

Dated: August 22, 2012.

John E. Scheffer,

*Water Resources Research Act Program
Coordinator.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Announcement of National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) will meet on September 18–19, 2012 at the American Institute of Architects Building, 1735 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20006. The meeting will be held in the Gallery Room. The NGAC, which is composed of representatives from governmental, private sector, non-profit, and academic organizations, was established to advise the Federal Geographic Data Committee on management of Federal geospatial programs, the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, and the implementation of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16. Topics to be addressed at the meeting include:

- Leadership Dialogue
- Geospatial Platform
- Geolocation Privacy
- FGDC Report
- COGO Report Card
- Subcommittee Reports

The meeting will include an opportunity for public comment on September 19. Comments may also be submitted to the NGAC in writing. Members of the public who wish to attend the meeting must register in advance. Please register by contacting Arista Maher at the U.S. Geological Survey (703-648-6283, amaher@usgs.gov). Registrations are due by September 14, 2012. While the meeting will be open to the public, seating may be limited due to room capacity.

DATES: The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on September 18 and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 19.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Mahoney, U.S. Geological Survey (206-220-4621).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Meetings of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee are open to the public. Additional information about the NGAC

and the meeting is available at www.fgdc.gov/ngac.

Dated: August 22, 2012.

Ken Shaffer,

*Deputy Executive Director, Federal
Geographic Data Committee.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

**[CACA-51625, LLCAD07000, L51010000,
ER0000, LVRWB10B3800]**

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for San Diego Gas and Electric's East County Substation Project, San Diego County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for San Diego Gas and Electric's (SDG&E) East County (ECO) Substation Project, located in San Diego County, California. The Secretary of the Interior approved the ROD on August 21, 2012, which constitutes the final decision of the Department.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the ROD have been sent to responsible Federal, State, and local government agencies and other interested stakeholders, and are available upon request from the Field Manager, BLM El Centro Field Office, 1661 S. 4th Street, El Centro, California 92243, and the BLM California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553, or via the Internet at the following Web site: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: R. Brian Paul, Project Manager, telephone 760-337-4400; address BLM California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553-9046; email catulewind@blm.gov.

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: SDG&E filed right-of-way (ROW) application CACA-51625 for the ECO Substation

Project. The ECO Substation Project will provide an interconnection hub for renewable generation along SDG&E's existing Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The project will consist of a 500/230/138 kV substation; a SWPL Loop-In (a short loop-in of the existing SWPL transmission line to the proposed ECO Substation); the rebuilt Boulevard Substation (an existing substation); and a 13.9-mile 138 kV transmission line connecting the new ECO Substation to the rebuilt Boulevard Substation, 0.8 mile of which is on public lands administered by the BLM (the remainder is located on private lands subject to the permitting authority of the California Public Utilities Commission). Through the ROD, the BLM approves the 0.8-mile portion of the 138 kV transmission line on BLM-administered public land, and makes no decision regarding those portions of the ECO Substation Project or other projects analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) that are not located on BLM-managed lands.

The project site is located approximately 70 miles east of downtown San Diego, south of Interstate 8, east of the town of Jacumba and along Old Highway 80, in San Diego County, California, within Township 18 South, Ranges 8 East, Section(s) 02, 03, 10, and 11.

The BLM preferred alternative would allow the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the 0.8-mile underground segment of the project's 138 kV transmission line on BLM-managed lands, which is necessary for the construction of the ECO Substation Project. In addition to the ECO Substation Project, the Final EIS/EIR evaluated a ROW application by Tule Wind, LLC to construct the Tule Wind Project, as well as the Energia Sierra Juarez Project, and Gen-Tie, Campo, Manzanita wind energy projects. Although these project components were analyzed in the same EIS/EIR, only the 0.8-mile underground segment of the ECO Substation Project 138 kV transmission line and portions of the Tule Wind Project would be located on BLM-managed lands. The BLM issued a separate decision on Tule Wind, LLC's ROW application on December 20, 2011.

This agency preferred alternative was evaluated in the Final EIS/EIR. The Notice of Availability of the Final EIS/EIR for the ECO Substation Project was published in the **Federal Register** on October 14, 2011 (76 FR 381).

Because this decision is approved by the Secretary of the Interior, it is not

subject to administrative appeal (43 CFR 4.410(a) (3)).

Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6

Mike Pool,

Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCAC06000.L16100000.DQ0000.LXSS095B0000]

Notice of Availability of the Proposed Bakersfield Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bakersfield Field Office, California, and by this notice is announcing its availability.

DATES: BLM planning regulations state that any person who meets the conditions as described in the regulations may protest the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. A person who meets the conditions must file the protest within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Bakersfield Proposed RMP/Final EIS have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local agencies, Native American tribes, and to other interested parties. Copies of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS are available for public inspection at the Bakersfield Field Office (3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, California 93308) and California State Office (2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825). Interested persons may also review the Proposed RMP/Final EIS on the Internet at: www.blm.gov/ca/bakersfield. All protests must be in writing and mailed to one of the following addresses:

Regular Mail: BLM Director (210),
Attention: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box
71383, Washington, DC 20024-1383.
Overnight Mail: BLM Director (210),
Attention: Brenda Williams, 20 M

Street SE., Room 2134LM,
Washington, DC 20003-3503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue Porter, Planning & Environmental Coordinator, Bakersfield Field Office, telephone: 661-391-6022; address: Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, California 93308; email: cacalrmp@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Proposed RMP/Final EIS addresses public land and resources managed by the Bakersfield Field Office in an eight-county, 17-million-acre region of central California in Kings, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, Ventura, Madera, eastern Fresno, and western Kern counties. Upon approval, this land use plan will replace the 1997 Caliente RMP and the 1984 Hollister RMP, as amended, and provide updated management decisions regarding recreation, transportation and access, renewable and traditional energy development, mineral resources, land use authorizations, livestock grazing, biological resources, special designations, lands with wilderness characteristics, and other resource uses and considerations on approximately 404,000 acres of public land and 1.2 million acres of Federal mineral estate. The Approved RMP will apply only to the BLM-administered public lands and Federal mineral estate in the planning area.

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS analyzes five management alternatives:

- The No Action alternative (Alternative A) would continue current management under the existing 1997 Caliente RMP and 1984 Hollister RMP, as amended.
- The Proposed Plan (Alternative B) strives to balance resource conservation and ecosystem health with the production of commodities and public use of the land.
- Alternative C emphasizes conserving cultural and natural resources, maintaining functioning natural systems, and restoring natural systems that are degraded.
- Alternative D follows Alternative C in all aspects except with regard to livestock grazing. Alternative D would eliminate livestock grazing from BLM

managed lands in the planning area for the life of this land use plan.

- Alternative E emphasizes the production of natural resources and commodities while emphasizing public use opportunities.

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS would establish 18 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, totaling approximately 99,500 acres, to provide special management for the protection of relevant and important biological, cultural, geologic, and paleontological resource values. The proposed plan would also apply protective management to approximately 3,470 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics in six different areas. Public lands available for energy development, land use authorizations, livestock grazing, systems of designated travel routes, and other uses would be provided for under the proposed plan, which would delineate and, as necessary, apply limitations on these uses. In addition, management parameters and prescriptions would be applied to a variety of natural and cultural resources, including air and atmospheric values, water quality, special status plant and animal species, and other components of the biological, physical, and cultural environment.

The land use planning process was initiated on March 4, 2008, through a Notice of Intent published in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 11661). A Notice of Availability of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS was published on September 9, 2011, in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 55941) to announce a 90-day public review and comment period. During that period, the BLM held public open-house meetings in Bakersfield, San Luis Obispo, Lake Isabella, Three Rivers, Taft, and Prather to assist the public in their review of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS and to solicit their comments. The Draft RMP/Draft EIS was sent to multiple Federal, State, and local government agencies and interested parties and was made publicly available for viewing at the Bakersfield Field Office, the California State Office, various public libraries, and on the Internet.

During the comment period, the Bakersfield Field Office received 274 written comment submissions from comment forms, which were completed during one of the public open-house meetings, as well as comment letters and emails. Each submission was carefully reviewed to identify substantive comments in accordance with the implementing regulations of NEPA (40 CFR 1503.4).

Comments on the Draft RMP/Draft EIS received from the public and internal