

appointment, during normal business hours at the above address and at the Murrieta Public Library located at 39589 Los Alamos Rd., Murrieta, California.

### Background

Section 9 of the Act and federal regulations prohibit the "take" of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. Take of federally listed fish and wildlife is defined under the Act to include "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." The Service may, under limited circumstances, issue permits to authorize incidental take (*i.e.*, take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity). Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species are found in 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22.

The Applicant is proposing development of residential housing (containing up to approximately 319 multi-family and 68 single-family residential units) on 37.1 acres. The project site is located at the northwest corner of Sierra Lane and McElwain Road in the City of Murrieta, Riverside County, California. Historically, the site has been disturbed by dry crop farming and grazing and more recently by discing for weed abatement and off-road vehicle use. The project site is surrounded by existing rural residential dwellings and roads and is subject to disturbance or degradation by domestic pets, human recreation, invasive plant species, noise, and weed abatement needs due to the proximity of humans and the small size of the site. The proposed project site is not directly connected to large blocks of suitable gnatcatcher habitat being considered by the Service and local agencies for the long term conservation of this species. The project site does not occur within designated critical habitat for the gnatcatcher.

No gnatcatchers were detected during surveys conducted according to Service protocol in 2000. An apparently single male and a pair of gnatcatchers with an active nest were detected during protocol surveys in 2001. Based on these survey results, the Service concluded that implementation of the proposed project will likely result in take of up to two pairs of gnatcatchers through the permanent removal of 35.18 acres of vegetation on the 37.1-acre site.

Federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) were not detected on the project site during three years of surveys, 1999-2001. The federally

endangered Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*, "SKR") may occupy portions of the proposed project site, though no SKR surveys have been conducted at the project site. Because the proposed project site occurs within the plan area boundary of the Habitat Conservation Plan for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat in Western Riverside County, California (March 1996), compliance with the SKR Habitat Conservation Plan and its associated implementation agreement will be required prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

To mitigate take of gnatcatchers on the project site, the Applicant proposes to purchase credits towards conservation in-perpetuity of 74 acres of riversidean sage scrub and two pairs of gnatcatchers from an off-site conservation bank (or banks) in western Riverside County. The conservation bank(s) collect fees supporting a management endowment to ensure their permanent management and monitoring of sensitive species and habitats, including the gnatcatcher.

The Service's Environmental Assessment considers the environmental consequences of four alternatives, including: (1) The Proposed Project Alternative, which consists of issuance of the incidental take permit and implementation of the Plan and Implementing Agreement; (2) the No Action Alternative which consists of no permit issuance and no development at this time; (3) the Reduced Project Alternative, which consists of issuing a permit for development of either the multi-or single-family residences on half of the project site; and (4) the Different Location Alternative, which consists of relocation of the project to another site within the City of Murrieta. The alternatives to the Proposed Project Alternative would result in less long-term conservation for the gnatcatcher within western Riverside County, as they would not contribute as much, or at all, to conservation of areas within or directly connected to habitat being considered by the Service and local agencies for long-term conservation of the species. Thus, these alternatives would contribute less to the long-term survival and recovery of the gnatcatcher than the Proposed Project Alternative.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Act and the regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments that we receive, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public. We will

evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of NEPA regulations and section 10(a) of the Act. If we determine that those requirements are met, we will issue a permit to the Applicant for the incidental take of the gnatcatcher. We will make our final permit decision no sooner than 60 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: September 13, 2002.

**Ken McDermond,**

*Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### **Request for Public Comments on Proposed Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act**

The proposal is extend the collection of information described below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection, but may respond after 30 days; therefore public comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days in order to assure maximum consideration. Comments and suggestions on the proposal should be made directly to the Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, and to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, telephone (703) 648-7313.

Specific public comments are requested as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and  
 4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Annual National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Announcement.

*OMB Approval Number:* 1028-0051.

*Abstract:* Respondents submit proposals to support research in earthquake hazards and earthquake prediction essential to mitigate earthquake losses. This information will be used as the basis for selection and award of projects meeting the program objectives.

*Bureau Form Number:* None.

*Frequency:* Annual proposals, annual or final reports.

*Description of Respondents:* Educational institutions, profit and non-profit organizations, individuals, and agencies of local or State governments.

*Annual Responses:* 370.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 12,800 hours.

*Bureau Clearance Officer:* John Cordyack, 703-648-7313.

Dated: June 28, 2002.

**P. Patrick Leahy,**

*Associate Director for Geology.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Teayawa Energy Center, Riverside County, CA

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has filed a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Teayawa Energy Center, located on the Torres Martinez Indian Reservation in Riverside County, California, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA's Notice of Availability for the FEIS appeared in the **Federal Register** on Friday, September 13, 2002. The FEIS is available for public review. Details on the project and the contents of the FEIS are provided under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

**DATES:** Written comments on the FEIS must arrive by October 12, 2002. The Record of Decision will be issued on or after October 15, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** You may mail or hand carry written comments to Ronald Jaeger, Regional Director, Pacific Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825-1846.

Copies of the FEIS have been sent to all agencies and individuals who participated in the scoping process, public hearings, and those who commented on the Draft EIS. To obtain a copy of the FEIS, please write or call William Allan, Environmental Protection Specialist, at the above address, telephone (916) 978-6043. Copies of the FEIS are also available at the Tribal Hall, Torres Martinez Reservation, 66-725 Martinez Road, Thermal, California 92254 and at the City of Mecca Library, 65250 Coahuilla Street, Mecca, California 92254.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Allan, (916) 978-6043.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Calpine Corporation, through an agreement with the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, plans to construct, own, and operate the Teayawa Energy Center (TEC), a 600-megawatt, natural-gas-fired power plant located on a 41.5-acre parcel of Tribal land in Riverside County, California, northeast of the town of Mecca. The parcel is located along 62nd Avenue, east of Johnson Street near the Coachella Canal.

Natural gas would be supplied to the energy center from a Southern California intrastate pipeline. A new gas pipeline approximately 12 miles long will connect TEC to the intrastate gas pipeline system. The preferred natural-gas-line route extends north from the site within an existing utility corridor to an interconnection point on the nearest natural-gas transmission pipeline, located north of the Interstate 10 (I-10) freeway. Roughly 4,000 acre-feet per year of process water for cooling would be supplied to the energy center. The preferred water supply for the project would include a connection to the Coachella branch of the All American Canal (Coachella Canal) for cooling water, and an onsite groundwater well for potable water and backup purposes when canal water is unavailable.

The energy center would use a "zero liquid discharge" system for treatment of process wastewater, including cooling tower blowdown. Cooling water would be cycled approximately 10 to 14 times, depending on water quality, in the cooling tower. Wastewater would be concentrated to a sludge-like consistency and evaporated in onsite ponds. The resulting mineral concentrations that build up in the evaporation ponds would be stored,

dried and eventually hauled offsite for disposal at an appropriate landfill. Sanitary waste would be collected in a storage tank and periodically trucked to an offsite treatment plant, or disposed using a septic tank and leachfield, if soil conditions permit.

Electricity produced by the energy center would be transformed up to transmission level voltage in an onsite switchyard that would be interconnected to the double-circuit, 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines owned by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). These existing transmission lines are located immediately east of the proposed site, on the eastern edge of the Coachella Canal. To address potential localized transmission system congestion and reliability concerns, the project would also require construction of a new electrical transmission line segment between the site and an IID substation in the City of Coachella. In addition, re-conductoring and related improvements to approximately 40 miles of existing offsite transmission lines owned by IID and Southern California Edison (SCE) and situated between the Coachella substation and the SCE grid will also be required.

Alternatives to the proposed project that are considered in the FEIS include alternative natural-gas pipeline routes, alternative water supplies, a smaller energy center, and no action.

Areas of environmental concern addressed in the FEIS include land use; geology and soils; water resources; agricultural resources; biological resources; cultural resources; mineral resources; paleontological resources; traffic and transportation; noise; air quality; public health/environmental hazards; public services and utilities; hazardous materials, hazardous waste handling and worker safety; socio-economics/environmental justice; Indian trust assets; and visual resources.

#### Public Comment Availability

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the mailing address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section, during regular business hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All submissions from