

The applicant requests a permit to import two male and two female captive-hatched horned guanans (*Oreophasis derbianus*) from Vida Silvestre, Ixtapaluca, Mexico for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Lawrence J. Nolan, San Francisco, CA, PRT-147954.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Ximena Velez Zuazo, San Juan, PR, PRT-140967.

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples from hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) collected in the wild in the Netherlands Antilles, for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

Marine Mammals

The public is invited to comment on the following application for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The applications were submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR part 18). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of the complete applications or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be submitted to the Director (address above). Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be

appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

Applicant: Lance G. Barrett-Leonard, Homer, AK, PRT-118442.

The applicant requests an amendment to his permit application for additional observation areas and animals to study the vigilance behavior of northern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris kenyoni*) in response to killer whales in Alaska waters for the purpose of scientific research. The original request was published on July 26, 2006 (71 FR 42409).

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Division of Management Authority is forwarding copies of the above application to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Applicant: Donald M. Beam, New Albany, OH, PRT-147327.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Foxe Basin polar bear population in Canada prior to February 18, 1997, for personal, noncommercial use.

Dated: March 2, 2007.

Lisa J. Lierheimer,
Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits,
Division of Management Authority.
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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permits for endangered species and/or marine mammals.

SUMMARY: The following permits were issued.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358-2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358-2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permits subject to certain conditions set forth therein. For each permit for an endangered species, the Service found that (1) the application was filed in good faith, (2) the granted permit would not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species, and (3) the granted permit would be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in Section 2 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Permit No.	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
Endangered Species			
141372	Donna J. Schlattman	72 FR 2538; January 19, 2007	February 27, 2007.
142794	Craig P. Grilione	72 FR 2538; January 19, 2007	February 27, 2007.
142925	Joe Enriquez, Jr	72 FR 2538; January 19, 2007	February 27, 2007.
137759	Molly M. Hedgecock	72 FR 2540; January 19, 2007	February 28, 2007.
141937	Thomas R. Lentz	72 FR 2540; January 19, 2007	February 28, 2007.
141476	Daniel M. Alegre, Sr	72 FR 2540; January 19, 2007	February 28, 2007.
141388	Gary W. John	72 FR 2340; January 19, 2007	February 28, 2007.
140293	Raymond Moses	72 FR 2339; January 19, 2007	February 28, 2007.
138763	Louis B. Blanchard	72 FR 2340, January 19, 2007	February 28, 2007.
Marine Mammals			
142711	Christian E. Klar	72 FR 2539, January 19, 2007	February 21, 2007
142252	Gerald W. Schave	72 FR 2539, January 19, 2007	February 22, 2007

Dated: March 2, 2007.

Lisa J. Lierheimer,

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits,
Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report for the Pacific Gas & Electric Company San Joaquin Valley Operations and Maintenance Program Habitat Conservation Plan, San Joaquin Valley, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company San Joaquin Valley Operations and Maintenance Program Final Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan), Implementing Agreement (IA), and the final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for public review and comment. The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is considering the proposed action of issuing a 30-year permit, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (ESA), for take of 65 species (covered species) in response to receipt of an application from Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E). The proposed permit would authorize take of individual members of animal species listed under the ESA. The permit is needed because take of species could occur during routine operations and maintenance activities and minor construction on PG&E's gas and electrical distribution facilities, and other activities associated with the implementation of the final Plan. These covered activities are to occur within a 12.1 million-acre planning area located in the San Joaquin Valley, California. The final Plan describes the actions and the measures PG&E will implement to minimize and mitigate take of the covered species.

DATES: A permit decision will occur no sooner than April 23, 2007. Written comments on the final documents must be received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments on the final documents to Lori Rinek, Division Chief, Conservation Planning and Recovery Division, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way,

Room W-2605, Sacramento, California 95825; facsimile 916-414-6713.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nina Bicknese, Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist, or Lori Rinek, Division Chief, Conservation Planning and Recovery, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, telephone 916-414-6600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents

Copies of the final EIS/EIR, the Plan, and the IA may be obtained by contacting Nina Bicknese [see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**]. Documents also will be available for public review, by appointment, during regular business hours at the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office [see **ADDRESSES**].

Background Information

Section 9 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1538) and implementing regulations prohibit the "take" of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. The term "take" is defined under the ESA to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1532). "Harm" is defined by Service regulation to include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures listed wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, and sheltering (50 CFR 17.3(c)). Under limited circumstances, the Service may issue permits to authorize "incidental take" of listed species. Incidental take is defined by the ESA as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species are found at 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22, respectively.

Although take of listed plant species is not prohibited under the ESA, and therefore cannot be authorized under an incidental take permit, plant species may be included on a permit in recognition of the conservation benefits provided to them under a habitat conservation plan. The applicant, PG&E, would receive assurances under the Services "No Surprises" regulation 50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5) for all species, including plants, identified on the incidental take permit.

PG&E seeks a 30-year permit for incidental take, which may result from specific PG&E activities (covered activities) within a 12.1 million-acre planning area covering portions of nine counties in the California San Joaquin Valley: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced,

Fresno, Kings, Kern, Mariposa, Madera, and Tulare counties. However, the majority of impacts are likely to occur on approximately 276,000 acres. Annual impacts to covered species and their habitats are expected to be limited to approximately 43 acres. Covered activities are defined in the Plan to include routine operations and maintenance activities and minor construction on PG&E's gas and electrical transmission and distribution facilities, and the management and monitoring of compensation lands. PG&E has requested a take permit for 65 covered species, 31 of which are currently listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA and 34 that are currently unlisted. Of these 65 species, PG&E requests a permit and assurances for 23 animal species and assurances for 42 plant species.

Covered species include 8 wildlife species, currently listed as endangered under the ESA [vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*), Buena Vista Lake shrew (*Sorex ornatus relictus*), riparian brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani riparius*), riparian (San Joaquin Valley) woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes riparia*), Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*), giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*), San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*)], 10 plant species, currently listed as endangered under the ESA [large-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia grandiflora*), California jewelflower (*Caulanthus californicus*), palmate-bracted bird's-beak (*Cordylanthus palmatus*), Kern mallow (*Eremalche kernensis*), San Joaquin woollythreads (*Monolopia [Lembertia] congdonii*), Bakersfield cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*), hairy Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*), Hartweg's golden sunburst (*Pseudobahia bahiifolia*), Keck's checkerbloom (*Sidalcea keckii*), and Greene's tuctoria (*Tuctoria greenei*)], and 6 wildlife species currently listed as threatened under the ESA [vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)], 7 plant species currently listed as threatened under the ESA [Mariposa pussypaws (*Calyptidium pulchellum*), succulent owl's-clover (*Castilleja campestris* ssp. *succulenta*), Hoover's spurge (*Chamaesyce hooveri*), Springville clarkia (*Clarkia springvillensis*), Colusa