

access and safety and the accuracy of information available to potential park and city visitors. It also would better protect cultural resources and enhance existing park partnerships. Alternative 2, the no-action alternative, would continue current management direction. Benefits would continue for visitors in information and interpretation, but crowding in the visitor center unit would result in adverse visitor safety conditions. In addition, the uses of adjacent lands would continue to have adverse effects on visual resources and land use. Alternative 3 would emphasize resource preservation. This alternative would increase protection of cultural and natural resources, moderately benefit visual resources and the visitor experience, and improve park administration and operation. Alternative 4 would accommodate more visitors during peak visitation times. It would lead to some improvement in visitor access and circulation in and near the park, improvements in opportunities for information about Sitka attractions, and a better visitor experience.

Dated: June 18, 1998.

Paul R. Anderson,

Regional Director, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 98-17084 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Salton Sea Project, Riverside and Imperial Counties, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the improvement of the Salton Sea, California and notice of public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Salton Sea Authority (Authority), State of California, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, will be preparing an EIR/EIS document to assess the impacts of alternative solutions for restoring the Salton Sea (Sea) located in Riverside and Imperial Counties, California.

DATES: Written comments on the scoping issues will be accepted until September 30, 1998. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations:

July 15, 1998, 5 PM—8 PM, Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, West Shores Post 3251, 50 Desert Shores Drive, Desert Shores, California.

July 16, 1998, 5 PM—8 PM, Imperial Irrigation District Board Room, 81-600 Avenue 58, La Quinta, California.

July 17, 1998, 10 AM—1 PM, El Centro Board of Supervisors Chambers, 940 Main Street, Suite 212, El Centro, California.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region, PO Box 61470, Boulder City, NV, 89006-1470, ATTN: Salton Sea Program Manager or to the Salton Sea Authority, Tom Kirk, Executive Director, 46-209 Oasis Street, 2nd Floor, Indio, CA 92201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William Steele, Salton Sea Program Manager (Reclamation), at (702) 293-8129; or Mr. Tom Kirk, Salton Sea Authority Executive Director, at (760) 863-7942.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pub. L. 102-575, 1992, directs the Secretary of the Interior to "conduct a research project for the development of a method or combination of methods to reduce and control salinity, provide endangered species habitat, enhance fisheries, and protect human recreational values * * * in the area of the Salton Sea * * *". In addition to this authority, Reclamation and the Authority have entered into an agreement, Salton Sea Planning and Research Program, to jointly study problems associated with the Sea.

The Authority is a public agency formed under the provisions of Articles I and II, Chapter 5, Division 7, Title 1 of the Government Code of the State of California for the purpose of "directing and coordinating actions relating to improvement of water quality and stabilization of water elevation and to enhance recreational and economic development potential of the Sea and other beneficial uses, recognizing the importance of the Sea for the continuation of the dynamic agricultural economy of Imperial and Riverside Counties."

The Sea is a hypersaline lake located in a closed basin of the southern California desert; it is the largest body of water within California. The Sea was initially formed in 1905-1907 by flooding on the Colorado River which breached an irrigation control structure allowing virtually the full flow of river water into the Salton Basin. The Sea's current existence is primarily due to agricultural drainage from the Imperial, Coachella, and Mexicali Valleys; smaller

volumes of municipal effluent and storm water runoff also flow to the Sea.

The Sea is home to a highly eutrophic ecosystem and a productive sport fishery. The Sea, and wetlands along its shoreline, are a critical part of the Pacific flyway providing seasonal and migratory habitat to millions of birds of varying species. Several endangered species, including the desert pupfish, Yuma clapper rail, brown pelican, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle, inhabit the Sea and/or adjacent habitats.

The Sea ecosystem is under stress. Increasing salinity, currently about 43 parts per thousand, is threatening the reproductive ability of some parts of the biota. Other potential issues include high nutrient loading, heavy metals, DDT residues, and discharges of agricultural chemicals to irrigation drains leading to the Sea. At the scoping meetings, participants will be requested to identify other potentially significant issues as well as potential alternative solutions.

The purpose of the project is to identify a plan that improves the human environment and ecological conditions of the Sea. Based on past studies, various alternatives to control salinity in the Sea have been investigated. These alternatives include diked impoundments, pump-out, a combination of impoundment and pump-out alternatives, and salt removal from inflow to the Sea. Other options may surface during the scoping process. Opportunities to address other environmental issues facing the Sea, including issues related to wildlife resources, will be investigated and considered for implementation as we increase our understanding of the Sea's ecology.

The objective of this effort is to evaluate alternatives (1) capable of maintaining the Sea as a reservoir of agricultural drainage, (2) provide a safe, productive environment for resident and migratory birds and endangered species, (3) restore recreational uses, (4) maintain a viable sport fishery, and (5) identify opportunities for economic development.

The analysis will address the current issues of (1) accumulation and concentration of salts, nutrients, and organic compounds and other constituents, (2) water elevation stabilization, (3) reduced recreational use of the Sea, and (4) reduced ecological values. The environmental document will also address any Indian Trust Assets (ITA) of the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and assets of any other Tribe(s).

Environmental and engineering baseline data have been collected over

the past several years and the project is now ready to move forward under the CEQA/NEPA process. The Secretary of the Interior has identified this as a high priority project and action is being expedited due to the worsening conditions at the Sea. Over 200,000 birds have died at the Sea over the past six years as a result of the current conditions. Reclamation and the Authority will be working closely with interested Congressional members and other stakeholders to develop possible solutions.

A Research Management Committee (Committee) has been established of high-level managers from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Authority, State of California, and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. This Committee makes funding and other relevant decisions regarding science to be funded to support the CEQA/NEPA process. A Science Subcommittee (Subcommittee) has been established to serve as an advisory committee to provide scientific evaluations and recommendations to the Committee. The Subcommittee functions as a coordinated body to determine information gaps, identify science/information needs, and provide the Committee with recommendations for funding priorities regarding the science activities.

The draft EIR/EIS is expected to be completed by the end of December 1999.

Dated: June 16, 1998.

LeGrand Neilson,

Acting Regional Director, Lower Colorado Region.

[FR Doc. 98-17022 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-94-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[USITC SE-98-012]

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: United States International Trade Commission.

TIME AND DATE: July 14, 1998 at 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: Room 101, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436.

STATUS: Open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Agenda for future meeting: none.
2. Minutes.
3. Ratification List.
4. Inv. No. 731-TA-768 (Final) (Fresh Atlantic Salmon from Chile)—briefing and vote.

5. Outstanding action jackets: none.

In accordance with Commission policy, subject matter listed above, not disposed of at the scheduled meeting, may be carried over to the agenda of the following meeting.

Issued: June 22, 1998.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-17258 Filed 6-24-98; 12:57 pm]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[USITC SE-98-011]

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: United States International Trade Commission.

TIME AND DATE: July 10, 1998 at 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: Room 101, 500 E Street S.W. Washington, DC 20436.

STATUS: Open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Agenda for future meeting: none.
2. Minutes.
3. Ratification List.
4. Inv. Nos. 751-TA-17-20 (Titanium Sponge from Japan, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine)—briefing and vote.
5. Outstanding action jackets: none.

In accordance with Commission policy, subject matter listed above, not disposed of at the scheduled meeting, may be carried over to the agenda of the following meeting.

Issued: June 22, 1998.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-17259 Filed 6-24-98; 12:57 pm]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.

Notice is hereby given that on, June 8, 1998 a proposed Consent Decree ("Decree") in *United States v. Asarco Incorporated, et al.*, Civil Action No. 2:98CVO415B was lodged with the United States District Court for the District of Utah. The United States filed this action pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental

Response, Compensation and Liability Act, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq., to recover the past and future response costs incurred at or in connection with the Murray Smelter Site in the City of Murray, Utah.

The proposed Consent Decree resolves claims against: Asarco Incorporated; Murray City Corporation; SALS Investors Partnership; Utah Transit Authority; Monroc Inc.; TB Warehouse L.L.C.; Timothy Buehner; Paul Buehner; Alma Utah Company, Otto Buehner and Company; Buehner Salt Lake Properties, L.L.C.; Buehner Corp.; Hi-Ute Investment Company; Murray Land Trust L.L.C.; W.R. White Company; Ash Grove Cement; and Paragon Properties. This proposed Consent Decree recovers response costs of \$109,547.37, and requires Asarco, and the other settling defendants, to implement EPA's selected remedy for the Site. The Decree also settles potential claims against the United States at the Site.

The Department of Justice will receive for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication comments relating to the Decree. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General of the Environment and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530, and should refer to, *United States v. Asarco Incorporated, et al.*, Civil Action No. 2: 98CVO415B, and D.J. Ref. #90-11-3-1729.

The Decree may be examined at the United States Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Denver Field Office, 999 18th Street, North Tower Suite 945, Denver, Colorado, 80202 and the U.S.; EPA Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Superfund Records Center, Suite 500, Denver, Co. 80202, and at the Consent Decree Library, 1120 G Street, NW., 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 624-0892. A copy of the Decree may be obtained in person or by mail from the Consent Decree Library, 1120 G Street, NW., 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20005. In requesting a copy, please enclose a check in the amount of \$32.00 for the Decree, without attachments (25 cents per page reproduction cost) payable to the Consent Decree Library.

Joel M. Gross,

Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources, Division.

[FR Doc. 98-17011 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-15-M