

gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) as a result of permanent impacts to 2.92 acres (ac) of habitat the species uses for breeding, feeding, and sheltering. The take would be incidental to the applicant's activities associated with the construction of the Cutri residential project in the City of Santee, California, and includes in-perpetuity preservation and management of 7.0 ac of coastal California gnatcatcher habitat.

The Cutri residential project proposes to construct a single-family residence on a 9.9-acre parcel in the City of Santee. The project will permanently impact 2.92 ac of coastal California gnatcatcher occupied habitat as a result of clearing and grading activities.

To minimize take of coastal California gnatcatcher by the Cutri residential development project and offset impacts to its habitat, the applicant proposes to mitigate for permanent impacts to 2.92 ac of occupied coastal California gnatcatcher habitat through the dedication of 7.0 ac of coastal California gnatcatcher habitat within an on-site conservation easement and funding long-term management to benefit the species. The applicant's proposed HCP also contains the following proposed measures to minimize the effects of construction activities on the coastal California gnatcatcher:

- Clearing of habitat will not take place during the coastal California gnatcatcher breeding season (defined as February 15–August 31). In the event it is not feasible to clear outside of the breeding season, three pre-construction surveys for nesting birds will be conducted within the week prior to initiating grading activities to ensure construction activities do not occur within 300 feet of an active nest.
- A Service-approved biologist will conduct a training session for the grading contractor and will be present on site during the initial clearing and grubbing activities to ensure that impacts are limited to the project footprint.

Proposed Action and Alternatives

The Proposed Action consists of the issuance of an incidental take permit and implementation of the proposed HCP, which includes measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the coastal California gnatcatcher. If we approve the permit, take of coastal California gnatcatcher would be authorized for the applicant's activities associated with the construction of the Cutri residential development project. In the proposed HCP, the applicant considers alternatives to the taking of coastal California gnatcatcher under the proposed action. Alternative

development configuration was considered; however, because of the small size of the project site, further avoidance of impacts to coastal California gnatcatcher habitat could not be achieved. The Applicant also considered the No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, no incidental take of coastal California gnatcatcher habitat would occur, and no long-term protection and management would be afforded to the species.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that approval of the proposed HCP qualifies as a categorical exclusion under NEPA, as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2 Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6 Appendix 1) and as a "low-effect" plan as defined by the *Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook* (November 1996).

We base our determination that a HCP qualifies as a low-effect plan on the following three criteria:

- (1) Implementation of the HCP would result in minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats;
- (2) Implementation of the HCP would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and
- (3) Impacts of the HCP, considered together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects, would not result, over time, in cumulative effects to environmental values or resources that would be considered significant.

Based upon this preliminary determination, we do not intend to prepare further NEPA documentation. We will consider public comments in making the final determination on whether to prepare such additional documentation.

Next Steps

We will evaluate the proposed HCP and comments we receive to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements and issuance criteria under section 10(a) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). We will also evaluate whether issuance of a section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit would comply with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service consultation. We will use the results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, in our final analysis to determine whether or not to issue a permit. If the requirements and issuance criteria under section 10(a) are met, we will issue the permit to the applicant for incidental take of coastal California gnatcatcher.

Public Comments

If you wish to comment on the permit application, proposed HCP, and associated documents, you may submit comments by any of the methods noted in the ADDRESSES section.

Public Availability of Comments

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 your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may 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.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6.).

G. Mendel Stewart,

Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, Carlsbad, California.

[FR Doc. 2016–03717 Filed 2–22–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

[GX16EE000101000]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments on the National Spatial Data Infrastructure—Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP)

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of a new information collection, National Spatial Data Infrastructure—Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP).

SUMMARY: We (the U.S. Geological Survey) are notifying the public that we have submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the information collection request (ICR) described below. To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this ICR.

DATES: To ensure that your comments on this ICR are considered, OMB must receive them on or before March 24, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Please submit written comments on this information

collection directly to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, via email: (*OIRA_SUBMISSION@omb.eop.gov*); or by fax (202) 395-5806; and identify your submission with 'OMB Control Number 1028—New National Spatial Data Infrastructure—Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP)'. Please also forward a copy of your comments and suggestions on this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 807, Reston, VA 20192 (mail); (703) 648-7195 (fax); or *gs-info_collections@usgs.gov* (email). Please reference 'OMB Information Collection 1028—New: National Spatial Data Infrastructure—Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP) in all correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brigitta Urban-Mathieux, Federal Geographic Data Committee Office of the Secretariat, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Mail Stop 590, Reston, VA 20192 (mail); 703-648-5175 (phone); or *burbanma@usgs.gov* (email). You may also find information about this ICR at *www.reginfo.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Respondents are submitting proposals to acquire funding for projects to help build the infrastructure necessary for the geospatial data community to effectively discover, access, share, manage, and use digital geographic data. The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) consists of the technologies, policies, organizations, and people necessary to promote cost-effective production, and the ready availability and greater utilization of geospatial data among a variety of sectors, disciplines, and communities. Specific NSDI areas of emphasis include: Metadata documentation, clearinghouse establishment, geospatial data framework development, standards implementation, and geographic information system (GIS) organizational coordination.

We will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) via *Grants.gov*. The incoming proposals will be reviewed and scored based on the responses to the questions in the RFP. No questions of a "sensitive" nature are asked. We intend to release the project abstracts and names of the primary investigators for awarded/funded projects only.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: 1028—NEW.

Title: National Spatial Data Infrastructure—Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP).

Type of Request: Approval of new information collection.

Respondent Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

Frequency of Collection: This is an annual offer.

Description of Respondents: General public, State and Local governments, Tribal nations.

Estimated Total Number of Annual Responses: 60.

Estimated Time per Response: Application: 35 hours; Interim and Final reports: 5 hours each.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 2,350 hours.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden: There are no "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection of information.

Public Disclosure Statement: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Comments: On 08/07/2015, we published a **Federal Register** notice (80 FR 47512) announcing that we would submit this ICR to OMB for approval and soliciting comments. The comment period closed on 10/06/2015. We received no comments.

III. Request for Comments

We again invite comments concerning this ICR as to: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) how to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) how to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your personal mailing address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personally identifiable information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us and the OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying

information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Ivan DeLoatch,

Executive Director, Federal Geographic Data Committee, Core Science Systems.

[FR Doc. 2016-03680 Filed 2-22-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4338-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

[GX16CC00G1S3000]

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Request for Comments on the USGS Water Use Data and Research Program

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of a new information collection, USGS Water Use Data and Research Program.

SUMMARY: We (the U.S. Geological Survey) are notifying the public that we have submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the information collection request (ICR) described below. To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this ICR. **DATES:** To ensure that your comments on this ICR are considered, OMB must receive them on or before March 24, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Please submit written comments on this information collection directly to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, via email: (*OIRA_SUBMISSION@omb.eop.gov*); or by fax (202) 395-5806; and identify your submission with 'OMB Control Number 1028—NEW USGS Water Use Data and Research Program'. Please also forward a copy of your comments and suggestions on this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 807, Reston, VA 20192 (mail); (703) 648-7195 (fax); or *gs-info_collections@usgs.gov* (email). Please reference 'OMB Information Collection 1028—NEW: USGS Water Use Data and Research Program' in all correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melinda Dalton, Water Availability and Use Science Program, U.S. Geological Survey, 1770 Corporate Drive, Suite