

Additional information concerning this meeting may be obtained from Maureen Peratino or David Fiske, Office of Media Relations, telephone number (202) 418-0500; TTY (202) 418-2555.

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Federal Communications Commission.

**Shirley S. Suggs,**  
Chief, Publications Group.

[FR Doc. 01-842 Filed 1-8-01; 11:44 am]

**BILLING CODE 6701-01-M**

## FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

[No. 2001-N-2]

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Federal Housing Finance Board.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Housing Finance Board (Finance Board) hereby gives notice that it is seeking public comments concerning a three-year extension by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the previously approved information collection entitled "Monthly Survey of Rates and Terms on Conventional, 1-Family, Nonfarm Loans," commonly known as the Monthly Interest Rate Survey or MIRS.

**DATES:** Interested persons may submit comments on or before March 12, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Address written comments and requests for copies of the information collection to Elaine L. Baker, Secretary to the Board, 202/408-2837, [bakere@fhfb.gov](mailto:bakere@fhfb.gov), Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Timothy D. Forsberg, Financial Analyst, Market Research and Systems Analysis Division, Office of Policy, Research and Analysis, 202/408-2968, [forsbergt@fhfb.gov](mailto:forsbergt@fhfb.gov), Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006. A telecommunications device for deaf persons (TDD) is available at 202/408-2579.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### A. Need For and Use of Information Collection

The Finance Board's predecessor, the former Federal Home Loan Bank Board (FHLBB), first provided data concerning a survey of mortgage interest rates in 1963. No statutory or regulatory provision explicitly required the FHLBB to conduct the MIRS although references to the MIRS did appear in several federal and state statutes. Responsibility for conducting the MIRS was transferred to the Finance Board upon dissolution of the FHLBB in 1989. See Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (FIRREA), Pub. L. 101-73, tit. IV, sec. 402(e)(3)-(4), 103 Stat. 183, *codified at* 12 U.S.C. 1437 note, and tit. VII, sec. 731(f)(1), (f)(2)(B), 103 Stat. 433 (Aug. 9, 1989). In 1993, the Finance Board promulgated a final rule describing the method by which it conducts the MIRS. See 58 FR 19195 (Apr. 13, 1993), *codified at* 12 CFR 906.3. Since its inception, the MIRS has provided the only consistent source of information on mortgage interest rates and terms and house prices for areas smaller than the entire country.

Statutory references to the MIRS include the following:

- Pursuant to their respective organic statutes, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac use the MIRS results as the basis for the annual adjustments to the maximum dollar limits for their purchase of conventional mortgages. See 12 U.S.C. 1454(a)(2) and 1717(b)(2). The Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac limits were first tied to the MIRS by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980. See Pub. L. 96-399, tit. III, sec. 313(a)-(b), 94 Stat. 1644-1645 (Oct. 8, 1980). At that time, the nearly identical statutes required Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac

to base the dollar limit adjustments on "the national average one-family house price in the monthly survey of all major lenders conducted by the [FHLBB]." See 12 U.S.C. 1454(a)(2) and 1717(b)(2) (1989). When Congress abolished the FHLBB in 1989, it replaced the reference to the FHLBB in the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac statutes with a reference to the Finance Board. See FIRREA, tit. VII, sec. 731(f)(1), (f)(2)(B), 103 Stat. 433.

- Also in 1989, Congress required the Chairperson of the Finance Board to take necessary actions to ensure that indices used to calculate the interest rate on adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) remain available. See FIRREA, tit. IV, sec. 402(e)(3)-(4), 103 Stat. 183, *codified at* 12 U.S.C. 1437 note. At least one ARM index, known as the National Average Contract Mortgage Rate for the Purchase of Previously Occupied Homes by Combined Lenders, is derived from the MIRS data. The statute permits the Finance Board to substitute a substantially similar ARM index after notice and comment only if the new ARM index is based upon data substantially similar to that of the original ARM index and substitution of the new ARM index will result in an interest rate substantially similar to the rate in effect at the time the new ARM index replaces the existing ARM index. See 12 U.S.C. 1437 note.

- Congress indirectly connected the high cost area limits for mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the MIRS in 1994 when it statutorily linked these FHA insurance limits to the purchase price limitations for Fannie Mae. See Pub. L. 103-327, 108 Stat. 2314 (Sept. 28, 1994), *codified at* 12 U.S.C. 1709(b)(2)(A)(ii).

- The Internal Revenue Service uses the MIRS data in establishing "safe-harbor" limitations for mortgages purchased with the proceeds of mortgage revenue bond issues. See 26 CFR 6a.103A-2(f)(5).

- Statutes in several states and U.S. territories, including California, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Wisconsin and the Virgin Islands, refer to, or rely upon, the MIRS. See, e.g., Cal. Rev. & Tax Code 439.2 (value of owner-occupied single family dwellings for tax purposes); Cal. Civ. Code 1916.7 and 1916.8 (mortgage rates); Iowa Code 534.205 (1995) (real estate loan practices); Mich. Comp. Laws 445.1621(d) (mortgage index rates); Minn. Stat. 92.06 (payments for state land sales); N.J. Rev. Stat. 31:1-1 (interest rates); Wis. Stat. 138.056

(variable loan rates); V.I. Code Ann. tit. 11, sec. 951 (legal rate of interest).

The Finance Board uses the information collection to produce the MIRS and for general statistical purposes and program evaluation. Economic policy makers use the MIRS data to determine trends in the mortgage markets, including interest rates, down payments, terms to maturity, terms on ARMs and initial fees and charges on mortgage loans. Other federal banking agencies use the MIRS results for research purposes. Information concerning the MIRS is regularly published on the Finance Board's website (fhfb.gov/mirs) and in press releases, in the popular trade press, and in publications of other federal agencies.

The likely respondents include a sample of 307 savings associations, mortgage companies, commercial banks and savings banks. The information collection requires each respondent to complete FHFB Form 10-91 on a monthly basis.

The OMB number for the information collection is 3069-0001. The OMB clearance for the information collection expires on April 30, 2001.

#### B. Burden Estimate

The Finance Board estimates the total annual average number of respondents at 307, with 12 responses per respondent. The estimate for the average hours per response is 1.0 hour. The estimate for the total annual hour burden is 3,684 hours (307 respondents × 12 responses/respondent × 1.0 hour).

#### C. Comment Request

The Finance Board requests written comments on the following: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of Finance Board functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Finance Board's estimates of the burdens of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: December 28, 2000.

By the Federal Housing Finance Board.

**James L. Bothwell,**  
Managing Director.

[FR Doc. 01-733 Filed 1-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6725-01-P

#### FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

##### Sunshine Act Meeting; Announcing an Open Meeting of the Board

**TIME AND DATE:** 10 A.M., Wednesday, January 24, 2001.

**PLACE:** Board Room, Second Floor, Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006

**STATUS:** The entire meeting will be open to the public.

##### MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED DURING PORTIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

- Interim Final Rule: Amendments to Bank Meeting Regulation.
- Updated and Revised: Federal Housing Finance Board's Strategic Plan 2000-2005.
- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking—Technical Amendments: Affordable Housing Program.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Elaine L. Baker, Secretary to the Board, (202) 408-2837.

**James L. Bothwell,**  
Managing Director.

[FR Doc. 01-972 Filed 1-8-01; 3:52 pm]

BILLING CODE 6725-01-P

#### FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

##### Notice

The Commission gives notice that it has requested that the parties to the below listed agreement provide additional information pursuant to section 6(d) of the Shipping Act of 1984, 46 U.S.C. app. sections 1701 *et seq.* The Commission has determined that further information is necessary to evaluate the competitive impact of the proposed agreement. This action prevents the agreement from becoming effective as originally scheduled.

*Agreement No.:* 011677-002.

*Title:* United States Australasia Agreement.

*Parties:* P&O Nedlloyd Limited, Contship Containerlines Limited, CMA CGM, S.A., Australia New Zealand Direct Line, Hamburg-Sudamerikanischedampfschiffahrts-gesellschaft KG (Columbus Line), Wallenius Wilhelmsen Lines AS.

Dated: January 5, 2001.

By Order of the Federal Maritime Commission.

**Bryant L. VanBrakle,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-738 Filed 1-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-P

#### FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

##### Notice of Agreement(s) Filed

The Commission hereby gives notice of the filing of the following agreement(s) under the Shipping Act of 1984. Interested parties can review or obtain copies of agreements at the Washington, DC offices of the Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Room 940. Interested parties may submit comments on an agreement to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, within 10 days of the date this notice appears in the **Federal Register**.

*Agreement No.:* 009548-055.

*Title:* U.S. Atlantic and Gulf Ports/Eastern Mediterranean and North African Freight Conference.

*Parties:* Farrell Lines, Incorporated, Turkon Container Transports & Shipping Inc., Waterman Steamship Corporation.

*Synopsis:* The proposed modification deletes all provisions of the conference agreement except for Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.1(K) and 9, which are retained to conclude conference business through May 15, 2001. At that time, the entire agreement will expire.

*Agreement No.:* 011744.

*Title:* Slot Allocation Agreement.

*Parties:* Dole Ocean Cargo Express, King Ocean Central America S.A.

*Synopsis:* Under the proposed agreement, Dole Express will make available to King Ocean 30 FEUs of space per voyage in the trade between Port Everglades, Florida and Puerto Moin, Costa Rica.

Dated: January 5, 2001.

By Order of the Federal Maritime Commission.

**Bryant L. VanBrakle,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-739 Filed 1-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-P

#### FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

##### Ocean Transportation Intermediary License Revocations

The Federal Maritime Commission hereby gives notice that the following ocean transportation intermediary licenses have been revoked pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984 (46 U.S.C. app. 1718) and the regulations of the Commission pertaining to the licensing of Ocean Transportation Intermediaries, effective on the corresponding dates shown below:

*License Number:* 2849F.

*Name:* Amex International, Inc.