

residential uses would be ultimately converted to Industrial/Commercial Uses under Alternative 2.

Alternative 3 would provide for extension of sewer and water trunk lines from Indiana Street north of Gibbons Avenue to the intersection of Indiana Street and Scranton Avenue then west along Scranton Avenue across State Highway 65 to the intersection of Scranton Avenue and South Newcomb Street. Construction of State Highway on and off ramps at the intersection of State Highway 65 and Scranton Avenue would also be provided by Alternative 3. Approximately 300 acres of vacant land designated for highway commercial uses and 150 acres of primarily vacant land designated for industrial uses would ultimately be converted to urbanized uses under Alternative 3.

Alternative 4 (the Proposed Action) would provide for infrastructure improvements within two (2) distinctly separate locations. Alternative 4—Area No. 1 would provide for extension of water and sewer trunk lines in the vicinity of the Porterville Municipal Airport, improvement of Tea Pot Dome Avenue, and Newcomb and West Streets proximate to the Municipal Airport, improvements to the abandoned runway located at the Municipal Airport, and installation of master planned storm drain improvements in the vicinity of the municipal airport. Alternative 4—Area No. 2 would provide for extension of water trunk lines in the vicinity of South Jaye Street, State Highway 65 and Gibbons Avenue. South Jaye Street would be extended as an arterial width street from its southerly terminus to Gibbons Avenue. Alternative 4 would also accomplish installation of storm drain facilities in South Jaye Street and Gibbons Avenue. Under Alternative 4, approximately 380 acres of primarily vacant land designated for industrial uses would ultimately be converted to urbanized use.

Alternative 5 is the No Project alternative, consideration of which is required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under this alternative, the proposed infrastructure project would not occur precluding industrial/commercial development of any of the areas discussed in Alternatives 1–4.

Location: City of Porterville, Tulare County, California

Potential Environmental Impacts: Land use and planning; population and housing; water impacts; air quality impacts; transportation and circulation impacts; biological resource impacts; energy and mineral resource impacts;

hazards, noise impacts; demands on public services and utilities; aesthetic impacts; recreation impacts; and cumulative effects. Most of these impacts would be reduced to a level of insignificance following implementation of proposed mitigation measures.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement will be published on or about March 16, 1998 and will be on file at 291 North Main Street, Porterville, California 93257 and available for public inspection, or copies may be obtained at the same address, upon request.

Dated: March 11, 1998.

Richard H. Broun,

Director, Office of Community Viability.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit for the City of Austin for the Operation and Maintenance of Barton Springs Pool and Adjacent Springs

SUMMARY: The City of Austin has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The applicant has been assigned permit number PRT–839031. The requested permit, which is for a period of 15 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered Barton Springs salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*). The proposed take would occur as the result of the operation and maintenance of Barton Springs Pool and adjacent springs in Austin, Travis County, Texas.

The City of Austin has prepared an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take permit application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be made at least 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10© of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6)

DATES: Written comments on the application should be received on or before April 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Person wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Matthew Lechner, Ecological

Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490–0057). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8:00 to 4:30) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas.

Written data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, Austin, Texas, at the above address. Please refer to permit number PRT–839031 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Lechner at the above Austin Ecological Services Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the “taking” of endangered species such as the Barton Springs salamander. Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

Applicant

The City of Austin plans to maintain and operate Barton Springs Pool and the adjacent springs in Austin, Travis County, Texas. This action may cause the incidental take of less than 20 salamanders per year, for the 15-year term of the permit. The applicant proposes to minimize and mitigate for the incidental take of the Barton Springs salamander by placing 10 percent of the total revenues generated at Barton Springs Pool into a conservation fund. The fund would be used for enhancing habitat and for ecological and biological research on the Barton Springs salamander. In addition, mitigation measures are included in the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Don Ciccone,

Acting Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Receipt of Petition for Federal Acknowledgment of Existence as an Indian Tribe

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.