

Development, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3390, Denver, CO; telephone (303) 675-1600 (this is not a toll-free number). Hearing or speech-impaired individuals may access this number via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 *et seq.*) (NAHASDA) was enacted on October 26, 1996, and took effect on October 1, 1997. NAHASDA requires HUD to make grants on behalf of Indian tribes to carry out affordable housing activities. A final rule to implement NAHASDA and establish the IHBG Program was published on March 12, 1998, (63 FR 12334), with an effective date of April 13, 1998.

NAHASDA also required the publication of a notice in the **Federal Register** to establish any requirements necessary for the transition from the provision of assistance for Indian tribes and Indian housing authorities under the 1937 Act and other related provisions of law to the provision of assistance in accordance with NAHASDA. An initial transition notice was published on January 27, 1997 (62 FR 3972), with revisions published on February 24, 1997 (62 FR 8258), January 27, 1998 (63 FR 4076), April 15, 1998 (63 FR 18804), and October 2, 1998 (63 FR 53084).

This revision to the transition notice requirements addresses the treatment of proceeds from the sale of homeownership units. Question 42 in the transition notice revision published on January 27, 1998 treated proceeds from the sale of homeownership units the same as rental and homeownership operating reserves, mutual help equity accounts under the Mutual Help Homeownership Opportunity Program, and earned home payment accounts under the Turnkey III programs for purposes of section 210 of NAHASDA. Section 210 states that any funds for programs for low-income housing under the United States Housing Act of 1937 that, on the date of the applicability of NAHASDA, are owned by, or in the possession or under the control of, the IHA for the tribe, including all reserves not otherwise obligated, shall be considered assistance under NAHASDA and subject to the NAHASDA provisions relating to use of such assistance.

In response to inquiries, HUD has reconsidered Question 42 and determined that section 210 of NAHASDA does not apply to the

proceeds from the sale of homeownership units. The purpose of the statutory requirement for the transition notice is to facilitate the transition from the 1937 Act programs to the IHBG program. Proceeds of sale of homeownership units under the 1937 Act are not characterized as program income under the IHBG regulation. By providing that the proceeds can be used for any housing activity, community facility, or economic development activity and are not subject to other Federal requirements, HUD is seeking to expedite the smooth transition to the IHBG program. Accordingly, Question 42 is amended by this notice to remove the reference to homeownership unit sales proceeds, and Questions 42A and 42B are added to provide guidance on the treatment of these proceeds.

In addition to addressing homeownership unit sales proceeds, this notice also revises Question 46 to extend and clarify the applicability of PIH Notice 96-33 to cash management and investment policies and procedures.

II. Revisions to the January 27, 1998 Transition Notice

Accordingly, FR Doc. 98-1939, the Indian Housing Block Grant Program—Revised Notice of Transition Requirements, published in the **Federal Register** January 27, 1998, 63 FR 4076, is amended as follows:

1. On page 4085, in column 3, Question 42 and Answer 42 are revised to read as follows:

Question 42. What happens to rental and homeownership operating reserves, mutual help equity accounts under the Mutual Help Homeownership Opportunity Program, and earned home payment accounts under the Turnkey III program?

Answer 42. Section 210 of NAHASDA states that any funds for programs for low-income housing under the United States Housing Act of 1937 that, on the date of the applicability of the Act, are owned by, or in the possession or under the control of, the IHA for the tribe, including all reserves not otherwise obligated, shall be considered assistance under the Act and subject to the provisions of this Act relating to use of such assistance. In other words, the funds are considered assistance under NAHASDA and are subject to NAHASDA requirements. The funds in the accounts are also subject to existing agreements with the homebuyers.

2. On page 4085, in column 3, a new Question 42A and Answer 42A are added to read as follows:

Question 42A. Can proceeds from the sale of homeownership units be used for

purposes other than eligible NAHASDA activities?

Answer 42A. Yes. We have determined that section 210 of NAHASDA addresses only the 1937 Act funds provided by HUD and not the proceeds from the sale of homeownership units. Proceeds can be used for any housing activity, community facility or economic development activity that benefits the community. If the use of these funds is currently outlined in an Administrative Use Agreement, the Agreement can be terminated at the request of the Indian Housing Authority (or successor entity). The funds can then be used for any housing activity, community facility or economic development activity.

3. On page 4085, in column 3, a new Question 42B and Answer 42B are added to read as follows:

Question 42B. What Federal requirements would apply to the proceeds from the sale of homeownership units?

Answer 42B. The use of proceeds are not subject to any Federal requirements, except that the funds must be used for the activities set forth in Answer 42A.

4. On page 4086, in column 1, Answer 46 is revised to read as follows (Question 46 is republished for the convenience of readers):

Question 46. What cash management and investment policies and procedures are in effect as of October 1, 1997?

Answer 46. Current procedures outlined in PIH Notice 96-33 (HA) dated June 4, 1996, extended by Notice 98-46 (HA) dated September 1, 1998, titled "Required HA Cash Management and Investment Policies and Procedures" will continue to apply to 1937 Act funds which are held in reserve accounts until further notice. Please note, however, that sections 7(c) and 8 of Notice 98-46 do not apply to 1937 Act funds. Also, the limit on maturity dates outlined in section 6 of Notice 96-33 does not apply.

Authority: 25 U.S.C. 4116(a).

Dated: March 26, 1999.

Harold Lucas,

Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

[FR Doc. 99-8030 Filed 3-29-99; 2:09 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain

activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*):

PRT-009261

Applicant: Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

The applicant requests a permit to import DNA samples of mantled howler monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*) from Costa Rica. Samples were collected from animals as part of a study on wild populations authorized by the Government of Costa Rica. This notice covers activities conducted by the applicant for a period of five years.

PRT-843425

Applicant: Nashville Zoo, Joelton, TN

The applicant requests a permit to export two captive born White tigers (*Panthera tigris*) to the Cango Wildlife Ranch, Oudtshoorn, South Africa for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through conservation education.

PRT-008720

Applicant: Steig Johnson, Berkeley, CA

The applicant requests a permit in affiliation with the University of Texas, to import blood and hair samples from Brown lemurs (*Eulemur fulvus*) collected in the wild in Madagascar, for the purpose of scientific research.

PRT-009565

Applicant: Fort Worth Zoological Gardens, Fort Worth, TX

The applicant requests a permit to import one male and one female captive-born Indochinese tigers (*Panthera tigris corbetti*) from the Singapore Zoological Gardens, Singapore for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through captive propagation.

PRT-009590

Applicant: Indianapolis Zoological Society, Inc., Indianapolis, IN

The applicant requests a permit to import two wild and two captive-bred Grand Cayman ground iguana (*Cyclura nubila lewisi*) from the National Trust for the Cayman Islands, Cayman Islands, British West Indies for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through captive propagation.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

The public is invited to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The applications were submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18).

PRT-835367

Applicant: Joseph Cavallaro, Frankford, WV

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

PRT-009656

Applicant: Daniel L. Heyne, Coldwater, OH

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Northern Beaufort Sea polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

PRT-009133

Applicant: John J. Jackson III, Metairie, LA

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Written data or comments, requests for copies of the complete application, or requests for a public hearing on this application should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281 and must be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

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 above address within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: March 26, 1999.

MaryEllen Amtower,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 99-8002 Filed 3-31-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Study

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of report and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the *Ballast Exchange Study: Consideration of Back-Up Exchange Zones and Environmental Effects of Ballast Exchange and Ballast Release* and requests comments as to its scientific and technical accuracy and completeness. In addition, comments are requested on whether the ballast exchange study on which the report is based can be adopted as fulfilling the requirements of section 1102(a)(1) of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

DATES: Comments on the Report and whether the Ballast Exchange Study requirements of the Act have been met are requested by May 3, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Report can be obtained from the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 851, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622. Comments should be sent to the same address..

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert A. Peoples, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at 703-358-2025 or by e-mail at: robert_peoples@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1102(a)(1) of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4712(a)(1)) directs the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force established by that statute to conduct a Ballast Exchange Study. The purposes of the Study are to (1) assess the environmental effects of ballast water exchange on the diversity and abundance of native species in U.S. waters and (2) identify areas in U.S. waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone where ballast exchange is not likely to result in new infestations of nonindigenous species nor spread aquatic nuisance species.

In 1993, scientists with extensive experience studying biological invasions, including ballast water, proposed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that those agencies fund a ballast exchange study. Although both agencies are represented on the ANS Task Force and Task Force staff were aware of the proposal, the