

Dated: July 18, 2003.

Monica Farris,

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

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-350-1430-EU-24 1A]

OMB Approval Number 1004-0004; Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has sent a request to extend the current approved information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). On July 11, 2002, the BLM published a notice in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 45984) requesting comment on this information collection. The comment period ended on September 9, 2002. BLM received no comments. You may obtain copies of the collection of information and related forms and explanatory material by contacting the BLM Information Collection Clearance Officer at the telephone number listed below.

The OMB must respond to this request within 60 days but may respond after 30 days. For maximum consideration your comments and suggestions on the requirement should be directed within 30 days to the Office of Management and Budget, Interior Department Desk Officer (1004-0004), at OMB-OIRA via facsimile to (202) 395-5806 or e-mail to Ruth_Solomon@omb.eop.gov. Please provide a copy of your comments to the Bureau Information Collection Clearance Office (WO-630), Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, Virginia 22153.

Nature of Comments: We specifically request your comments on the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.
2. The accuracy of our estimates of the information collection burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions we use;
3. Ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information we collect; and

4. Ways to minimize the information collection burden on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Desert-Land Entry (43 CFR 2520).

OMB Approval Number: 1004-0004.

Bureau Form Number: 2520-1.

Abstract: We use the information to determine if an individual is eligible to make a desert-land entry to reclaim, irrigate, and cultivate arid and semiarid public lands administered by the BLM in the Western States. The provisions of the Desert Land Act of March 3, 1877 as amended (43 U.S.C. 231, 321 *et seq.*), and the regulations in 43 CFR 2520 establish guidelines and procedures for the orderly and timely processing of applications for desert-land entries.

Frequency: Once.

Description of Respondents: Individuals, small businesses, and large corporations.

Estimated Completion Time: 2 hours.

Annual Response: 3.

Application Fee Per Response: \$15.00.

Annual Burden Hours: 6.

Bureau Clearance Officer: Michael Schwartz, (202) 452-5033.

Dated: July 11, 2003.

Michael H. Schwartz,

Bureau of Land Management, Information
Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-19339 Filed 7-29-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-350-1430-ES-24 1A]

OMB Approval Number 1004-0012; Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has sent a request to extend the current approved information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). On July 11, 2002, the BLM published a notice in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 45986) requesting comment on this information collection. The comment period ended on September 9, 2002. The BLM received no comments. You may obtain copies of the collection of information and related forms and explanatory material by contacting the BLM Information Collection Clearance Officer at the telephone number listed below.

The OMB must respond to this request within 60 days but may respond after 30 days. For maximum consideration your comments and suggestions on the requirement should be directed within 30 days to the Office of Management and Budget, Interior Department Desk Officer (1004-0012), at OMB-OIRA via facsimile to (202) 395-5806 or e-mail to Ruth_Solomon@omb.eop.gov. Please provide a copy of your comments to the Bureau Information Collection Clearance Officer (WO-630), Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, Virginia 22153.

Nature of Comments: We specifically request your comments on the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of our estimates of the information collection burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions we use;
3. Ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information we collect; and
4. Ways to minimize the information collection burden on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Recreation and Public Purposes Act (43 CFR 2740).

OMB Approval Number: 1004-0012.

Bureau Form Number: 2740-1.

Abstract: We use the information to determine if States and local governments, and nonprofit corporations and associations are eligible to lease or purchase public lands administered by the BLM for recreational and public purposes under the terms of the Recreation and Purpose Act of June 14, 1926 (R&PP) as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). The 43 CFR parts 2740 and 2912 provide guidelines and procedures to sell lease or sell certain public lands under the Act.

Frequency: Once.

Description of Respondents: States and local governments, and nonprofit corporations and associations.

Estimated Completion Time: 40 hours.

Annual Responses: 20.

Application Fee Per Response: \$100.

Annual Burden Hours: 800.

Bureau Clearance Officer: Michael Schwartz, (202) 452-5033.

Dated: July 11, 2003.

Michael H. Schwartz,

*Bureau of Land Management, Information
Collection Clearance Officer.*

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BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Sacramento River Water Reliability Study

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement/ environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) and notice of scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) propose to prepare a joint EIS/EIR for the Sacramento River Water Reliability Study (SRWRS). Reclamation is the Lead Federal Agency for NEPA and PCWA is Lead State Agency for CEQA. PCWA, Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD), and the cities of Roseville, and Sacramento are cost-sharing partners.

DATES: A series of public scoping meetings will be held to solicit public input on the alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR as follows:

- Monday, September 15, 2003, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sacramento, CA.
- Monday, September 15, 2003, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Sacramento, CA.
- Wednesday, September 17, 2003, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Willows, CA.
- Monday, September 22, 2003, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Yuba City, CA.
- Tuesday, September 23, 2003, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Stockton, CA.
- Wednesday, September 24, 2003, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Rocklin, CA.

Written comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR may be mailed to Reclamation or PCWA at the addresses below by Monday, October 12, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting locations are:

- In Sacramento, Best Western Expo Inn, 1413 Howe Avenue, Expo Room.
- In Willows, Memorial Hall, 525 West Sycamore.
- In Yuba City, Sutter County Veterans Hall, 1425 Veterans Memorial Drive.
- In Stockton, Radisson Hotel, Delta IV Room, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd., Stockton, CA 95207.

- In Rocklin, Rocklin City Council Chambers, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA 95677.

Written comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR should be sent to: Ms. Mona Jefferies-Sonia, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-700, Sacramento, CA 95825 or Mr. Steve Yaeger, c/o Ms. Darcy Granieri, Placer County Water Agency, P.O. Box 6570, Auburn, CA 95604-6570.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jefferies-Sonia at the above address, at 916-978-5068, or via fax at 916-978-5094 or e-mail at mjefferies-sonia@mp.usbr.gov; or Mr. Yaeger at the above address or at 530-823-4962. Additional information is available online at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/srwrs>. If special assistance is required, please call Ms. Sammie Cervantes, Reclamation, at 915-978-5104, TDD 916-978-5608, or via e-mail at scervantes@mp.usbr.gov no less than 5 working days prior to the meetings.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SRWRS cost-sharing partners have identified their long-term needs for additional water supplies to meet growing water supply demands and reliability objectives in their respective service areas. The goal of the SRWRS is to develop a water supply plan that is consistent with the Water Forum Agreement (April 24, 2000) objectives of pursuing a Sacramento River diversion to meet water supply needs of the Placer-Sacramento region and promoting ecosystem preservation along the lower American River. The project location is the greater Sacramento metropolitan area, encompassing portions of southern Sutter County, northern Sacramento County, and western and southern Placer County.

Project Description

To meet the water supply needs of the cost-sharing partners, the SRWRS will identify a package of water supply infrastructure components, including new or expanded diversion(s) from the Sacramento, Feather, or American Rivers, and new or expanded water treatment and pumping facilities, storage tanks, and major transmission and distribution pipelines.

The SRWRS will include a feasibility study and an EIS/EIR for identified water supply alternatives as the basis for seeking necessary biological opinions and permits from the responsible resource agencies to allow execution of necessary agreements and construction of the recommended water supply infrastructure. Development of the SRWRS will be consistent with the following principles:

- Satisfying requirements stipulated in Public Law 106-554, the congressional authorizing legislation for this study, to complete a feasibility study for a Sacramento River diversion that is consistent with the Water Forum Agreement and includes the following components: (1) Development of a range of reasonable options, (2) an environmental evaluation, and (3) consultation with Federal and state resource management agencies regarding potential impacts and mitigation measures. Furthermore, the Congress requires the SRWRS to be developed in coordination with CALFED.

- Observing existing applicable laws, regulations, water rights, contracts and legal agreements, and Federal planning guidelines, including, but not limited to, NEPA, "Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies," guidelines, CEQA, California Water Laws, obligations of the cost-sharing partners in their charters, and as defined in California laws.

- Minimizing overall impact on the environment to the extent feasible, being cost-effective, and complementing and enhancing the overall reliability of the Placer-Sacramento region's water supply system through increased interconnectivity and source redundancy.

The SRWRS plan will be consistent with the Water Forum Agreement in pursuing a Sacramento River diversion to accomplish the following objectives envisioned in the agreement: (1) Meeting the needs of planned future growth within the Placer-Sacramento region, (2) maintaining a reliable water supply while reducing diversions of surface water from the American River in future dry years to preserve the river ecosystem, and (3) enhancing groundwater conjunctive management to help sustain the quality and availability of groundwater for the future.

Project Alternatives

The proposed project (Elkhorn Diversion alternative) encompasses constructing a joint diversion from the Sacramento River and treatment facilities to serve the cost-sharing partners. The diversion facility would consist of expanding the existing Elkhorn Diversion owned by the Natomas Mutual Water Company (NMWC) on the east bank of the Sacramento River, upstream of the mouth of the American River at approximately river mile 73.3, or constructing a new diversion near the existing Elkhorn Diversion. Water