

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

[Docket No. FR-4743-N-05]

**Notice of Planned Closing of Brockton, Massachusetts Post-of-Duty****AGENCY:** Office of Inspector General, HUD.**ACTION:** Notice of planned closing of Brockton, Massachusetts Post-of-Duty station.**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the HUD Office of Inspector General (OIG) is closing its Brockton, Massachusetts post-of-duty station, and also provides a cost-benefit analysis of the impact of the closure.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Bryan Saddler, Counsel to the Inspector General, Room 8260, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708-1613. (This is not a toll free number.) A telecommunications device for hearing- and speech-impaired persons (TTY) is available at 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Information Relay Services). (This is a toll-free number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

In 2000, HUD/OIG established a two person post-of-duty station in Brockton, Massachusetts, to give direct support to the Operation Safe Home (OSH) initiative to combat violent and drug related crime in the public and assisted housing in the city and nearby communities. Although Brockton, Massachusetts, is only about 30 miles from Boston, Massachusetts, where the HUD/OIG has its Regional Office, the nationwide experience since the initiation of OSH in 1994 had proven that the best results/impact could be obtained when an HUD/OIG Special Agent was physically located in the target city. However, in accordance with the requirements of the Fiscal Year 2002 HUD Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 107-73, approved November 26, 2001), HUD/OIG terminated OSH and is re-deploying staff to focus on investigations involving single-family fraud and property flipping. This change eliminates the need to maintain a separate post-of-duty station in Brockton, Massachusetts, and gives HUD/OIG the opportunity to generate cost savings associated with discontinuing an additional office.

Section 7(p) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(p)) provides that a plan for field reorganization, which may involve the closing of any field or

regional office, of the Department of Housing and Urban Development may not take effect until 90 days after a cost-benefit analysis of the effect of the plan on the office in question is published in the **Federal Register**. The required cost-benefit analysis should include: (1) An estimate of cost savings anticipated; (2) an estimate of the additional cost which will result from the reorganization; (3) a discussion of the impact on the local economy; and (4) an estimate of the effect of the reorganization on the availability, accessibility, and quality of services provided for recipients of those services.

Legislative history pertaining to section 7(p) indicates that not all reorganizations are subject to the requirements of section 7(p). Congress stated that "[t]his amendment is not intended to [apply] to or restrict the internal operations or organization of the Department (such as the establishment of new or combination of existing organization units within a field office, the duty stationing of employees in various locations to provide on-site service, or the establishment or closing, based on workload, of small, informal offices such as valuation stations)." (See House Conference Report No. 95-1792, October 14, 1978 at 58.)

The two-person duty-station in Brockton, Massachusetts, is a single purpose duty station, and the duty station is being closed based on workload rather than a reorganization of HUD/OIG field offices. Although notice of the closing of a duty station is not subject to the requirement of section 7(p), as supported by legislative history, HUD/OIG nevertheless prepared a cost benefit analysis for its own use in determining whether to proceed with the closing. Through this notice, HUD/OIG advises the public of the closing of the Brockton, Massachusetts, duty station and provides the cost benefit analysis of the impact of the closure.

**Impact of The Closure of The Brockton, Massachusetts, Post-Of-Duty Station**

HUD/OIG considered the costs and benefits of closing the Brockton, Massachusetts, post-of-duty station, and is publishing its cost-benefit analysis with this notice. In summary, HUD/OIG has determined that the closure will result in a cost savings, and, as a result of the size and limited function of the office, will cause no appreciable impact on the provision of authorized investigative services/activities in the area (*i.e.*, OSH activities, of course, will be impacted, but HUD/OIG has been directed to terminate these activities).

*Cost-Benefit Analysis*

*A. Cost Savings:* The Brockton, Massachusetts, post-of-duty station currently costs approximately \$905 per month for space rental. Additional associated overhead expenses (*e.g.*, telephone service) are incurred to operate the post-of-duty station. Thus, closing the office will result in annual savings of at least \$10,000. In addition, by closing the office HUD/OIG will not be required to incur additional costs associated with current plans to install high-speed computer access lines to and on the premises.

*B. Additional Costs:* There are no offsetting expenses anticipated. Currently, only one Special Agent is assigned to the Brockton, Massachusetts, post-of-duty station, and he is being reassigned to HUD/OIG's Regional Office in Boston, Massachusetts. No relocation costs are associated with this reassignment.

*C. Impact on Local Economy:* No appreciable impact on the local economy is anticipated. The post-of-duty station is only 679 square feet and is located in the Federal Courthouse. Further, it is anticipated that the space can easily be re-leased to other tenants.

*D. Effect on Availability, Accessibility and Quality of Services Provided to Recipients of Those Services:* The establishment of the Brockton, Massachusetts, post-of-duty station was based entirely on the needs of the HUD/OIG to have Special Agents in closer proximity to OSH activities conducted in the Brockton area. These activities have been terminated. Further, as was the case prior to 2000, fraud investigations in the Brockton area can be cost-effectively addressed by special agents assigned to the Boston Regional Office, which is about 30 miles away.

For the reasons stated in this notice, HUD/OIG intends to proceed to close its Brockton, Massachusetts, post-of-duty station at the expiration of the 90-day period from the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: February 19, 2003.

**Kenneth M. Donohue, Sr.,***Inspector General.*

[FR Doc. 03-4731 Filed 2-27-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-78-P****DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Data Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations****ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the U.S. Department of the Interior announces that it has forwarded a Paperwork Reduction Act submission to OMB to request public comments on this submission. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DOI is below parity with the Relevant Civilian Labor Force representation for many mission critical occupations. The Department's Strategic Human Capital Management Plan identifies the job skills that will be needed in our current and future workforce. The job skills we will need are dispersed throughout our eight bureaus and include, among others, making visitors welcome to various facilities, such as parks and refuges, processing permits for a wide variety of uses of the public lands, collecting royalties for minerals extracted from the public lands, rounding-up and adopting-out wild horses and burros found in the west, protecting archaeological and cultural resources of the public lands, and enforcing criminal laws of the United States. As a result of this broad spectrum of duties and services, the Department touches the lives of most Americans.

**DATES:** 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 within 30 days of publication of this notice in order to assure their maximum consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Samuel Bowser, (202) 208-5549, Assistant Director for Workforce Diversity and Evaluation. The collection instrument is also available on the internet at: [http://www.doi.gov/diversity/doc/di\\_1935.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/diversity/doc/di_1935.pdf). Respondents may also obtain hard copies of the DI 1935 form and the Department of the Interior's submission to OMB.

**Brief Description:** In order to determine if there are barriers in our recruitment and selection processes, we must track the demographic groups that apply for our jobs. There is no other statistically valid method to make these determinations, and no source of this

information other than directly from applicants. The data collected is not provided to selecting officials and plays no part in the merit staffing or the selection processes. The data collected will be used in summary form to determine trends covering the demographic make-up of applicant pools and job selections within a given occupation or organizational group. The records of those applicants not selected are destroyed in accordance with the Department's records management process.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title:** U.S. Department of the Interior Applicant Background Survey.

**Type of Request:** Extension of collection approved under OMB Control No.: 1091-0001.

**Description of Respondents:** Individuals seeking employment.

**Annual Responses:** 560,000.

**Burden:** 46,480 hours total (5 minutes per response).

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be addressed to: Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. In addition, please provide a copy of your comments to Samuel Bowser, at the contact address.

**J. Michael Trujillo,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Workforce Diversity.*

[FR Doc. 03-4749 Filed 2-27-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-10-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**[NV-030-03-1020-241A]**

**Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council; Notice of Revised Meeting Locations and Times**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of rescheduled meetings locations and times for the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (Nevada).

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), meetings of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC), Nevada, will be held as indicated

below. Topics for discussion at each meeting will include, but are not limited to: April 29-30, 2003 (Fallon, Nevada)-recreational use and tourism promotion of public lands in western Nevada by State of Nevada agencies, Sand Mountain Fee Demonstration Project (including a field trip to Sand Mountain), subcommittee presentation of the Black Rock-High Rock NCA Resource Management Plan, staff update on the Pine Nut Mountains RMP Amendment, and a report on planning progress for the Mustang Ranch; and July 15-17, 2003 (Winnemucca, Nevada)-aspen clone habitat degradation and future management, Sage Grouse program review, field office reports on land fills/mine reclamation, and inspection of riparian habitat sites including an overnight camping trip in the Winnemucca Field Office area. Manager's reports of field office activities will be given at each meeting. The council may raise other topics at any of the two planned meetings.

These two rescheduled meetings are replacing dates/locations originally published in the **Federal Register** for April 24-25 (Reno, Nevada) and July 24-25 (Winnemucca, Nevada).

**Dates & Times:** The RAC will now meet on April 29-30 (Tuesday and Wednesday), at the Fallon Convention Center (Oasis Room), 100 Campus Way, Fallon, Nevada (including a field trip to the Sand Mountain Recreation Area); and on July 15-17 (Tuesday through Thursday), at the BLM-Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada (including an overnight field trip on July 16—details to be outlined by July 1, 2003). All meetings and field trips are open to the public. Each meeting will last from approximately 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., plus, a general public comment period, where the public may submit oral or written comments to the RAC, will be at 4 p.m. on the first day of each meeting, unless otherwise listed in each specific, final meeting agenda.

Final detailed agendas, with any additions/corrections to agenda topics, locations, field trips and meeting times, will be available on the internet at least 14 days before each meeting, at [www.nv.blm.gov/rac](http://www.nv.blm.gov/rac); hard copies can also be mailed or sent via FAX. Individuals who need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, or who wish a hard copy of each agenda, should contact Mark Struble, Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701, telephone (775) 885-6107 no later than 10 days prior to each meeting.