

action on the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat.

Alternatives in the Draft EA

The DEA contains an analysis of four alternatives: (1) No Action alternative, in which all 125 turbines would be feathered up to 5.0 meters per second (m/s) from ½ hour before sunset to ½ hour after sunrise from March 15 through May 15, and all turbines would be feathered up to 6.9 m/s from ½ hour before sunset to ½ hour after sunrise from August 1 through October 15, the primary spring and fall migratory periods of the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat, each year during the operational life (27 years) of Wildcat; (2) the 5.0 m/s Cut-In Speed (feathered) Alternative including implementation of the HCP and Issuance of a 28-year ITP; (3) the 6.5 m/s Cut-In Speed (feathered) Alternative, including implementation of the HCP and issuance of a 28-year ITP; and (4) the 4.0 m/s Cut-In Speed (Feathered) Alternative, including implementation of the HCP and Issuance of a 28-year ITP. The DEA considers the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the alternatives, including any measures under the Proposed Action alternative intended to minimize and mitigate such impacts. The DEA also identifies three additional alternatives that were considered but were eliminated from consideration as detailed in Section 3.4 of the DEA.

The Service invites comments and suggestions from all interested parties on the content of the DEA. In particular, information and comments regarding the following topics are requested:

1. The direct, indirect, or cumulative effects that implementation of any alternative could have on the human environment;
2. Whether or not the significance of the impact on various aspects of the human environment has been adequately analyzed; and
3. Any other information pertinent to evaluating the effects of the proposed action on the human environment.

Public Comments

You may submit your comments and materials concerning the notice by one of the methods listed in **ADDRESSES**. We request that you send comments only by one of the methods described in **ADDRESSES**.

Comments and materials we receive, as well as documents associated with the notice, will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours, at the Indiana Ecological Services Field Office in

Bloomington, Indiana (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22), the NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6; 43 CFR part 46), and the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800).

Dated: May 25, 2016.

Lynn Lewis,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Midwest Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-R-2016-N061;
FXRS282108E8PD0-167-F2013227943]

South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, Phase 2 at the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve; Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent; announcement of meeting; request for public comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), are preparing a joint environmental impact statement/ environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) for the proposed restoration of ponds at the CDFW's Eden Landing Ecological Reserve (Reserve) in Alameda County, California. We intend to gather information necessary to prepare an EIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We encourage the public and other agencies to participate in the NEPA scoping process by attending the public scoping meeting and/or by sending written suggestions and information on the issues and concerns that should be addressed in the draft EIS/EIR, including the range of alternatives, appropriate mitigation measures, and the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts.

DATES:

Submitting Comments: To ensure that we have adequate time to evaluate and incorporate suggestions and other input, we must receive your comments on or before July 20, 2016.

Public Scoping Meeting: A public scoping meeting will be held on Thursday, June 30, 2016, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters—Third Flood Auditorium located at 1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, California, 94555. The details of the public scoping meeting will be posted on the SBSP Restoration Project's Web site (<http://www.southbayrestoration.org/events/>). Scoping meeting details will also be emailed to the Project's Stakeholder Forum and to those interested parties who request to be notified. Notification requests can be made by emailing the SBSP Restoration Project's public outreach coordinator, Ariel Ambruster, at aambrust@ccp.csus.edu (email) or 510-815-7111 (phone).

Reasonable Accommodations:

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public scoping meeting should contact Ariel Ambruster at least 1 week in advance of the meeting to allow time to process the request.

ADDRESSES:

Submitting Comments: Send written comments to Chris Barr, Deputy Complex Manager, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, 1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, CA 94555, or to Scott Wilson, CDFW Regional Manager, Bay Delta Region, Silverado Trail, Napa, CA 94558.

Alternatively, you may send written comments by facsimile to 510-792-5828, or via the Internet through the public comments link on the SBSP Restoration Project Web site at www.southbayrestoration.org/Question_Comment.html. Your correspondence should indicate which issue your comments pertain to.

Mailing List: To have your name added to our mailing list, contact Ariel Ambruster; telephone (510) 815-7111; email aambrust@ccp.csus.edu.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Barr, Refuge Manager, USFWS, 510-792-0222 (phone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), are preparing a joint environmental impact statement/ environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) for the proposed restoration of ponds E1, E1C, E2, E2C, E4, E4C, E5, E5C, E6, E6C, and E7 at the CDFW's Eden Landing Ecological Reserve (Reserve) in Alameda County, California.

Phase 2 of the SBSP Restoration Project at Eden Landing is intended to

restore and enhance a mix of approximately 2,300 acres of wetland habitats while simultaneously providing flood protection and wildlife-oriented public access and recreation in the South Bay.

We intend to gather information necessary to prepare an EIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We encourage the public and other agencies to participate in the NEPA scoping process by attending the public scoping meeting and/or by sending written suggestions and information on the issues and concerns that should be addressed in the draft EIS/EIR, including the range of alternatives, appropriate mitigation measures, and the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts.

Background

The SBSP Restoration Project is located in the San Francisco Bay, in northern California. The project is a multiagency, multiphase effort to restore and enhance a mix of wetland habitats while simultaneously providing flood protection and wildlife-oriented public access and recreation in the South Bay. The SBSP Restoration Project as a whole contains over 15,000 acres of former industrial salt production ponds in three complexes: The Ravenswood pond complex, the Alviso pond complex, and the Eden Landing pond complex. The Ravenswood and Alviso pond complexes are owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The Eden Landing Ecological Reserve (Reserve) is owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

In 2007, the USFWS and the CDFW published a Final EIS/EIR for the SBSP Restoration Project (72 FR 71937–71939). The SBSP Restoration project presented in the Final EIS/EIR was both programmatic, covering a 50-year period, as well as project-level, addressing the specific components and implementation of Phase 1. Both the USFWS and the CDFW selected the Tidal Emphasis Alternative (Alternative C) for implementation. Alternative C represents a goal of 90 percent of the salt ponds restored to tidal action and 10 percent restored to managed ponds. This ratio of restoration is guided by the Adaptive Management Plan. Implementation of Phase 1 actions began in 2008 and was completed in 2016. The northern half of the Eden Landing pond complex was addressed in Phase 1 and is now complete.

The Phase 2 actions at the Alviso and Ravenswood pond complexes were

considered in a separate project-level EIS/EIR, the draft of which was published in August of 2015 and is expected to be finalized in the summer of 2016.

Proposed Action

The CDFW now proposes restoration or enhancement of approximately 2,300 acres of former salt ponds in the southern half of the CDFW-owned Eden Landing pond complex. Phase 2 project-level actions to be evaluated in this EIS/EIR are project-level habitat restoration of approximately 2,300 acres of former salt ponds, while also providing recreation and public access opportunities, and maintaining or improving current levels of flood protection in the surrounding communities.

Habitat restoration actions evaluated in the EIS/EIR may include the following:

- Breaching levees at one or more locations to allow tidal flows into the ponds.
- Adding water control structures to allow some ponds to be retained as enhanced managed ponds for pond-dependent bird species.
- Increasing habitat complexity by adding deep-water channels, islands, and/or habitat transition zones.
- Modifying pond bottom elevations or topography to redirect tidal flows.
- Using dredged or upland fill material to speed marsh vegetation establishment.

Recreation and public access actions may include the following:

- Maintain the existing trail that runs along the top of the large Federal levee that forms the southern edge of the complex. This may involve constructing bridge(s) over any changes that are made to that levee.
- Complete the Bay Trail spine along the eastern edge of the pond complex.
- Adding a spur trail along the northern edge of Pond E6 from the Bay Trail spine to the site of the former Alvarado Salt Works.
- Convert the above spur trail into a loop by building a footbridge over Old Alameda Creek and a trail back to the Bay Trail spine.

Flood protection may include:

- Raising and improving existing levees or berms or making other improvements to maintain or increase coastal flood risk protection.

Alternatives

The EIS/EIR will consider a range of alternatives and their impacts, including the No Action/No Project Alternative. Scoping is designed to be an early and open process to determine the issues

and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. The range of alternatives may include varying approaches to restoring and enhancing a mix of wetland habitats, as well as varying levels and means of flood management, and recreation and public access components which correspond to the project objectives.

The Phase 2 EIS/EIR for Eden Landing will identify the anticipated effects of the alternatives (both negative and beneficial) and describe and analyze direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of each alternative.

NEPA Compliance

This EIS/EIR is a project-level environmental document that is tiered from the programmatic portion of the 2007 Final EIS/EIR for the SBSP Restoration Project. Information gathered through this scoping process will assist us in developing a reasonable range of alternatives to continue to address the restoration of Eden Landing salt ponds and collaborative integration with adjacent landowners and operators of public infrastructure.

A detailed description of the proposed action and alternatives will be included in the EIS/EIR. For each issue or potential impact identified, the EIS/EIR will include a discussion of the parameters used in evaluating the impacts as well as recommended mitigation, indicating the effectiveness of mitigation measures proposed to be implemented and what, if any, additional measures would be required to reduce the degree of impact. The EIS/EIR will include an analysis of the restoration, flood management, and recreation and public access components associated with the proposed restoration.

We will conduct environmental review in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), its implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), other applicable regulations, and our procedures for compliance with those regulations. The environmental document will be prepared to meet both the requirements of NEPA and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CDFW is the CEQA lead agency and USFWS is the lead agency under NEPA. We are the NEPA lead agency because we provide a variety of biological monitoring, financial and management support on this CDFW unit. We anticipate that a Draft EIS/EIR will be available for public review in November 2016.

Public Comment

We are furnishing this notice in accordance with section 1501.7 of the NEPA implementing regulations to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. We invite written comments from interested parties to ensure identification of the full range of issues.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public Scoping Meeting

In addition to providing written comments, the public is encouraged to attend a public scoping meeting on Thursday, June 30, 2016, to provide us with suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives to consider when drafting the EIS/EIR. The location of the public scoping meeting is provided in **DATES**.

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public meeting should contact us at the address in **ADDRESSES** no later than 1 week before the public meeting. Information regarding the proposed restoration is available in alternative formats upon request. We will accept written comments at the scoping meeting or afterwards.

Alexandra Pitts,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R8-ES-2016-N097;
FXES1113080000-167-FF08E00000]

Endangered Species Recovery Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comment.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with

endangered species. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (Act) prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. The Act also requires that we invite public comment before issuing recovery permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species.

DATES: Comments on these permit applications must be received on or before July 20, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Endangered Species Program Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 8, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606, Sacramento, CA 95825 (telephone: 916-414-6464; fax: 916-414-6486). Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daniel Marquez, Fish and Wildlife Biologist; see **ADDRESSES** (telephone: 760-431-9440; fax: 760-431-9624).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following applicants have applied for scientific research permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). We seek review and comment from local, State, and Federal agencies and the public on the following permit requests.

Applicants

Permit No. TE-080779

Applicant: Melissa Busby, San Diego, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*); and take (harass by survey, capture, handle, release, collect vouchers, analyze soil samples, and collect branchiopod cysts) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-85448A

Applicant: East Bay Zoological Society, Oakland, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (receive, handle, and administer veterinary treatment and care) the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) in conjunction with

general husbandry activities at the Oakland Zoo in Oakland, California, for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-170381

Applicant: Bill Stagnaro, San Francisco, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, and release) the San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*); and take (harass by survey using taped vocalization callback) the California Ridgway's rail (California clapper r.) (*Rallus obsoletus obsoletus*) (*R. longirostris o.*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-94719B

Applicant: Richard Lis, Redding, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, release, collect vouchers, and collect branchiopod cysts) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-94702B

Applicant: Kristin Hubbard, Redding, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, release, collect vouchers, and collect branchiopod cysts) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-94998A

Applicant: Leonard Liu, Oakland, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (harass by survey using taped vocalization callback) the California Ridgway's rail (California