

Public Meetings

Dates and Times: Friday, February 27, 1998 from 2–4 PM and Saturday February 28, 1998 from 10–2 noon

Address: Same as above.

The purpose of the tour and meetings is to describe the general management planning effort beginning for Green Spring, a unit of Colonial National Historical Park, and to solicit public input about its future management. The agenda for the meetings consists of an overview of the project, a review of possible conceptual approaches to site management, and an open discussion of citizen concerns.

We encourage all who have an interest in Green Spring's future to attend or to contact the park superintendent by letter, telephone or e-mail. Minutes of the meetings will be available for public review four weeks after the meeting at the Visitor Center.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park, Post Office Box 210, Yorktown, Virginia 23690, (757) 898–3400.

Dated: January 30, 1998.

Kathy Schlegel,

Project Manager, Philadelphia Support Office, Stewardship and Partnerships Team.

[FR Doc. 98–2978 Filed 2–5–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service**

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Parkwide Trail Plan Open House and Intent To Publish an Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: National Park Service; Interior.

ACTION: Notice of open house and notice of intent to publish Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an upcoming open house for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Parkwide Trail Plan and the intent to publish an environmental impact statement in association with the trail plan.

Open House Date and Time: Friday, February 27, 1998 from 3–7:30 p.m.

Address: Bushkill School, Church Lane, Bushkill, PA 18324.

The purpose of the open house is to describe the park trail planning effort at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and to gain public input relating to the future designation of a parkwide trail system. The agenda for the open house consists of an informal overview of the project.

Citizens are encouraged to arrive at any time between 3 and 7:30 pm to engage in an open discussion.

We encourage all who have an interest in the park's future trail system to attend or contact the park Superintendent by letter or telephone. Minutes of the meeting will be available for public review four weeks after the open house at Bushkill School.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Helen Mahan Forester, Community Planner, National Park Service, U.S. Custom House, 200 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106, 215/597–6483.

Dated: January 26, 1998.

Bob Kirby,

Acting Superintendent.

Congressional Listing for Delaware Water Gap NRA

Honorable Frank Lautenberg, U.S. Senate, SH–506 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510–3002

Honorable Robert G. Torricelli, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510–3001

Honorable Richard Santorum, U.S. Senate, SR 120 Senate Russell Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Arlen Specter, U.S. Senate, SH–530 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510–3802

Honorable Paul McHale, U.S. House of Representatives, 511 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515–3815

Honorable Joseph McDade, U.S. House of Representatives, 2370 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515–3810

Honorable Margaret Roukema, U.S. House of Representatives, 2244 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515–3005

Honorable Tom Ridge, State Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120

Honorable Christine Whitman, State House, Trenton, NJ 08625

[FR Doc. 98–2979 Filed 2–5–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Reclamation**

Proposed Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) Interim Land Retirement Program, Central Valley Project (CVP), California

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a programmatic environmental assessment and notice of scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council of Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1506.6), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) announces the intent to

prepare a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed CVPIA Interim Land Retirement Program. The proposed action supports implementation of section 3408(h) of the CVPIA, Pub. L. 102–575, which authorized the Land Retirement Program, based on recommendations contained in the final report of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program (SJVDP, September 1990).

The purpose of the proposed action is to identify potential impacts to the environment from the permanent retirement of land and the disposition of any water allocation that may be acquired under this program. Disposition of water may include out-of-district transfers, primarily for environmental purposes, or the water may stay within a district to be used to establish vegetation for the purposes of wildlife habitat enhancement and drainage reduction, or the water may be reallocated among the district's water users as supplemental water. Regardless of where the water is to be used or for what purpose, the water may not be applied to lands where it will contribute to drainage problems, as set forth in the interim program guidelines (revised 11/97). The need of the proposed action is to reduce subsurface drainage and restore wildlife habitat values in the San Joaquin Valley. The action complements the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Draft Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California, 1997.

The chief area of concern is the western side of the San Joaquin Valley from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta on the north to the Tehachapi Mountains south of Bakersfield, California. The Proposed Action will focus on the federal CVP service area within this region.

DATES: Public scoping meetings to receive oral and written comments will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, February 24, 1998, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Delano, California.
- Wednesday, February 25, 1998, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Fresno, California.
- Thursday, February 26, 1998, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Santa Nella, California.

Written comments on the project scope should be sent to Reclamation by March 18, 1998. Comments received after this date will be considered, but will not be included in the resulting scoping report.

ADDRESSES: Public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations:

- The Fruit Tree, 2343 Gerard Street, Delano, California 93215, telephone (805) 725–9532.

- The Fresno Holiday Inn Airport, 5090 East Clinton Avenue, Fresno, California 93727, telephone (209) 252-3611.

- Anderson's Pea Soup, 12411 North Howard Street, Santa Nella, California 95322, telephone (209) 826-1685.

Written comments on the project scope should be sent to Mr. Robert May, Program Manager, South-Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, 2666 N. Grove Industrial Drive, Fresno, CA 93727-1551.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Mr. May, telephone (209) 487-5137, fax (209) 487-5130.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A comprehensive study of agricultural drainage and drainage-related problems on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley resulted in the management plan presented in the SJVDP final report, an interagency study, published in 1990. This report found that the conditions associated with irrigation and agricultural drainage in the San Joaquin Valley are not new, as inadequate drainage and accumulation of salts have been persistent problems in parts of the valley for more than a century, making some cultivated lands unusable as far back as the 1880's. Widespread acreages of grain, first planted on the western side of the valley in the 1870's, were irrigated with water from the San Joaquin and Kings rivers. This type of farming spread until, by the 1890's, the rivers' natural flows were no longer adequate to meet the growing agricultural demand for water. Poor natural drainage conditions, coupled with rising groundwater levels and increasing soil salinity, meant that land had to be removed from production and some farms ultimately abandoned.

The development of irrigated agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley since 1900 resulted mainly from the improvements in pump technology. These improvements led to the development of large pumps that could lift water hundreds of feet from below ground. In time, heavy pumping triggered severe groundwater overdraft because more water was being extracted than was being replaced naturally. Ground water levels and hydraulic pressure fell rapidly and widespread land subsidence, or collapse of the soil's structure, began to occur. Subsidence results in an uneven land surface which can alter drainage patterns and may severely damage roads, buildings, or other structures. In western Fresno County some areas have subsided more than 30 feet. By the late 1950's, estimated overdraft in Kern County

alone had reached 750,000 acre-feet per year.

Initial facilities of the federal Central Valley Project transported water from northern California through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region via the Delta-Mendota Canal in 1951 to irrigate 600,000 acres of land in the northern part of the San Joaquin Valley. This water primarily replaced and supplemented San Joaquin River water that was diverted at Friant Dam and sent to the southern end of the east side of the San Joaquin Valley.

The CVP's San Luis Unit and the State Water Project, each authorized in 1960, began delivering Northern California water to agricultural lands on the west side of the southern San Joaquin Valley in 1968. Together these facilities provide water to irrigate 1 million acres. Authorization of the San Luis Unit also mandated construction of an interceptor drain known as the San Luis Drain, to collect irrigation drainage water from its service area and carry it to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for disposal. Reclamation's 1955 feasibility report for the San Luis Unit described the drain as an earthen ditch that would drain 96,000 acres. By 1962, Reclamation's studies had shown the need to build a concrete-lined canal to drain 300,000 acres. In 1964, plans added a regulating reservoir to temporarily retain drainage water. A decision was made in the mid-1970's to use the reservoir to store and evaporate drainage water until the drainage canal to the Delta could be completed.

Reclamation began construction of the San Luis Drain in 1968, and by 1975 had completed 85 miles of the main drain, 120 miles of collector drains, and the first phase of the regulating reservoir (Kesterson). In 1970, Kesterson Reservoir became part of a new national wildlife refuge managed jointly by Reclamation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). Federal budget constraints and growing environmental concerns about releasing irrigation drainage water into the Delta halted work on the reservoir and the drain.

In 1975, Reclamation, the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board formed the San Joaquin Valley Interagency Drainage Program to find a solution to the valley's drainage problem that would be economically, environmentally, and politically acceptable. The group's recommendation was to complete the drain to a discharge point in the Delta, near Chipp's Island. In 1981, Reclamation began a special study to fulfill requirements for a discharge

permit from the State Water Resources Control Board.

The 1983 discovery of deformities and deaths of aquatic birds at Kesterson Reservoir altered the perception of drainage problems on the west side of the valley. Selenium poisoning was determined to be the probable culprit. In 1985, the Secretary of the Interior ordered that the discharge of drainage water to Kesterson be halted and the feeder drains closed. In 1986 Kesterson Reservoir was closed and the vegetation plowed under. Contamination problems similar to those identified at Kesterson are now appearing in other parts of the Valley, such as the Tulare Basin, which receives irrigation water from the State Water Project.

In 1984 the SJVDP was established as a joint Federal and State effort to investigate drainage and drainage-related problems and to identify possible solutions. The potential solutions were published in the program's September 1990 report. Due to environmental and political concerns, the report assumes that an out-of-valley solution, or completion of the San Luis Drain to the Delta would not be possible in the near future.

The concept behind land retirement is to stop irrigating lands with poor drainage and shallow groundwater high in concentrations of selenium, as a means of lowering the water table. Hydrologic studies have shown that if large blocks of land (+/- 5,000 acres) were retired from irrigation, then the water table beneath those lands would drop.

The SJVDP final report recommended permanent retirement of 75,000 acres of irrigated lands that are characterized by low productivity, poor drainage, and high selenium concentration in shallow groundwater. Land retirement will cease irrigation on these selected lands as a means to reduce subsurface drainage problems. Additionally, retired lands will be rehabilitated to provide wildlife habitat. The chief area of concern is the western side of the San Joaquin Valley from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta on the north to the Tehachapi Mountains south of Bakersfield, California. The Proposed Action will focus on the federal CVP service area within this region.

Land Retirement Team

With the passage of the CVPIA in October 1992, Reclamation's Central Valley Water Project's (CVP) mission was changed to modify water flows to better support the needs of fish and wildlife throughout the project area. With the development of modern agriculture, railroads, and the highway

system, the face of California's landscape was changed forever, and over time the majority of the San Joaquin Valley's natural habitats have been converted to agricultural or urban uses.

Reclamation, a Department of the Interior agency, has responsibility for management of the CVP. In order to implement the provisions of the CVPIA as the people had intended, Reclamation needed the help of its sister agencies, the USFWS, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). These three agencies share the mission to protect and enhance the nation's natural resources for the continuing benefit of the American people. In particular, the USFWS and the BLM will act as the land managers for lands acquired under the land retirement program. Representatives from these three agencies make up the land retirement team and will work in partnership to accomplish the goals of the program.

Eligibility

Lands eligible for participation in the Land Retirement Program are those that receive CVP water under a contract executed with the United States, and are offered by willing sellers. Reclamation will not use condemnation to acquire land or other property interests.

Program Goals

The goals of the program are to:

- Provide drainage source reduction.
- Enhance fish & wildlife habitat.
- Acquire water for other purposes of the Act.

Potential Issues

It is anticipated that there may be some effect on local governments in the form of a loss to the tax base due to lands moving from private ownership to the tax-exempt Federal ownership status. There may be impacts to the local economy by taking irrigated agricultural lands out of production. There is some concern that the change in land use may result in soil degradation or increasing the salt content of the soil. Additional potential issues may arise, depending upon whether acquired water remains in the water district or is transferred out-of-district. Land retirement may have an effect on present and future available water supplies. Additionally, it is anticipated that there will be benefits to wildlife from the change in land use on the acquired parcels.

Federal, State and local agencies, and interested individuals are encouraged to participate in the scoping process for the EA to determine the range of issues and alternatives to be addressed.

Dated: February 2, 1998.

William Luce,

Area Manager, South-Central California Area Office.

[FR Doc. 98-2971 Filed 2-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

National Institute of Corrections

Advisory Board Meeting

Time and date: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 1998 and 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesday, February 24, 1998.

Place: Key Bridge Marriott Hotel, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

Status: Open.

Matters to be Considered: Review of Amendments to Bylaws; Updates on Strategic Planning, Sex Offender Issues, Use of Video Technology for Training and Information Dissemination, Interstate Compact Issues; and Program Division Reports and Issues.

Contact Person for More Information: Larry Solomon, Deputy Director, (202) 307-3106, ext. 155.

Morris L. Thigpen,

Director.

[FR Doc. 98-3049 Filed 2-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

[TA-W-33,969 and NAFTA-01994]

Champion Aviation Products, Weatherly, Pennsylvania; Negative Determination Regarding Application for Reconsideration

By application dated January 6, 1998, the company requested administrative reconsideration of the Department's negative determination regarding eligibility to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and NAFTA-Transitional Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA), applicable to workers and former workers of the subject firm. The denial notices applicable to workers of the subject firm located in Weatherly, Pennsylvania, were signed on December 11, 1997. The TAA and NAFTA-TAA decisions were published in the **Federal Register** on January 6, 1998 (63 FR 577) and (63 FR 578), respectively.

Pursuant to 29 CFR 90.18(c) reconsideration may be granted under the following circumstances:

(1) If it appears on the basis of facts not previously considered that the determination complained of was erroneous;

(2) If it appears that the determination complained of was based on a mistake in the determination of facts not previously considered; or

(3) If in the opinion of the Certifying Officer, a misinterpretation of facts or of the law justified reconsideration of the decision.

The TAA petition, filed on behalf of workers of Champion Aviation Products Division of Cooper Industries, Weatherly, Pennsylvania, producing aircraft displays and aircraft power supplies was denied because the "contributed importantly" group eligibility requirement of section 222(3) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, was not met. The "contributed importantly" test is generally demonstrated through a survey of the worker firm's customers. None of the Champion Aviation Products' customers reported increased import purchases while decreasing purchases from Champion's Weatherly plant. A survey of firms to whom the subject firm submitted competitive bids revealed that those bids were awarded domestically.

The NAFTA-TAA petition for the same worker group was denied because criteria (3) and (4) of the group eligibility requirements in paragraph (a)(1) of section 250 of the Trade Act, as amended, were not met. There were no company imports of aircraft displays and aircraft power supplies from Mexico or Canada, nor was there a shift in production from the workers' firm to Mexico or Canada. A survey of the major declining customers of Champion showed that none of the respondents purchased imports of aircraft displays or power supplies from Mexico or Canada. A survey of firms to whom the subject firm submitted competitive bids revealed that those bids were awarded domestically.

In support of their application for reconsideration, the company asserts that one of their lost contract bids was awarded to a foreign supplier. Review of this information shows that firm soliciting bids was a foreign company not a domestic operation. The Department does not survey foreign firms, including those located in Mexico or Canada. The Department must examine sales to U.S. customers, and in this case, competitive bids offered by U.S. companies. Sales to customers outside of the United States would be considered to be for the export market. A loss of export market business cannot