

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers****Notice of Availability for the Final Program Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report for the San Diego Creek Watershed Special Area Management Plan/Watershed Streambed Alteration Agreement Process, Orange County, CA****AGENCY:** Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (as amended), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Regulatory Division (Corps), in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Conservation Branch, South Coast Region (Department), has completed a Final Program Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) (Volume III—Evaluation of and Response to Comments/Errata) for the Special Area Management Plan/ Watershed Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAMP/WSAA) Process for the San Diego Creek Watershed, Orange County, California. The SAMP/WSAA Process establishes alternative permitting procedures for projects within the San Diego Creek Watershed that would alter the bed, bank, or channel of rivers, streams, and lakes and associated riparian habitats under the Department's jurisdiction, and discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States subject to the Corps jurisdiction. The SAMP/WSAA Process permitting procedures will improve the Corps and the Department's ability to evaluate such projects, as compared to the process each agency would normally follow in permitting such projects on a case-by-case basis.

The SAMP is comprised of the following four elements: an Analytical Framework that characterizes aquatic resource conditions for the San Diego Creek Watershed; modified watershed-specific permitting processes, including watershed-specific and resource-based permitting protocols and a mitigation framework; a Strategic Mitigation Plan that is based upon a riparian ecosystem restoration plan for the Watershed; and a Mitigation Coordination Program to achieve implementation of the Strategic Mitigation Plan and foster a coordinated approach to aquatic resource management in the San Diego Creek Watershed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions or comments concerning the Final Program EIS/EIR should be directed to Ms. Corice Farrar, SAMP Project Manager, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, P.O. Box 532711, 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325, (213) 452-3296. Alternatively, comments can be submitted electronically to *Corice.J.Farrar@usace.army.mil*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Bound copies of the Final Program EIS/EIR will be made available to the public for review at the following library reference desks: University of California at Irvine, Langson Library (Irvine, California); Newport Beach Central Library (Newport Beach, California); Heritage Park Regional Library (Irvine, California); and Santa Ana Public Library (Santa Ana, California). A CD copy of the document may be obtained by contacting Ms. Farrar in writing at the address or e-mail above. Interested parties are invited to provide their comments on the Final Program EIS/EIR; such comments will to become a part of the official record and considered in the final decision. Written comments must be received on or before March 27, 2009 and should be submitted to the contact listed above. A Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued by the Corps no earlier than 30 days after this Notice of Availability. The Department intends prepare its findings, certify the Final Program EIS/EIR after the Corps issues its ROD, and issue a Notice of Determination. The 30-day NEPA review period and the CEQA 10-day waiting period shall run concurrently.

David J. Castanon,

Chief, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District.

[FR Doc. E9-4332 Filed 2-27-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-KF-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests****AGENCY:** Department of Education.**ACTION:** Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests.

SUMMARY: The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act

(44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507(j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by March 2, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: OMB Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget; 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10222, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or faxed to (202) 395-6974.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. ED invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner, (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: February 24, 2009.

Angela C. Arrington,

IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: New.

Title: Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program.

Abstract: The Department of Education is requesting emergency clearance of all documents associated with this clearance by March 2, 2009 to meet Congressional legislative mandates. This data collection is necessary to conduct an auction for the rights to originate PLUS loans to parent borrowers under the Federal PLUS Program authorized by Section 428B of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), for the period beginning on or after July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2011. The HEA, as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA), requires that the right to originate PLUS loans to new parent borrowers under the Federal PLUS Program be determined through a competitive sealed bid, one-round auction to be conducted for each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (State). The information requested is necessary to determine whether the winning bidders will be able to make and service the PLUS loans made to parents as a result of the auction as well as to conduct the auction itself.

Additional Information: The U.S. Department of Education requests that OMB grant an emergency clearance by March 2, 2009 for all documents associated with the Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program for PLUS loans, so that Congressional legislative mandates may be satisfied. The Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program for PLUS loans is a new Federal Family Education Loan program. This pilot program was mandated by Congress in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (CCRAA) and in the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended, Title IV, Part I, Section 499, Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program. We are requesting permission for an emergency clearance to allow eligible lenders to participate in the prequalification process. We must meet the deadline set by Congress to have the pilot program in place and running by July 1, 2009, so that lenders may process student aid applications.

The Department will conduct The Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program in two parts. First, lenders must submit a prequalification form that collects specific information necessary

for the Department to determine if the lender has the financial and technological resources necessary to make loans to parents under the PLUS loan program in the state(s) in which the lender will bid. Secondly, once pre-qualified, lenders may submit a bid which is the lowest special allowance payment (SAP), as defined in Section 438 of the HEA, they are willing to accept for Federal PLUS Loans made pursuant to the auction. Only two eligible lenders (as defined in Section 435(d) of the HEA) meeting the pre-qualification requirements will be identified for each State and they will be the sole eligible lenders authorized to originate Federal PLUS loans to new parent borrowers. The Department must have clearance of the documents by March 2, 2009 so that the prequalification process can begin, the subsequent auction held, and winning bidders notified so they will have sufficient time to operationalize their business processes.

Frequency: Biennially.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 25.

Burden Hours: 18.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 3966. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., LBJ, Washington, DC 20202-4537. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address ICDocketMgr@ed.gov or faxed to 202-401-0920. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be electronically mailed to ICDocketMgr@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. E9-4333 Filed 2-27-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.031A]

Strengthening Institutions Program

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of intent to fund down the fiscal year (FY) 2008 grant slate for the Strengthening Institutions Program.

SUMMARY: The Secretary intends to use the grant slate developed in FY 2008 for the Strengthening Institutions Program authorized by Title III, Part A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), to make new grant awards in FY 2009. The Secretary takes this action because a significant number of high-quality applications remain on last year's grant slate. We expect to use an estimated \$19,308,000 for new awards in FY 2009. The actual level of funding depends on final Congressional action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Darlene B. Collins, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20006-6450. Telephone: (202) 502-7576 or via Internet: darlene.collins@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On April 22, 2008, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 21614) inviting applications for new awards under the Strengthening Institutions Program.

In response to this notice, we received a significant number of high-quality applications for grants under the Strengthening Institutions Program and made 61 new grant awards. However, many applications that were awarded high scores by peer reviewers did not receive funding in FY 2008.

Limited funding may be available for new awards under this program in FY 2009. To conserve funding that would have been required for a peer review of new grant applications and to instead use those funds to support grant activities, we will select grantees in FY 2009 from the existing slate of applicants. This slate was developed during the FY 2008 competition using