmental consequences of implementing the "No-Action" alternative in Area 7 despite data in the DEIS which indicates that Area 7 is extensively contaminated with hydrocarbons which may be adversely affecting shellfish and other aquatic species. EPA commented that it is unclear whether the preferred "No-Action" alternative for Area 7 is consistent with Federal and State environmental laws. EPA also indicated that there was insufficient discussion in the DEIS to determine the extent to which existing contamination in the intertidal zone Area 7 may be affecting the environment and human health and whether a "No-Action" decision in Area 7 would exacerbate those impacts.

ERP No. D-COE-K39046-AZ Rating EC2, Rio Salado Environmental Restoration of two Sites along the Salt River: (1) Phoenix Reach and (2) Tempe Reach, Feasibility Report, in the Cities of Phoenix and Tempe, Maricopa County, AZ.

**Summary:** EPA expressed environmental concerns that the project's recreational and interpretive aspects received a higher value than potential wildlife and aquatic-related functions. EPA expressed concerns about the potential relationship of this project with several sand and gravel mining operations in the area, in particular, whether mitigation implemented by the sand and gravel operators may be adversely affected by the Salado project.

#### Final EISs

ERP No. F-COE-K67020-CA, Syar Mining Operation and Reclamation Plan, Six Sites Selected along the Russian River, Construction, Mining-Use-Permit and COE Section 404 Permit, City of Healdsburg, Sonoma County, CA.

**Summary:** EPA continued to have environmental objections with the Supplemental DEIS. EPA requested that the Record of Decision reflect the

mitigation measures contained in the FEIS.

ERP No. F-FHW-E40747-NC, Fayetteville Outer Loop Project, US 401 to I-95 at the existing US 13 Interchange, Funding and USCOE Section 10 and 404 Permit Issuance, City of Fayetteville, Cumberland County, NC.

**Summary:** EPA continued to have environmental concerns about the project's impact despite the deletion of the segment west of US 401. Eighty-two acres of wetlands would be lost by the 7-mile long project. Alternatives to the Eastern terminus were not addressed in the document, as EPA requested.

ERP No. F-FHW-E40758-NC, US-17/ Wilmington Bypass Transportation Improvement Program, Updated Information, TIP R-2633C, Construction from I-40 to US 421, Funding, NPDES and US Coast Guard and COE Section 10 and 404 Permits, New Hanover County, NC.

**Summary:** EPA continued to have environmental concerns about this segment of the proposed bypass, because of expected impacts to wetlands. EPA is pleased with the new Center Alternative, now preferred by NCDOT, because it minimizes several impacts. Other bypass segments, however, have significant issues yet to be resolved.

ERP No. F-FHW-E40760-NC, Sunset Beach Bridge No. 198 on Secondary Road NC-1172 Replacement, Over the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Funding, COE Section 10 and 404 Permit, Brunswick County, NC.

**Summary:** EPA continued to have environmental preference to the mid-level bascule bridge alternative, our comments on the DEIS have been responded to satisfactorily.

ERP No. F-IBR-K39043-CA, American River Water Resources Investigation, Implementation, Placer, Suter, EL Dorado, Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties, CA.

**Summary:** EPA continued to express environmental objections to the Auburn Dam alternative, and noted that if the Auburn Dam proposal is carried forward as the preferred alternative without correcting its unacceptable impacts, it will be considered a candidate for referral to CEQ. EPA also noted that Reclamation has not identified a Federal role at this program level or a Federal preferred alternative. EPA urged Reclamation and other program sponsors to reject the Auburn Dam alternative and pursue "conjunctive use" solutions to water management in the study area.

EPA believed a balanced combination of demand management, water

reclamation, transfers, and new facilities can meet area water supply needs while preserving water quality and flows needed instream for aquatic resources.

Dated: March 17, 1998.

**William D. Dickerson,**  
Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5984-5]

### STEJ Grants Program Request for Applications Guidance FY 1998

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this document is to solicit applications from eligible candidates under the State and Tribal Environmental Justice (STEJ) Grants Program, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice.

For FY 1998, EPA expects to award a total of \$500,000 to states and tribes to demonstrate how to effectively address environmental justice issues. A maximum of \$100,000 will be awarded to each recipient, contingent upon the availability of funds. A total of five grants are expected to be awarded. The standard project and budget periods are for one year. The grantee can request that the project and budget periods be extended up to three years, with the total budget of \$100,000 provided during the first year. This guidance outlines the purpose, authorities, eligibility, and general procedures for application and award of the FY 1998 STEJ Grants.

The application must be postmarked no later than Friday, May 29, 1998.

### Grants Program Overview

The State and Tribal Environmental Justice (STEJ) Grants Program was created to provide financial assistance to state and tribal environmental departments that are working to address environmental justice issues. With the increased interest in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, EPA is seeking, through this assistance program, to support individual state's and tribe's efforts to effectively comply with Title VI in their environmental programs and/or establish an environmental justice program.

### A. Program Goals

The STEJ Grants Program is intended to assist states and tribes in ultimately achieving the following environmental justice goals and objectives:

- Enhance the state or tribal government's effectiveness in complying with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Reduce or prevent disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on low-income communities and/or minority communities.
- Integrate environmental justice goals into a state's or tribe's policies, programs, and activities.
- Provide financial and technical resources to develop an enabling infrastructure at the state/local community level and tribal/tribal community level.
- Set up model programs to address enforcement and compliance issues in affected environmental justice (EJ) communities.
- Integrate measurable EJ goals within the annual Performance Partnership Agreements (PPAs) and Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs) between a state and EPA, or integrate measurable EJ goals within the Tribal Environmental Agreements (TEAs).
- Improve public participation in the decision-making processes (e.g. permitting processes, development of regulations and policies)

### B. Background on Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, culture, or income with respect to the development, implementation, enforcement and compliance of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no groups of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local and tribal programs and policies.

Environmental justice has focused attention on the need to ensure environmental protection for all, and to empower those most often disenfranchised from the decision-making process, the low-income and/or minority communities. On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order (EO) 12898, A Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations@ (Appendix A).