

Currently electrical service is not available for residents along a portion of U.S. 285 between the existing 25 kV corridor and Tres Piedras. This option would allow for a 25 kV (maximum) extension along U.S. 285 just north of the junction with NM 576 to where a 12.5 kV would extend south from Tres Piedras—approximately 9 miles. This option will be analyzed in the EIS and available to the responsible official to add to the proposed action or either of the action alternatives as a part of his decision.

**Responsible Official:** The Forest Supervisor for the Carson National Forest is the responsible official for making a decision on National Forest System lands. The BLM is a cooperating agency, and a designated responsible official for the BLM will make a decision on actions that would take place on BLM lands. If an alternative is selected that includes private holdings, KCEC Cooperative will negotiate for approval.

**Nature of the Decision To Be Made:** The Forest Supervisor will decide whether to authorize KCEC to construct a new line as proposed or select an alternative, including taking no action. He will also choose whether to include the Tres Piedras Connection option in his decision. In addition, the responsible official may elect to require certain mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts.

**Lead and Cooperating Agencies:** The USDA Forest Service is the lead agency for this environmental analysis. The USDI Bureau of Land Management has jurisdiction for a portion of the proposed action and is a cooperating agency. The BLM has participated as a cooperating agency since the early stages of the NEPA process.

**Comment Requested:** This revised notice adds information to the previous NOI and changes the proposed dates for release of the EIS. It does not reinstate scoping.

**Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review:** A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the DEIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is

meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the DEIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: June 24, 2003.

**Martin D. Chavez, Jr.,**

*Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Madera County Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Resource Advisory Committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the

secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Sierra National Forest's Resource Advisory Committee for Madera County will meet on Monday, July 21, 2003. The Madera Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the USDA Forest Service Office, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA. The purpose of the meeting is: Review any new RAC proposals, review progress of FY 2002 accounting, update on new Forest Service Region 5 RAC Web site, finalize Madera County RAC mission and clarify voting procedures.

**DATES:** The Madera Resource Advisory Committee meeting will be held Monday, July 21, 2003. The meeting will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The Madera County RAC meeting will be held at the USDA Forest Service Office, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dave Martin, USDA, Sierra National Forest, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA 93643, (559) 877-2218 ext. 3100; e-mail: [dmartin05@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmartin05@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Review any new RAC proposals, (2) review progress of FY 2002 accounting, (3) update on new Forest Service Region 5 RAC Web site, (4) finalize Madera County RAC mission, and (5) clarify voting procedures. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time:

Dated: June 23, 2003.

**David W. Martin,**

*District Ranger.*

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## ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

### Access Board Meeting

**AGENCY:** Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has scheduled its regular business meetings to take place in Washington, DC, from Tuesday through Thursday, July 8-10, 2003, at the times and location noted below.

**DATES:** The schedule of events is as follows: