

governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

Section 9 of the Act generally does not prohibit take of federally listed plants on private lands unless the take or action resulting in take would violate State law. The Applicants have requested a permit for plants to the extent that their take would be a violation of the Act. Impacts to listed plants also must be addressed in the intra-Service consultation required pursuant to section 7(a) of the Act.

The Service proposes to issue a 100-year permit to the Applicant for incidental take of four listed species during phase two of proposed mining activities in the future mining area of Quail Hollow Quarry. The proposed action would result in the loss of habitat for, and individuals of, the Mount Hermon June beetle, Zayante band-winged grasshopper, Ben Lomond wallflower, and Ben Lomond spineflower in the future mining area as the natural vegetation communities in which they are found are removed during mining operations. This action could directly and indirectly affect the species described above (the Plan Species).

The proposed action would authorize the incidental take of all Mount Hermon June beetles and Zayante band-winged grasshoppers in the future mining area on approximately 83 acres of the 220-acre quarry site. The future mining area contains approximately 27 acres of suitable habitat for these listed wildlife species. In addition, 5 acres of habitat occupied by the Ben Lomond wallflower and 5.5 acres of habitat occupied by the Ben Lomond spineflower would be lost from the future mining area.

The Applicant developed a Habitat Conservation Plan as part of a settlement agreement for litigation it had filed seeking a vested right to mine the entire quarry. This agreement set out to resolve all of the endangered species and habitat protection issues on the property. Under this agreement, the Applicant, Santa Cruz County, Sierra Club, California Native Plant Society, and the South Ridge Watershed Association established the minimum mitigation requirements under which continued sand mining in Quail Hollow Quarry would be allowed. The agreement is in the form of a stipulation for entry of judgment (Stipulation Agreement).

Consistent with this Stipulation Agreement, the Habitat Conservation Plan proposes the following minimization and mitigation measures for phase two mining. At the time the Applicant receives authorization to

commence mining in the future mining area, and prior to habitat disturbance within the future mining area, it will: (1) grant a conservation easement in perpetuity to Santa Cruz County for the 20.6-acre West Ridge Habitat Set Aside and provide for protection and long-term management of the area; (2) provide funding for and carry-out long-term management of the 32.6-acre South Ridge Habitat Set Aside which the County of Santa Cruz is legally entitled and committed to purchase at the agreed upon fair market value; (3) implement all provisions of the Habitat Conservation Plan in order to avoid disturbing Plan Species in all areas of the quarry property except for areas within the current and future mining areas, overburden and stockpile areas, and existing access road, as shown in Map 2 of the Habitat Conservation Plan; (4) provide written agreement to protect in perpetuity from any and all disturbance all areas of the project site (except for areas within the current and future mining areas, overburden and stockpile areas, and existing access road as shown in Map 2) containing the Plan Species, State listed species, and County-defined rare, endangered, or threatened species and sensitive habitats; (5) enhance 3 acres of disturbed sand parkland and 5.2 acres of disturbed maritime chaparral on the project site in a location satisfactory to the County of Santa Cruz, the Service and the California Department of Fish and Game; (6) protect and provide long term management of the on-site restoration areas, along with the 32.2-acre North and West Ridge habitat set asides; and (7) revegetate slopes within the future mining area with the goal of reestablishing habitat for the Plan Species.

#### Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Assessment considers the environmental consequences of the proposed action and no action alternatives. A no take alternative was not feasible due to the widespread distribution of the Plan Species on-site. Under the proposed action, the Applicant would implement phase two of their Habitat Conservation Plan consistent with the Stipulation Agreement (see Background for a description of the proposed action).

Under the no action alternative, the Service would not issue an incidental take permit to the Applicant and a Habitat Conservation Plan would not be implemented. The Applicant would continue to mine areas B and C until the sand supply was exhausted. The Applicant would then reclaim all previously disturbed areas of the quarry

consistent with their reclamation plan as required by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. The Applicant would be prevented from legally carrying out mining in other areas of the quarry due to the presence of listed animal species in the area. The no action alternative would negate the terms of the Stipulation Agreement and could result in continued and lengthy litigation. In the meantime, the absence of the Habitat Conservation Plan would effectively preclude the sale of the South Ridge property to Santa Cruz County and the establishment of the West Ridge conservation easement.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10 (a) of the Endangered Species Act and Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). The Service will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of law. If the Service determines that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the listed species. A final decision on permit issuance will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: May 19, 1998.

**David L. McMullen,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has submitted the proposed renewal of the information collection request for the Housing Assistance Application, codified at 25 CFR Part 256.5, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). On February 19, 1997, BIA published a notice in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 7469-7470) requesting comments on the proposed information collection. The regulations for the Housing Improvement Program (HIP)

have been modified for the purpose of simplifying administrative guidelines, presenting the regulations in a clear and unambiguous manner (plain English) and making the program more flexible and responsive to the needs of Tribes. The final rule was published in the **Federal Register** (FR 10124-10139) on March 2, 1998. One comment regarding this information collection was received after the close of the prescribed time period published in the **Federal Register**. The OMB requested that the BIA more fully demonstrate compliance with the Privacy Act and that respondents be informed of the legal significance of the displayed OMB control number. The BIA has complied with OMB's request. The BIA is requesting OMB approval of the collection of information on a regular basis, within 30 days.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Copies of the collection of information form may be obtained by contacting June Henkel, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, MS-4603-MIB, Washington, DC 20240. Telephone: (202) 208-3667.

**DATES:** OMB is required to respond to this request within 60 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, but may respond after 30 days; therefore, your comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days of publication to assure maximum consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Your comments and suggestions on the requirements should be made directly to the attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington DC 20503. Telephone: (202) 395-7340. Please provide a copy to June Henkel, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, MS-4603-MIB, Washington, DC 20240. Telephone: (202) 208-3667.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

The information is needed to establish an applicant's eligibility to receive services under the Housing Improvement Program and to establish the priority order in which eligible applicants may receive services under the program. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**II. Request for Comments**

We specifically request your comments be submitted to OMB at the address provided above with a copy to the Bureau of Indian Affairs within 30 days concerning the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the BIA, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the BIA's estimate of the burden to collect the information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and,
4. How to minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical or other forms of information technology.

**III. Data**

*Title of the Collection of Information:* Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Housing Assistance Application.

*OMB Number:* 1076-0084.

*Affected Entities:* Individual members of Indian tribes who are living on or near a tribally or legally defined service area.

*Frequency of Response:* At least annually.

*Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 3500.

*Estimated Time per Application:* 1/2 hour.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,750 hours.

Dated: April 23, 1998.

**Kevin Gover,**

*Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 98-13949 Filed 5-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Minerals Management Service**

**Extension of Post-Sale Evaluation Period for Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 169**

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice to extend post-sale evaluation period for Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 169.

**SUMMARY:** This notice extends by 30 days, the post-sale evaluation period for Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 169. Minerals Management Service (MMS) will complete the evaluation of all bids received in this sale by July 15, 1998.

This action is necessary due to the unusually high number of bids received in response to this lease sale.

**DATES:** The post-sale evaluation period ends on July 15, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Gary L. Lore, Regional Supervisor, Resource Evaluation, Gulf of Mexico Region, telephone (504) 736-2710.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the Central Gulf of Mexico Sale 169, held March 18, 1998, MMS received 1,188 bids on 794 tracts, 512 of which passed to a second phase required for detailed evaluations. This continued aggressive bidding activity is, in part, due to the enactment of the Outer Continental Shelf Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (Pub. L. 104-58) but is also influenced by other factors, such as the high number of quality prospects on recently expired unexplored tracts in newly established deepwater hydrocarbon plays and by the unprecedented cost-saving technological advances related to hydrocarbon development and production in the Gulf of Mexico's deepwater environment. Consequently, MMS is unable to conduct and complete a comprehensive evaluation and bid review process within the scheduled 90 days, i.e., by June 15, 1998. Under provisions of § 256.47(e)(2), MMS is extending the bid evaluation period until July 15, 1997.

Dated: May 19, 1998.

**Chris C. Oynes,**

*Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 98-13939 Filed 5-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

**OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION**

**Sunshine Act Meeting**

June 9, 1998.

**TIME AND DATE:** Tuesday, June 9, 1998, 1:00 PM (OPEN Portion), 1:30 PM (CLOSED Portion).

**PLACE:** Offices of the Corporation, Twelfth Floor Board Room, 1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

**STATUS:** Meeting OPEN to the Public from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM. Closed portion will commence at 1:30 PM (approx.).

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

1. President's Report.
2. Approval of March 10, 1998 Minutes (Open Portion).
3. Meeting schedule through March, 1999.

**FURTHER MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** (Closed to the Public 1:30 PM).

1. Insurance Project in Philippines.