

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:
Jemez Pueblo, Sandoval County, NM**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed transportation project near San Ysidro and the Jemez Pueblo in Sandoval County, New Mexico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory D. Rawlings, Environmental Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, 604 W. San Mateo Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico 8705, (505) 820-2027; or Craig Conley, Environmental Program Manager, New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, P.O. Box 1149, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504, (505) 827-5233.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department (NMSHTD) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), for proposed improvements to the New Mexico Highway 4 (NM 4) Corridor between New Mexico Highway 44 (NM 44) and New Mexico Highway 290 (NM 290), Sandoval County, New Mexico. The study area is approximately six miles long from the junction with NM 44 through the town of San Ysidro, the Jemez Pueblo, and the town of Jemez Pueblo to the vicinity of the junction with NM 290. The current road alignment and grade of this section of NM 4 was constructed in the 1930's with a design speed of 30 mph, 12-foot driving lanes, and no or variable width shoulders. NM 4 is a two-lane rural highway that runs from the junction with NM 44 in San Ysidro north and east through the Jemez Mountains to connect with NM 502 near Los Alamos, New Mexico. No other improvements to the remainder of NM 4 are currently under consideration.

Several transportation problems exist within the project area. These are: (1) This section of NM 4 does not meet current Federal and State standards for width, shoulders, access characteristics (turnouts/entrances), cross-section or geometry; (2) The bridge over the Vallecito Creek is in need of replacement; (3) traffic congestion within the town of Jemez Pueblo; (4) the Jemez Pueblo's inability to control

access to the town area; and (5) no accommodation for use of the road by pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians.

This study will evaluate the need for improvements and evaluate potential transportation alternatives that address the need. Alternatives for consideration include (1) the improvement of the existing alignment; (2) various new alignments within the corridor, and (3) the No-Action option. Options for a new alignment include one approximately 0.25 miles east of the current alignment, two at the southern end of Jemez Pueblo and three at the northern end of the study area. The northern options include potential relocation of the Vallecito bridge and the junction with NM 290.

Informal scoping for the proposal has included comments solicited from residents and groups within the affected area. Concerns have been expressed for preservation and protection of cultural, historic, religious, environmental and community resources. Additional public information and formal scoping meetings will be held to discuss the EIS and provide opportunity for public and agency input to aid in preparation of the documentation. Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to Federal and state agencies, Native American groups, local governments, and the general public. All interested parties are encouraged to participate in this process and to submit written comments or suggestions. An agency scoping meeting is anticipated in the spring 2000. Additional meetings for the Jemez Pueblo and other local residents will take place in the same time frame. These and subsequent meetings throughout the development of the EIS will be announced via direct mail, locally-posted flyers, and advertisements in local media.

The availability of the Draft EIS will be announced in the **Federal Register**, local news media, and through direct contact with interested parties. To ensure that the full range of issues to this proposed action are addressed, comments or questions concerning this action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA and NMSHTD at the address provided above.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities and 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48 apply to this program.)

Issued on: March 15, 2000.

Gregory D. Rawlings,

Environmental Specialist, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 00-6910 Filed 3-20-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Maritime Administration**

[Docket Number: MARAD-2000-7075]

**Requested Administrative Waiver of
the Coastwise Trade Laws**

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel CALEDONIA.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Public Law 105-383, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S. build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a description of the proposed service, is listed below. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines that in accordance with Pub. L. 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388 (65 FR 6905; February 11, 2000) that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels, a waiver will not be granted.

DATES: Submit comments on or before April 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2000-7075.

Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit/>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Hokana, U.S. Department of

Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR 832 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-0760.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title V of Pub. L. 105-383 provides authority to the Secretary of Transportation to administratively waive the U.S.-build requirements of the Jones Act, and other statutes, for small commercial passenger vessels (less than 12 passengers). This authority has been delegated to the Maritime Administration per 49 CFR 1.66, Delegations to the Maritime Administrator, as amended. By this notice, MARAD is publishing information on a vessel for which a request for a U.S.-build waiver has been received, and for which MARAD requests comments from interested parties. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commentator's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD'S regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

Vessel Proposed for Waiver of the U.S. Build Requirement

(1) Name of vessel and owner for which waiver is requested: CALEDONIA, USCG Documentation No. 679530 owner: Hydeman Boat Leasing Company, LLC.

(2) Size, capacity and tonnage of vessel: Documented length: 84.9 feet,

actual length: 98 feet, breadth: 18.6 feet, capacity 6 passengers. The tonnage of the CALEDONIA is measured pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 14502. The U.S.C.G. documented tonnage is Gross 99 and Net 67.

(3) Intended use for vessel, including geographic region of intended operation and trade. According to the applicant: "The CALEDONIA will continue to offer crewed charter service departing from a port in the San Juan Islands of Washington State traveling to the Canadian Gulf Islands and Desolation Sound, British Columbia. Currently, service is either round-trip to the same point of departure or one way to a Canadian destination. New service will offer guests the opportunity to board at one port in the San Juan Islands and to depart at another port in the Islands. Typically the CALEDONIA is contracted to one individual with a party of no more than six for a minimum of seven (7) days. The average cost of a seven (7) day charter is \$25,000 including expenses. Charters are offered in this region from June 1st to September 15th. The CALEDONIA offers charters in Mexico during the remaining months of the year."

(4) Date and place of construction and (if applicable) rebuilding. Date of construction: 1973. Place of original construction: Bergen Op Zoom, Netherlands and was reconstructed/ rebuilt in Marina Del Rey, California in 1996.

(5) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on other commercial passenger vessel operators. According to the applicant: "This waiver will have minimal impact on other commercial vessel operators in the region. The CALEDONIA has offered charters in this region for 5 years at near capacity during the operating season. The charters currently offered in this region operate in the waters of the San Juan Islands and most spend a portion of a seven (7) day charter in British Columbia. The only benefit of this waiver will be one of convenience in arranging departing floatplane and ferry arrangements for CALEDONIA'S passengers. This waiver will not substantially change the service offered by the CALEDONIA and will not affect the competition in the charter market in this region.

The tourist industry in this region is significant yet only five vessels offer multi-day private charters. Two of these spend a significant portion of the season operating outside the area directly affected by this waiver. In addition, despite the increased interest in water-based travel and the need for more charter companies, there are no cruise ship operations in this region except for small certified passenger ships cruising in the area in late spring on the way to Alaska. The other four charter vessels offered for service in this region and market are:

Name	Length	Rate/Week	Pax	Region
Jamal	74	\$19,500	6	Seattle, San Juan Islands, British Columbia, Alaska.
Phantom	71	18,500	6	San Juan Islands, British Columbia.
		plus expenses		
Westward	86	15,000	6	Seattle, San Juan Islands, British Columbia.
Olympus	97	28,000	8	Seattle, San Juan Islands, British Columbia.

(6) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on U.S. shipyards. According to the applicant: "This waiver will not have a negative impact on U.S. shipyards. In fact, the \$950,000 spent in the 1996 re-construction of the CALEDONIA in California exceeded the \$760,000 purchase price and greatly benefited a U.S. shipyard. Further such benefits will be reaped by U.S. shipyards as the CALEDONIA repaired and re-fitted while engaging in coastwise trade.

Moreover, a U.S.-built vessel of this type would be difficult to obtain on the West Coast and prohibitively expensive. Most U.S. builders of this type of vessel are located on the East Coast or have recently moved production facilities to the Far East. Thus, with production low

and demand high for a U.S. vessel, it would be too expensive for a charter operation of this type in the region of the San Juan Islands to acquire a U.S. built vessel."

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.
Dated: March 15, 2000.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number: MARAD-2000-7071]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the coastwise trade laws for the vessel GAFIA.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Public Law 105-383, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is