

comment letters were received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. A response to each comment received in these letters has been included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement considers four alternatives, including the Proposed Action and the No-Action/No Take Alternative. Under the No-Action/No Take Alternative, no section 10(a)(1)(B) permit would be issued for take of listed species during urban development and other activities in the Plan area. Landowners within the Plan area would continue to apply for individual incidental take permits on a case-by-case basis, resulting in piecemeal planning that would establish smaller and more isolated patches of mitigation land. This could result in cumulatively significant adverse impacts to those species which would benefit from larger tracts of interconnected habitats.

The Increased Mitigation Ratio Alternative examines the environmental effects of applying a higher mitigation ratio than is required under the Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan and the proposed Plan for addressing impacts to the giant garter snake and the Swainson's hawk. This alternative would require a site-specific analysis of habitat values in order to determine specific mitigation obligations.

The Reduced Development Alternative would result in reduced development of the Metro Air Park site. The 18-hole golf course situated on approximately 279 acres would be reduced to a 140-acre 9-hole golf course. This would reallocate 140 acres on-site for the creation of habitat as a mitigation area for covered species. Because an on-site mitigation area would eventually be surrounded by urban development it should be anticipated that adverse urban "edge effects" will occur.

The analysis provided in the Final Environmental Impact Statement is intended to accomplish the following: inform the public of the proposed action and alternatives; address public comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement; disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the proposed action and each of the alternatives; and indicate any irreversible commitment of resources that would result from implementation of the proposed action.

Dated: August 3, 2001.

John Engbring,

Acting Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 01-20068 Filed 8-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Revised Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Issuance of Permits, to Incidentally Take Threatened and Endangered Species, to the City of Sacramento, Sutter County, Reclamation District No. 1000, and Natomas Central Mutual Water Company in Association With a Revised Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan, Sacramento and Sutter Counties, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent.

SUMMARY: On December 18, 2000, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) regarding an Environmental Impact Statement for a revised Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan) and Incidental Take Permits (Permits) under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act. At that time, the Service was considering amending the Permit for the City of Sacramento and issuing a Permit to Sutter County. Reclamation District No. 1000 (RD 1000) and Natomas Central Mutual Water Company (Natomas Mutual) have now joined the City of Sacramento and Sutter County as applicants for Permits. RD 1000 plans to participate as a co-lead agency with the City of Sacramento and Sutter County. In addition, Sacramento County may also apply for a Permit.

The Permits would authorize incidental take of listed species and unlisted species that may be listed in the future. The original scope of the Environmental Impact Statement, as described in the December 18, 2000 NOI, was to consider incidental take occurring as a result of urban development within the City of Sacramento and Sutter County, certain farming activities, and management of habitat reserves. Take resulting from Sacramento County is anticipated to be similar in scope to the City of Sacramento and Sutter County. With the proposed addition of the RD 1000 and Natomas Mutual Permits, the Environmental Impact Statement will also consider incidental take associated with RD 1000's and Natomas Mutual's operation and maintenance of water delivery and drainage canals and ditches, as well as the previously identified urban development, farming activities, and management of habitat reserves.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Service

intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement addressing the proposed action of amending the Plan and issuing Permits. This Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared jointly with an Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Pursuant to the prior NOI, the Service conducted public scoping from December 18, 2000 to January 16, 2001, including three meetings in the project vicinity. This notice reopens the scoping process and solicits written comments because the project description has changed to include the participation of RD 1000 and Natomas Mutual. Comments previously submitted during the initial scoping period will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement.

DATES: Written comments are encouraged and should be received on or before September 17, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Information, written comments, or questions related to the inclusion of RD 1000 and Natomas Mutual into the Plan and Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement should be submitted to Vicki Campbell, Division Chief, Conservation Planning, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, W-2605, Sacramento, California 95825; FAX (916) 414-6713. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lori Rinek or Kelly Hornaday, Fish and Wildlife Biologists, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office at (916) 414-6600. Additional information can also be obtained from the City of Sacramento [Grace Hovey, (916) 264-7601], Sutter County [Jeff Pemstein, (916) 361-8384], RD 1000 [Jim Clifton, (916) 922-9173], and Natomas Mutual [Peter Hughes, (916) 419-5936].

Dated: August 10, 2001.

Daniel Walsworth,

Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 01-20696 Filed 8-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P