

Defense, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

DATES: For scoping meetings and comments: Two public scoping meetings will be held during 2001 on the following dates:

1. March 28, from 7–10 p.m., at the IID Board Room, La Quinta, CA.
2. March 29, from 7–10 p.m., at the Blythe City Council Multipurpose Room, Blythe, CA.

Written comments must be postmarked no later than 30 days from the date of this notice in order to be included in the draft Plan/EIR/EIS. Please submit any comments to the address listed below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Mr. James G. Kenna—Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 690 West Garnet Ave, P.O. Box 581260, North Palm Springs, California 92258–1260. The meeting locations are:

1. Imperial Irrigation District, 81–600 Ave. 58, La Quinta, CA.
2. Blythe City Council Multipurpose Room, 235 N. Broadway, Blythe CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Kalish, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 690 West Garnet Ave, P.O. Box 581260, North Palm Springs, California 92258–1260, (760) 251–4849.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) is a community owned utility providing power to more than 90,000 customers in Imperial County and parts of Riverside and San Diego Counties, all in California. The IID is experiencing an increase in electrical demand at an estimated rate of 20 to 30 megawatts annually. In an effort to meet electrical power demand, the IID is proposing to construct a 230 kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission line from Niland to Blythe, California to access available electrical power in the Blythe area. The proposed electrical transmission line begins four miles west of the City of Blythe, in Riverside County, California and traverses south and west to a point located 5.5 miles southeast of the City of Niland, in Imperial County, California. IID has an existing 161kV transmission line right-of-way, #CA–8974, from Niland to Blythe, California. IID is proposing to construct the 230 kV line adjacent to and parallel to their existing 161 kV line requiring an additional 360 foot wide right-of-way.

An amendment to the CDCA Plan is required because the existing 161 kV line and this proposal are not within

one of the 16 utility corridors as designated in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan of 1980, as amended. The CDCA Plan states that new utility needs which do not conform to the adopted corridor system will be processed by means of a Plan Amendment in conjunction with necessary permit hearing required by other agencies. The proposed plan amendment will consider a range of alternatives including: (1) Allowing a one time exemption to the CDCA Plan Utility Corridor element to allow for installation of IID's proposed new 230 kV transmission line, (2) designating a new utility corridor from Niland to Blythe along the same route, and (3) not amending the CDCA Plan. If the CDCA Plan is not amended, then BLM may authorize installation of the 230 kV line transmission within existing utility corridors only, or BLM may deny the project. All of these alternatives will be analyzed within the EIS/EIR.

BLM has identified a preliminary list of issues which will need to be addressed in this analysis. Members of the public are invited to identify additional issues and concerns to be addressed. The preliminary list of issues includes the following: as proposed, this 230 kV line would traverse critical desert tortoise habitat as well as several BLM administered areas including the Chuckwalla Bench Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the Bradshaw Trail National Backcountry Byway, and the Mule Mountains Long Term Visitor Area. The proposed transmission line is also directly adjacent to the southern boundary of the Little Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness Area. Of the 60 mile length of the proposed transmission line, approximately 44 miles is on BLM public lands administered by both the El Centro and Palm Springs-South Coast Field Offices. These 44 miles include a 17 mile portion that is on the United States Navy Chocolate Mountains Aerial and Gunnery Range.

Planning criteria (43 CFR 1610.4–2) are parameters, generally based on applicable law, which guide development of the plan amendment, to ensure the planning process is tailored to the issues and unnecessary data collection is avoided. The BLM has put together the following preliminary list of planning criteria and invites the public to provide written comments on these criteria. The draft Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert (NECO) Plan and draft EIS shall be considered to ensure that there are no inconsistencies between NECO and the IID proposal. This is critical as the NECO Plan has been prepared to address recovery of

the Federally listed desert tortoise. The IID proposal itself will be subject to Section 7 consultation in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended to address potential impacts to desert tortoise, including cumulative impacts.

The planning process and environmental review analysis for the CDCA Plan Amendment shall be conducted from an interdisciplinary perspective to ensure all issues are adequately addressed. At minimum, input shall be sought from the following disciplines: biological resources, cultural resources, visual resource management, recreation, wilderness, and lands and realty.

Interested members of the public are invited to participate in this planning/NEPA process, and are requested to help identify issues or concerns, additional planning criteria, and alternatives to be considered related to this proposed CDCA Plan amendment and proposed 230 kV transmission line. When available, the public will be provided a 90-day public review period on the draft plan amendment/EIS/EIR and a 30-day protest period on the proposed plan amendment/ final EIS/EIR. These documents will be made available on the Internet at BLM's website: www.ca.blm.gov and at local public libraries in the cities of Blythe, Niland, La Quinta and Cathedral City, California. Contact the BLM if you would like to be included in the mailing list to receive copies of all public notices relevant to this project. Local notice will be provided a minimum of 15 days prior to the meeting dates.

James G. Kenna,
Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 01–7310 Filed 3–23–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–40–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV–030–00–1020–24]

Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council; Notice of Meeting Location and Time

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting location and time for the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (Nevada).

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S.

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC), Nevada, will be held as indicated below. Topics for discussion will include a plan amendment overview for the Pine Nut Mountains; a presentation on landscape-level management of sagebrush dependant species and Great Basin restoration concepts; a review of planning for the Knott Creek Grazing Allotment with a preview of a July 2001 RAC field trip to the allotment; and other topics the council may raise.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written and/or oral comments to the council at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 27, 2001. The detailed agenda will be available on the internet by April 12, 2001, at www.nv.blm.gov/rac; hard copies can also be mailed or sent via FAX. Individuals who need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations should contact Mark Struble, Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701, telephone (775) 885-6107 no later than April 20, 2001.

DATE & TIME: The RAC will meet on Thursday, April 26, 2001, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, April 27, 2001, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Walley's Hot Springs Resort, 2001 Foothill Road (NV State Route 206), Genoa, Nevada. A field trip will be conducted to the Pine Nut Mountains on Thursday, April 26, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—members of the public are invited to attend, but will need to provide their own high-clearance vehicle, lunch and water. Public comment on individual topics will be received at the discretion of the council chairperson, as meeting moderator, with a general public comment period on Friday, April 27, 2001, at 9:00 a.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Struble, Public Affairs Officer, BLM Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701. Telephone (775) 885-6107.

Dated: March 16, 2001.

John O. Singlaub,

Manager, Carson City Field Office.

[FR Doc. 01-7311 Filed 3-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-930-5410-EQ-B139; CACA 42646]

Conveyance of Mineral Interests in California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of segregation.

SUMMARY: The private land described in this notice, aggregating 40 acres, is segregated and made unavailable for filings under the general mining laws and the mineral leasing laws to determine its suitability for conveyance of the reserved mineral interest pursuant to section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976. The mineral interests will be conveyed in whole or in part upon favorable mineral examination. The purpose is to allow consolidation of surface and subsurface of minerals ownership where there are no known mineral values or in those instances where the reservation interferes with or precludes appropriate non-mineral development and such development is a more beneficial use of the land than the mineral development.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathy Gary, California State Office, Federal Office Building, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1928, Sacramento, California 95825, (916) 978-4677.

T. 9 S., R. 22 E., Mount Diablo Meridian

Sec. 6, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
County-Madera.

Minerals Reservation—All coal and other minerals.

Upon publication of this Notice of Segregation in the **Federal Register** as provided in 43 CFR 2720.1-1(b), the mineral interests owned by the United States in the private lands covered by the application shall be segregated to the extent that they will not be subject to appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. The segregative effect of the application shall terminate by publication of an opening order in the **Federal Register** specifying the date and time of opening; upon issuance of a patent or other document of conveyance to such mineral interest; or two years from the date of publication of this notice, whichever occurs first.

David McIlnay,

Chief, Branch of Lands.

[FR Doc. 01-7309 Filed 3-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Chiricahua National Monument, AZ

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan for Chiricahua National Monument.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service announces the availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan (FEIS/GMP) for Chiricahua National Monument, Arizona.

DATES: The DEIS/GMP was on public review from November 5, 1999, through January 15, 2000. Responses to public comment are addressed in the FEIS/GMP.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the FEIS/GMP are available from the Superintendent Chiricahua National Monument, Dos Cabezas Route, Box 6500, Willcox, Arizona 85643-9737. Public reading copies of the FEIS/GMP will be available for review at the following locations:

Office of the Superintendent,
Chiricahua National Monument, Dos Cabezas Route, Box 6500, Willcox, Arizona 85643-9737, Telephone: 520-824-3560

Planning and Environmental Quality,
Intermountain Support Office—
Denver, National Park Service, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287, Telephone: (303) 969-2851

Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, Telephone: (202) 208-6843

Reading copies are also available online at the park's planning website at <http://www.nps.gov/planning/chir>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FEIS/GMP analyzes 3 alternatives to identify and assess the various management alternatives and related environmental impacts relative to park operations, visitor use and access, natural and cultural management, and general development at the monument. The general management plan would guide the management of the Chiricahua National Monument for the next 12 to 15 years. Alternative A, The National Park Service proposal, identified as one of the alternatives, would retain most