

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**[Docket No. FR-4912-N-19]****Notice of Intent To Prepare Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Westpark, Bremerton, WA****AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: HUD gives notice to the public, agencies, and Indian tribes that the City of Bremerton, WA, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the redevelopment of Westpark public housing community located in Bremerton, WA. The City of Bremerton, as the Responsible Entity for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 24 CFR 58.4, and the Bremerton Housing Authority (BHA), as lead agency for compliance with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA, RCW 43.21C) will perform the joint environmental review. This notice is in accordance with regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality at 40 CFR parts 1500–1508. Federal agencies having jurisdiction by law, special expertise, or other special interest should report their interests and indicate their readiness to aid in the EIS effort as a “Cooperating Agency.”

An EIS will be prepared for the proposed action described herein. Comments relating to the scope of the EIS are requested and will be accepted by the contact person listed below.

When the Draft EIS is completed, a notice will be sent to individuals and groups known to have an interest in the Draft EIS and particularly in the environmental impact issues identified therein. Any person or agency interested in receiving a notice and making comment on the Draft EIS should contact the person listed below.

Lead Agencies: This EIS will be a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) document intended to satisfy requirements of federal and state environmental statutes. In accordance with specific statutory authority and HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 58, HUD has allowed NEPA authority and NEPA lead agency responsibility to be assumed by the City of Bremerton. The BHA is the lead agency for compliance with SEPA.

Comments: All interested agencies, groups, and persons are invited to address written comments related to the scope of the EIS to the address shown

below. All comments received by June 28, 2006, will be considered in preparation of the Draft EIS to: (1) Determine significant environmental issues, (2) identify data that the EIS should address, and (3) identify agencies and other parties that will participate in the EIS process and the basis for their involvement.

Particularly solicited is information on reports or other environmental studies planned or completed in the project area, major issues and dates that the EIS should consider, and potential alternatives to the proposed project. Federal agencies having jurisdiction by law, special expertise or other special interest should report their interest and indicate their readiness to aid in the EIS effort as a “Cooperating Agency.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chris Hugo, Director, Department of Community Development, City of Bremerton, 345 6th Street, Suite 600, Bremerton, WA 98337; Phone: (360) 473–5275; FAX: (360) 473–5278; e-mail: chris.hugo@ci.bremerton.wa.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Background**

The Westpark public housing community, built in 1941, is the remnant of a larger World War II-era housing project that was built as temporary housing for shipyard workers. Located on the 80-acre site, which is in west Bremerton, are 631 residential units, a Community Center, Senior Center, Teen Center, Head Start facility, laundry and storage facilities, a maintenance shop, and administrative offices. The 571 public housing units are in primarily single story duplex and fourplex structures. In addition, there is a 60-unit apartment building for elderly and disabled residents, and a 72-unit assisted living facility is under construction.

The proposed redevelopment will be completed in three phases. The Community Center, the apartment building housing elderly and disabled residents, and the assisted living facility will remain. All other structures will be demolished. In addition, much of the existing infrastructure would be replaced. The site would be redeveloped to provide approximately 660 to 900 dwelling units of which about one third would be rental housing and two thirds would be for-sale housing. Some residential units would be in mixed residential and commercial structures, and approximately five acres of the site would be developed for commercial and small retail uses. The rental housing would serve households of very low-income. The proposed redevelopment is

consistent with requirements for a mixed-use, mixed-income housing project as defined by HUD.

All existing low-income housing will be replaced either on-site, or elsewhere in Bremerton or Kitsap County. Replacement housing will be provided through construction of public housing units on-site and the use of Section 8 vouchers in off-site housing complexes. Existing residents would be displaced and assisted with benefits according to the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Act. Where possible, displaced residents in good standing would be allowed to return to the public housing units once redevelopment is complete.

B. Need for the EIS

The City of Bremerton and the BHA have determined that the proposed project constitutes an action that has the potential to affect the quality of the human environment and, therefore, requires the preparation of an EIS in accordance with NEPA and SEPA.

C. Alternatives

The alternatives to be considered by the lead agencies will include a no action alternative and a *redevelopment alternative* to the proposed action. The redevelopment alternative will be finalized after the scoping meeting and conclusion of the written comment period. It may include options related to grading of the site, housing densities, infrastructure replacement and design, storm water management, and/or the amount and location of commercial/retail space.

D. Scoping Meeting

A public EIS scoping meeting will be held on June 22, 2006, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Westpark Community Center, 79 Russell Road, Bremerton, WA. The EIS scoping meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about project planning and to provide input to the environmental review process. At the meeting, the public will be able to view graphics illustrating preliminary planning work and the project design team, and ask questions of or provide input to staff from the City of Bremerton and BHA, and members of the consultant team providing technical analysis for to the EIS. Written comments and oral testimony concerning the scope of the EIS will be accepted at this meeting, or by submittal to the City of Bremerton by June 27, 2006.

E. EIS Issues

The lead agencies have preliminarily identified the following environmental elements for discussion in the EIS:

Earth (geology, soils, topography)

- Air Quality;
- Water (surface water movement/quantity, runoff/absorption, flooding, groundwater movement/quantity/quality);

- Plants and Animals;
- Energy Use;
- Noise;
- Land Use and Socioeconomics

(land use patterns, relationship to plans/policies and regulations; population; housing and displacements);

• Environmental Justice (disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority and low income populations);

- Historic and Cultural Resources;
- Aesthetics, Light and Glare;
- Parks and Recreation;
- Public Services and Utilities (fire, police, parks/recreation, communications, water, stormwater, sewer, solid waste); and

• Transportation (transportation systems, parking, movement/circulation, traffic hazards).

Questions may be directed to the individual named in this notice under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

Dated: May 30, 2006.

Nelson R. Bregon,

General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

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BILLING CODE 4210-67-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Announcement of Fund Availability, Competitive Grant Program

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability and solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: This notice informs Indian tribes that grant funds are available through a Competitive Grant Program and that the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) is soliciting applications from eligible interested entities. To encourage greater tribal participation in this initiative, IEED is offering grants to assist federally-recognized Indian tribes in preparing tribal plans designed for participation in Public Law 102-477.

DATES: Applications must be received on or before July 7, 2006. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand deliver applications to: Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, Attention: Lynn Forcia, Chief, Division of Workforce Development, Mail Stop 18-SIB, 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20240. Potential applicants should fax a request for a copy of the guidance to (202) 208-6991.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynn Forcia, (202) 219-5270 or Jody Garrison, (202) 208-2685.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This solicitation consists of six parts.

- Part I provides the funding description and background information.
- Part II describes the selection criteria.
- Part III provides the form and content of application submission.
- Part IV provides application review information.
- Part V provides information for selection and non-selection of applicants for award.
- Part VI describes the authority which grants this solicitation for applications for this grant.

I. Background

Congress enacted Public Law 102-477 (477) on October 23, 1992, with full tribal participation, and 477 was implemented on January 1, 1994. The 477 initiative is a program that enables tribes to consolidate Federal funds and devote up to 25 percent of their total resources for economic development projects. The 477 Tribal Work Group, composed of existing grantees, has provided training for tribes wishing to participate in this program.

Independent studies, congressional testimony, the Office of Management and Budget's PART review, and 477 participating tribes have all recognized 477 as an innovative and successful program of benefit to tribes. However, the program has grown slowly over the past 12 years. Many tribes not a part of 477 have lacked the opportunity to determine whether their participation in this program would be suitable for their communities.

To encourage greater tribal participation in this highly successful initiative, the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) is offering grants to assist tribes to develop 477 plans. A limited number of tribal grantees, chosen on a competitive basis, will be provided funding of up to \$25,000 to develop a 477 plan that will meet statutory requirements.

II. Selection Criteria

IEED will select applicants for the grant funding based upon the following criteria:

- 40 percent—the tribe's demonstration that it lacks resources necessary to prepare a plan;
- 30 percent—the extent to which the tribal staff responsible for implementation of the program will have been involved in the preparation of a plan; and
- 30 percent—the extent to which job creation and/or job accessibility activities are planned.

In order to be considered eligible for consideration, tribes must document successful audits for the past 2 years.

III. Form and Content of Application Submission

All applications must contain the following information or documentation:

- (1) Standard Form 424, Application for Financial Assistance.
- (2) Budget not to exceed \$25,000, which identifies proposed expenses (1-2 pages).
- (3) Narrative (not to exceed 5 pages) which—
 - (a) Identifies the Federal programs the tribe intends to incorporate into the 477 plan, with estimated funding levels;
 - (b) Explains the tribe's need for financial assistance to prepare a plan;
 - (c) States why the tribe intends to participate in Public Law 102-477 and the expected measurable outcome; and,
 - (d) Provides the contact person's name, address, and fax and telephone numbers.
- (4) One copy of the single audit for the past 2 years, if tribe is required to complete audits.

IV. Application Review Information

Within 30 days of receiving the application, IEED will acknowledge receipt by letter to the applicant. The application will be reviewed for completeness to determine if it contains all of the items required. If the application is incomplete or ineligible, it will be returned to the applicant with an explanation from the Division of Workforce Development.

A review team will evaluate all applications and make overall recommendations based on factors such as eligibility, application completeness, and conformity to application requirements. They will score the applications based on criteria under the heading "Selection Criteria." All applications that are complete and eligible will be ranked competitively based on the criteria under the heading