A. Overview of Information Collection

Title of Information Collection: HUD Housing Program—Application for Approval as a Housing Counseling Agency.

OMB Approval Number: 2502–0573.

Type of Request: Extension.

Form Number: HUD–9900.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: The Office of Housing Counseling is responsible for administration of the Department’s Housing Counseling Program, authorized by Section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. The Housing Counseling Program supports the delivery of a wide variety of housing counseling services to homeowners, homeowners, low- to moderate-income renters, and the homeless. The primary objective of the program is to educate families and individuals in order to help them make smart decisions regarding improving their housing situation and meeting the responsibilities of tenancy and homeownership, including through budget and financial counseling. Counselors also help borrowers avoid predatory lending practices, such as inflated appraisals, unreasonably high interest rates, forbearance, payment terms, and other conditions that can result in a loss of equity, increased debt, default, and possible foreclosure. Counselors may also provide reverse mortgage counseling to elderly homeowners who seek to convert equity in their homes to pay for home improvements, medical costs, living expenses or other expenses. Additionally, housing counselors may distribute and be a resource for information concerning Fair Housing and Fair Lending. The Housing Counseling Program is instrumental to achievement of HUD’s mission. The Program’s far-reaching effects support numerous departmental programs, including Federal Housing Administration (FHA) single family housing programs.

Approximately 2,364 HUD-participating agencies provide housing counseling services nationwide currently. Of these, approximately 970 have been directly approved by HUD. HUD maintains a list of these agencies so that individuals in need of assistance can easily access the nearest HUD-approved housing counseling agency via HUD’s Web site, an automated 1–800 Hotline, or a smart phone application.

HUD Form 9900, Application for Approval as a Housing Counseling Agency, is necessary to make sure that people who contact a HUD approved agency can have confidence they will receive quality service and that agencies meet HUD requirements for approval. To participate in HUD’s Housing Counseling Program, a housing counseling agency must first be approved by HUD. Approval entails meeting various requirements relating to experience and capacity, including nonprofit status, a minimum of one year of housing counseling experience in the target community, and sufficient resources to implement a housing counseling plan. Eligible organizations include local housing counseling agencies, private or public organizations (including grassroots, faith-based and other community-based organizations) such as nonprofit, state, local or tribal government entities or public housing authorities that meet the Program criteria. HUD uses form HUD–9900 to evaluate whether applying organizations meet minimum requirements to participate in the Housing Counseling Program. The application for approval for HUD–9900 is found at http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hccprof13.cfm.

HUD is seeking an extension for the Application for Approval as a Housing Counseling Agency, form HUD–9900. There have been no changes in program eligibility requirements. The form will be updated to reflect changes in Offices responsible for processing applications from the Single Family Program Support Division to the Office of Housing Counseling, and require electronic submission of applications through email in place of paper submissions. Based on the most recent information available (as of February 2014). Respondents (i.e. affected public): Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 66.

Estimated Number of Response: 66.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Average Hours per Response: 71.

Total Estimated Burdens: 4686.

B. Solicitation of Public Comment

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

1. Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. The accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

3. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35

Dated: August 4, 2014.

Colette Pollard,
Department Reports Management Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2014–18946 Filed 8–8–14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–67–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNVS00560 L58530000 EU0000 241A;14–08807; MO# 4500064615; TAS: 14X5232]

Notice of Realty Action: Competitive Sale of 40 Parcels of Public Land in Clark County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Realty Action.
SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to offer 40 parcels of public land totaling 516.18 acres in the Las Vegas Valley by competitive sale, at not less than the appraised fair market values (FMV). The BLM is proposing to offer the parcels for sale pursuant to the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA), as amended. The sale will be subject to the applicable provisions of Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and BLM land sale regulations.

DATES: Interested parties may submit written comments regarding the proposed sale until September 25, 2014. The sale by sealed bid and oral public auction will be held on December 2, 2014, at the City of North Las Vegas, 2250 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Council Chambers, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030 at 10 a.m., Pacific Time. The FMV for the parcels will be available 30 days prior to the sale. The BLM will accept sealed bids beginning November 17, 2014. Sealed bids must be received by the BLM, Las Vegas Field Office (LVFO) no later than 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time, on November 24, 2014. The BLM will open sealed bids on the day of the sale just prior to oral bidding.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments and submit sealed bids to the BLM–LVFO, Assistant Field Manager, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM proposes to offer 40 parcels of public land in the southwest Las Vegas Valley. The subject public lands are legally described as:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

N–92824, 2.50 acres:
T. 21 S., R. 63 E., Sec. 12, W½NW¼SE¼.
N–92825, 2.50 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 12, NE¼NE¼NW¼NE¼.
N–92827, 20.00 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 12, W½NW¼SE¼.
N–92828, 5.00 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 13, SE¼NE¼NW¼NW¼.
N–92829, 7.50 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 14, W½NE¼SE¼SW¼.
N–92830, 2.50 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 14, SE¼SE¼SE¼SW¼.
N–92831, 5.00 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 14, W½SW¼NW¼SW¼.
N–92832, 2.50 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 14, SW¼SW¼SW¼SE¼.
N–92833, 5.00 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 14, NE¼SW¼SW¼SE¼.
N–92834, 7.50 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 14, NE¼SW¼SW¼SE¼.
N–92835, 5.00 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 14, S½NE¼SE¼SE¼.
N–92836, 15.00 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 15, NW¼SE¼NE¼.
N–92837, 10.00 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 16, NW¼SW¼NW¼SE¼.
N–92838, 33.92 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 19, lots 38, 40, 41 thru 44, 46, 48, 49, 51 thru 54, 56 thru 58.
N–92839, 12.50 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 19, NW¼NW¼NE¼SE¼.
N–92840, 5.00 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 19, SE¼NE¼SW¼SE¼.
N–92841, 2.50 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 19, SW¼NW¼NW¼VE¼.
N–92842, 7.50 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 19, SE¼NE¼SE¼SE¼.
N–92843, 5.00 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 19, S½SW¼SE¼SE¼.
N–92844, 1.25 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 22, NW¼SW¼NW¼SW¼.
N–92845, 7.50 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 22, NE¼SW¼SW¼SE¼.
N–92846, 2.50 acres:
T. 22 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 24, SE¼SE¼NE¼SW¼.
N–92847, 12.50 acres:
bids will begin at the established FMV.

Sale procedures: Registration for oral bidding will begin at 8 a.m. Pacific Time and will end at 10 a.m. Pacific Time at the City of North Las Vegas, 2250 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Council Chambers, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030, on the day of the sale. There will be no prior registration before the sale date. To participate in the competitive sale, all registered bidders must submit a bid guarantee deposit in the amount of $10,000 by certified check, postal money order, bank draft, or cashier’s check made payable to the Department of the Interior—Bureau of Land Management. Funds must be deposited no later than 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time on the day of the sale to the BLM Collection Officers at the City of North Las Vegas, 2250 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Council Chambers, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030. Funds will not be accepted at the BLM–LVFO. The BLM will send the successful bidder(s) a high-bidder letter with detailed information for full payment.

All funds submitted with unsuccessful bids will be returned to the bidders or their authorized representative upon presentation of acceptable photo identification at the BLM–LVFO or by certified mail. If the apparent high bidder so chooses, the bid guarantee may be applied towards the required deposit. Failure to submit the deposit following the close of the sale under 43 CFR 2711.3–1(d) will result in forfeiture of the bid guarantee. For bidders who offer to purchase more than one parcel, the BLM will retain the bid guarantee, and may cancel the sale of all the parcels to that bidder, if the bidder fails to submit the bid deposit on any single parcel following the sale. If an offer to purchase one parcel results in default, the BLM may retain the bid deposit and cancel the sale to that bidder. If a high bidder is unable to consummate the transaction for any reason, the second highest bid may be considered to purchase the parcel. If there are no acceptable bids, a parcel may remain available for sale at a future date in accordance with competitive sale procedures without further legal notice.

Federal law requires that bidders must be: (1) A citizen of the United States 18 years of age or older; (2) A corporation subject to the laws of any State or of the United States; (3) A State, State instrumentality, or political subdivision authorized to hold property; or (4) An entity legally capable of conveying and holding lands or interests therein under the laws of the State of Nevada. Evidence of United States citizenship is a birth certificate, passport, or naturalization papers. Failure to submit the above requested documents to the BLM within 30 days from receipt of the high-bidder letter will result in cancellation of the sale and forfeiture of the bid deposit. The successful bidder will be allowed 180 days from the date of the sale to submit the remainder of the full purchase price. Publication of this Notice in the Federal Register segregates the subject lands from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws. Any subsequent application will not be accepted, will not be considered as filed, and will be returned to the applicant if the Notice segregates from the use applied for in the application. The segregative effect of this Notice terminates upon issuance of a patent or other document of conveyance to such lands, publication in the Federal Register of a termination of the segregation, or 2 years after the date of this publication, whichever occurs first. The segregation period may not exceed 2 years unless extended by the BLM State Director, Nevada. In accordance with 43 CFR 2711.1–2(d) prior to the termination date.

Terms and Conditions: All minerals for the sale parcels will be reserved to

snplma. The sales matrix provides information specific to each sale parcel such as legal description, physical location, encumbrances, acreage, and FMV. The FMV for each parcel is available in the sales matrix as soon as approved and no later than 30 days prior to the sale.

This proposed competitive sale is in conformance with the BLM Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and decision LD–1, approved by Record of Decision on October 5, 1998, and is in compliance with Section 203 of FLPMA. The sale parcels were analyzed in the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary Environmental Impact Statement and approved by Record of Decision on December 23, 2004. A parcel-specific Determination of National Environmental Policy Act Adequacy document numbered DOI–BLM–NV–S010–2014–0052–DNA was prepared in connection with this Notice of Realty Action.

Submit comments on this sale Notice to the address in the ADDRESSES section. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including any personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The BLM will also publish this Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Determination of National Environmental Policy Act Adequacy was prepared in accordance with the BLM Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and decision LD–1, approved by Record of Decision on October 5, 1998, and is in compliance with Section 203 of FLPMA. The sale parcels were analyzed in the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary Environmental Impact Statement and approved by Record of Decision on December 23, 2004. A parcel-specific Determination of National Environmental Policy Act Adequacy document numbered DOI–BLM–NV–S010–2014–0052–DNA was prepared in connection with this Notice of Realty Action.

Submit comments on this sale Notice to the address in the ADDRESSES section. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including any personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The BLM will also publish this Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Sale procedures: Registration for oral bidding will begin at 8 a.m. Pacific Time and will end at 10 a.m. Pacific Time at the City of North Las Vegas, 2250 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Council Chambers, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030, on the day of the sale. There will be no prior registration before the sale date. To participate in the competitive sale, all registered bidders must submit a bid guarantee deposit in the amount of $10,000 by certified check, postal money order, bank draft, or cashier’s check made payable to the Department of the Interior—Bureau of Land Management. Funds must be deposited no later than 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time on the day of the sale to the BLM Collection Officers at the City of North Las Vegas, 2250 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Council Chambers, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030. Funds will not be accepted at the BLM–LVFO. The BLM will send the successful bidder(s) a high-bidder letter with detailed information for full payment.

All funds submitted with unsuccessful bids will be returned to the bidders or their authorized representative upon presentation of acceptable photo identification at the BLM–LVFO or by certified mail. If the apparent high bidder so chooses, the bid guarantee may be applied towards the required deposit. Failure to submit the deposit following the close of the sale under 43 CFR 2711.3–1(d) will result in forfeiture of the bid guarantee. For bidders who offer to purchase more than one parcel, the BLM will retain the bid guarantee, and may cancel the sale of all the parcels to that bidder, if the bidder fails to submit the bid deposit on any single parcel following the sale. If an offer to purchase one parcel results in default, the BLM may retain the bid deposit and cancel the sale to that bidder. If a high bidder is unable to consummate the transaction for any reason, the second highest bid may be considered to purchase the parcel. If there are no acceptable bids, a parcel may remain available for sale at a future date in accordance with competitive sale procedures without further legal notice.

Federal law requires that bidders must be: (1) A citizen of the United States 18 years of age or older; (2) A corporation subject to the laws of any State or of the United States; (3) A State, State instrumentality, or political subdivision authorized to hold property; or (4) An entity legally capable of conveying and holding lands or interests therein under the laws of the State of Nevada.

Evidence of United States citizenship is a birth certificate, passport, or naturalization papers. Failure to submit the above requested documents to the BLM within 30 days from receipt of the high-bidder letter will result in cancellation of the sale and forfeiture of the bid deposit. The successful bidder will be allowed 180 days from the date of the sale to submit the remainder of the full purchase price. Publication of this Notice in the Federal Register segregates the subject lands from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws. Any subsequent application will not be accepted, will not be considered as filed, and will be returned to the applicant if the Notice segregates from the use applied for in the application. The segregative effect of this Notice terminates upon issuance of a patent or other document of conveyance to such lands, publication in the Federal Register of a termination of the segregation, or 2 years after the date of this publication, whichever occurs first. The segregation period may not exceed 2 years unless extended by the BLM State Director, Nevada. In accordance with 43 CFR 2711.1–2(d) prior to the termination date.

Terms and Conditions: All minerals for the sale parcels will be reserved to
the United States. The patents, when issued, will contain a mineral reservation to the United States for all minerals.

The parcels are subject to limitations prescribed by law and regulation, and certain encumbrances in favor of third parties. Prior to patent issuance, a holder of any right-of-way (ROW) within the sale parcels will have the opportunity to amend the ROW for conversion to a new term, including perpetuity, if applicable, or conversion to an easement. The BLM will notify valid existing ROW holders of record of their ability to convert their compliant rights-of-way to perpetual rights-of-way or easement. In accordance with Federal regulations at 43 CFR 2807.15, once notified, each valid holder may apply for the conversion of their current authorization.

The following numbered terms and conditions will appear on the conveyance documents for the sale parcels:
1. All minerals deposits in the lands so patented, and to it, or persons authorized by it, the right to prospect for, mine, and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and regulations to be established by the Secretary of the Interior are reserved to the United States, together with all necessary access and exit rights;
2. A right-of-way is reserved for ditches and canals constructed by authority of the United States under the Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945);
3. The parcels are subject to valid existing rights;
4. The parcels are subject to reservations for road, public utilities, and flood control purposes, both existing and proposed, in accordance with the local governing entities’ transportation plans; and
5. An appropriate indemnification clause protecting the United States from claims arising out of the lessee’s/patentee’s use, occupancy, or occupations on the leased/patented lands.

Pursuant to the requirements established by Section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9620(h) (CERCLA), as amended, notice is hereby given that the lands have been examined and no evidence was found to indicate that any hazardous substances have been stored for 1 year or more, nor had any hazardous substances been disposed of or released on the subject property. No warranty of any kind, express or implied, is given by the United States as to the title, whether or to what extent the land may be developed, its physical condition, future uses, or any other circumstance or condition. The conveyance of a parcel will not be on a contingency basis. However, to the extent required by law, the parcel is subject to the requirements of Section 120(h) of the CERCLA.

Unless the BLM authorized officer approved other satisfactory arrangements in advance, conveyance of title will be through the use of escrow. Designation of the escrow agent will be through mutual agreement between the BLM and the prospective patentee, and costs of escrow will be borne by the prospective patentee.

Request for escrow instructions must be received by the BLM–LVFO prior to 30 days before the prospective patentee’s scheduled closing date. No exceptions will be made.

All name changes and supporting documentation must be received at the BLM–LVFO 30 days from the date on the high-bidder letter by 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time. There are no exceptions. To submit a name change, the apparent high bidder must submit the name change in writing on the Certificate of Eligibility form to the BLM–LVFO.

The remainder of the full bid price for the parcel must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time, within 180 days following the day of the sale. Payment must be submitted in the form of a certified check, postal money order, bank draft, cashier’s check, or made available by electronic fund transfer (EFT) or in the form of a certified check payable in U.S. dollars to the “Department of the Interior—Bureau of Land Management” to the BLM–LVFO. The BLM will not accept personal or company checks.

Arrangements for electronic fund transfer to the BLM for payment of the balance due must be made a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the payment date. Failure to pay the full bid price prior to the expiration of the 180th day will disqualify the bidder and cause the entire 20 percent bid deposit to be forfeited to the BLM. Forfeiture of the 20 percent bid deposit is in accordance with 43 CFR 2111.11. No exceptions will be made. The BLM cannot accept the remainder of the bid price after the 180th day of the sale date.

The BLM will not sign any documents related to 1031 Exchange transactions. The timing for completion of such an exchange is the bidder’s responsibility. The BLM cannot be a party to any 1031 Exchange.

In accordance with 43 CFR 2711.3–1(f), within 30 days the BLM may accept or reject any or all offers to purchase, or withdraw the entire interest therein from sale if, in the opinion of a BLM authorized officer, consumption of the sale would be inconsistent with any law, or for other reasons as may be provided by applicable law or regulations. No contractual or other rights against the United States may accrue until the BLM officially accepts the offer to purchase and the full bid price is paid.

Upon publication of this Notice and until completion of this sale, the BLM is no longer accepting land use applications affecting the parcel identified for sale. However, land use applications may be considered after the sale if the parcel is not sold. The parcel may be subject to land use applications received prior to publication of this Notice if processing the application would have no adverse effect on the marketability of title, or the FMV of the parcel. Information concerning the sale, encumbrances of record, appraisals, reservations, procedures and conditions, CERCLA, and other environmental documents that may appear in the BLM public files for the proposed sale parcels are available for review during business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, at the BLM–LVFO, except during Federal holidays.

In order to determine the FMV through appraisal, certain extraordinary assumptions and hypothetical conditions may have been made concerning the attributes and limitations of the lands and potential effects of local regulations and policies on potential future land uses. Through publication of this Notice, the BLM advises that these assumptions may not be endorsed or approved by units of local government.

It is the buyer’s responsibility to be aware of all applicable Federal, State, and local government laws, regulations and policies that may affect the subject lands, including any required dedication of lands for public uses. It is also the buyer’s responsibility to be aware of existing or prospective uses of nearby properties. When conveyed out of Federal ownership, the lands will be subject to any applicable laws, regulations, and policies of the applicable local government for proposed future uses. It is the responsibility of the purchaser to be aware through due diligence of those laws, regulations, and policies, and to seek any required local approvals for future uses. Buyers should make themselves aware of any Federal or State law or regulation that may impact the future use of the property. Any land lacking access from a public road or highway will be conveyed as is, and future access acquisition will be the responsibility of the buyer.
Any comments regarding the proposed sale will be reviewed by the BLM Nevada State Director or other authorized official of the Department of the Interior, who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action in response to such comments. In the absence of any comments, this realty action will become the final determination of the Department of the Interior.

Authority: 43 CFR 2711.1–2.

Vanessa Hice, Assistant Field Manager, Division of Lands.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 048811, LLCAD01500, L51010000.LVRWB13B5340.ER0000]

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Proposed Right-of-Way Amendment for the Blythe Solar Power Project, Riverside 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) to amend the Right-of-Way (ROW) for the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP), Riverside County, California. The Assistant Secretary—Land and Minerals Management, approved the ROD on August 1, 2014, which constitutes the final decision of the Department of the Interior.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the ROD have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to other stakeholders. Copies of the ROD are available for public inspection at the Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262, and the California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553–9046. Interested persons may also review the ROD on the Internet at: http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings/solar_projects/Blythe_Solar_Power_Project.html.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frank McMenimen, BLM Project Manager, telephone 760–833–7150; address: 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262; email: capssolarblythe@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: NextEra Blythe Solar Energy Center, LLC (Grant Holder) requested a variance from the existing approval to amend the ROW grant to convert the BSPP’s generation technology and to reduce the project footprint. The project site is located 8 miles west of Blythe and 3 miles north of Interstate 10. The BSPP was permitted and approved in 2010 as a 1,000-megawatt (MW) solar thermal generating plant. The Grant Holder purchased the fully permitted (un-built) project assets in mid-2012 and now proposes to modify the technology to solar photovoltaic (PV) and reduce the size of the project from 6,831 acres to 4,138 acres entirely within the approved BSPP footprint. On August 22, 2012, the BLM approved the assignment of the ROW Grant from the prior holder, Palo Verde Solar I, LLC, to the Grant Holder. In anticipation of the Modified Project, the Grant Holder voluntarily relinquished approximately 35 percent of the previously approved ROW grant area on March 7, 2013.

The Selected Alternative consists of the proposed 485 MW PV solar plant on 4,138 acres of BLM-administered public land, referred to in the ROD as the Modified Project, with authorization for constructing and operating a range of panel types and tracking options so that the Modified Project can take advantage of the rapid improvements in PV technology/efficiency that are anticipated to take place between early permitting and commencing construction. The Modified Project reduces project impacts from the 2010 Approved Project by reducing the project footprint and avoiding bighorn sheep habitat and most of the microphyll woodlands impacted by the 2010 Approved Project. For other impacts, the BLM has included mitigation and monitoring requirements in the ROD. In addition to mitigation and monitoring measures applied to all large ground disturbance projects on BLM-managed land, the following are several of the key mitigation measures included in the ROD:

• Desert Tortoise Translocation Plan and measures to avoid take of desert tortoise;
• Burrowing Owl Mitigation and Monitoring Plan;
• American badger and desert kit fox avoidance and minimization measures;
• Compensatory mitigation for Mojave fringe-toed lizard habitat losses;
• Avian, bat, and golden eagle protection measures;
• Programmatic Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects to historic properties, including a Historic Properties Treatment Plan; and
• Measures to integrate visual design elements into project design, building, and structural materials.

A Notice of Availability of the Final EIS for the BSPP published in the Federal Register on May 30, 2014 (79 FR 31133). The BLM received four comment letters following the publication of the Final EIS. The BLM’s consideration of these letters did not result in changes in the design, location, or timing of the project in a way that would cause significant effects to the human environment outside of the range of effects analyzed in the Final EIS. Similarly, none of the letters identified new significant circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns that bear on the project and its effects.

The project site is in the California Desert District within the planning boundary of the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, which is the applicable resource management plan for the project site and surrounding areas. The 2010 ROD for the Approved Project also amended the CDCA Plan to allow for the development of the BSPP and ancillary facilities on land managed by the BLM. This Plan Amendment is unaffected by the changes contemplated by the Modified Project since it is entirely within the footprint for the Approved Project. Therefore, the Modified Project does not require a separate CDCA Plan amendment.

Because this decision is approved by the Assistant Secretary—Land and Minerals Management, it is not subject to administrative appeal (43 CFR 4.410(a)(3)).

Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6.

Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS—NEAR—FIIS–15729; PX.XDESCPP02001]