

an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

Persons attending FDA's advisory committee meetings are advised that the agency is not responsible for providing access to electrical outlets.

FDA welcomes the attendance of the public at its advisory committee meetings and will make every effort to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or special needs. If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Jody G. Sachs or Denise H. Royster at least 7 days in advance of the meeting.

FDA regrets that it was unable to publish this notice 15 days prior to the March 18, 2003, Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee meeting. Because the agency believes there is some urgency to bring this issue to public discussion and qualified members of the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee were available at this time, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs concluded that it was in the public interest to hold this meeting even if there was not sufficient time for the customary 15-day public notice.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2).

Dated: February 26, 2003.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy and Planning.

[FR Doc. 03-5075 Filed 3-4-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4491-N-10]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Salishan Revitalization Project, City of Tacoma, WA

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: HUD gives notice to the public, agencies, and Indian tribes that the City of Tacoma, WA acting under its authority as the Responsible Entity for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 24 CFR 58.4, and jointly the City of Tacoma and Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) acting under their authority as lead agencies in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Revised Code of Washington (RCW)

43.21) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the redevelopment of the Salishan housing project. This notice is given in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations [40 CFR parts 1500-1508].

Lead Agencies: The EIS will be prepared as a joint NEPA and Washington State SEPA document intended to satisfy the requirements of both federal and state environmental statutes. In accordance with specific statutory authority and HUD's regulations under 24 CFR part 58 (Environmental Review Procedures for Entities Assuming HUD Environmental Responsibilities), HUD has authorized the City of Tacoma to assume authority as the NEPA Responsible Entity. The City of Tacoma is also the SEPA lead agency and has agreed to share lead agency status with THA with the City as nominal lead as allowed under Washington Administrative Code 197-11-944. Federal agencies with jurisdiction by law, special expertise, or other special interest should report their interests and indicate their willingness to participate in the EIS process as a "Cooperating Agency."

ADDRESSES: Notice of intent to prepare an EIS is hereby given and all interested federal, state, and local agencies, Indian tribes, groups, and the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments relating to the scope of the EIS are requested and will be accepted by the contact person listed below for a period of 30 days following issuance of this notice. Parties interested in receiving future notices to comment on the published Draft EIS should also notify the contact person within the 30-day time period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karie Hayashi, Land Use Administration Planner, City of Tacoma, 747 Market Street, Tacoma, Washington, 98404; Phone (253) 591-5387, Fax: (253) 591-5433; e-mail: khayashi@cityoftacoma.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The Salishan Public Housing Development (Salishan) was originally constructed in 1942 as war time temporary housing on 147.7 acres on the east side of Tacoma. Located in what is known as the East Side neighborhood, Salishan is bordered on the west by Portland Avenue and on the east by Swan Creek. In 2000, THA submitted a successful HOPE VI grant application for the redevelopment of Salishan. The amount of the HOPE VI grant awarded in connection with the Salishan

revitalization project was \$35 million. Under the proposed Revitalization Plan, all of the units will be demolished and Salishan will be redeveloped into a community of approximately 1,200 units. The project will require temporary and permanent relocation of all existing residents. The new unit mix will incorporate low-income, affordable, and market rate housing with single- and multi-family dwellings, and senior and special needs housing. The redevelopment project will also include a mixture of commercial uses and improvements to community facilities such as expanding the existing health clinic, day care, family investment center, and gymnasium. There are currently 837 housing units, in which approximately 810 families reside.

Alternatives to be considered in the EIS include a no action alternative and a range of development alternatives from 1,100 units to 1,400 units. An additional option that will be considered as part of the two development alternatives will be a potential land swap with Metro Parks. Metro Parks is proposing to develop a portion of their property and the land they get from THA for active and passive recreation uses. THA will develop the land from Metro Parks for housing or other community facilities.

B. Need for the EIS

This proposal may constitute an action with potentially significant impact on the human environment and significant adverse impacts on the environment. Therefore the lead agencies have elected to prepare an EIS pursuant to 24 CFR 58.37 and RCW 43.21.030(2)(c). Respondents may comment on EIS alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. Responses to this notice will be used to: (1) Determine significant environmental issues, (2) assist in developing the range of alternatives to be considered, and (3) identify interested parties who would like to participate in the EIS process.

C. Scoping

A public scoping meeting is scheduled to occur on March 19, 2003 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. (childcare and language translation services will be available at the meeting). The EIS scoping meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the project and provide input on the scope of the EIS. The public scoping meeting will be held at the following location: Tacoma Housing Authority, Salishan Meeting Rooms, 1724 E. 44th Street, Tacoma, Washington 98404.

D. EIS Issues

The lead agencies have identified the following areas for potential discussion in the EIS: geology and soils, air quality, water resources, vegetation and wetlands, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, hazardous materials, noise, land use, housing, displacement, and relocation, social and economic (including environmental justice), historic resources, cultural and archaeological resources, recreation, visual resources and aesthetics, transportation, public services, and utilities.

Questions may be directed to the individual named in this notice under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Dated: February 28, 2003.

Roy A. Bernardi,

Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

[FR Doc. 03-5254 Filed 3-4-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Notice of Availability of the Final Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability of the Final Recovery Plan for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). The breeding range of this bird includes southern California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, southwestern Colorado, and possibly extreme northern portions of the Mexican states of Baja, California del Norte, Sonora, and Chihuahua. Within this region, the species breeds in dense riparian tree and shrub communities associated with rivers, swamps, and other wetlands including lakes (e.g., reservoirs). Most of these habitats are classified as forested wetlands or scrub-shrub wetlands.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to obtain a copy of the Recovery Plan may contact Greg Beatty, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona, 85021-4951 (602/242-0210 x247, Greg_Beatty@fws.gov). The Plan is also available at <http://arizonaes.fws.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Beatty (see **ADDRESSES**).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant species to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service prepares recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. On June 6, 2001, the Service published in the **Federal Register** an announcement of the availability for public review of the draft Recovery Plan for the southwestern willow flycatcher. Public comments were accepted through October 4, 2001. The comment period was subsequently reopened on October 10, 2001, for a period of 60 days extending through December 10, 2001. Seventy-eight letters of comment were received during the two comment periods. The draft Recovery Plan was revised and finalized based on this input.

The Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan describes the status, current management, recovery objectives and criteria, and specific actions needed to reclassify the southwestern willow flycatcher from endangered to threatened, and to ultimately delist it. The Recovery Plan was developed by a Technical Subgroup comprised of 14 technical specialists, and geographically-based teams of stakeholders (Implementation Subgroups), which include representatives of Native American Tribes, State and local governments, ranchers, private land owners and managers, agency representatives, and others.

The southwestern willow flycatcher is known to currently breed in dense riparian vegetation in southern California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and

southwestern Colorado. Although extreme northwestern Mexico and western Texas are considered part of its breeding range, no nesting birds are presently known to occur in these areas. The dense riparian vegetation that is needed for breeding was historically rare and sparsely distributed, and is now more rare. Destruction and modification of riparian habitats have been caused mainly by: Reduction or elimination of surface and subsurface water due to diversion and groundwater pumping; changes in flood and fire regimes due to dams and stream channelization; clearing and controlling vegetation; livestock overgrazing; changes in water and soil chemistry due to disruption of natural hydrologic cycles; and establishment of non-native plants. Concurrent with habitat loss have been increases in brood parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) and the presence of nest predation which inhibits reproductive success and further reduces population levels. Actions needed to recover the southwestern willow flycatcher are those that would increase and improve breeding habitat by restoring and/or re-creating natural physical and biotic processes that influence riparian ecosystems, and reducing other stresses on the flycatcher. Specific actions include: Changing management of surface and groundwater where feasible; restoring flood cycles; reducing impacts of domestic livestock, wild burros, and native ungulates; improving metapopulation stability; securing long-term protection of breeding habitat; managing exotic plant species; reducing brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds; and conducting research to refine management practices and knowledge of ecology. The Recovery Plan was finalized based on comments received during meetings with the Implementation Subgroups, as well as comments received from the public.

Authority

The authority for this action is Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: September 19, 2002.

David A. Yazzie,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 03-5124 Filed 3-4-03; 8:45 am]

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