

workforce housing (50%–60% of the area median income). Approximately 34,000 square feet of additional community space would also be developed to provide a range of community uses (*i.e.*, social services, educational facilities, library, neighborhood services, commercial uses).

All existing low-income housing is planned to be replaced either on-site or elsewhere in King County through construction of public housing units on-site and project based Section 8 vouchers in existing or new housing complexes. Existing residents would be displaced and assisted with benefits according to the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Act (42 U.S.C. 4601 *et seq.*). Where possible, displaced residents in good standing would be allowed to return to the public housing units once redevelopment is completed.

B. Need for the EIS

The proposed project may constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and an EIS will be prepared on this project by KCHA and the King County DDES in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Responses to this notice will be used 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.

C. Scoping

A public EIS scoping meeting will be held on February 26, 2003, at 6 p.m. The EIS scoping meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the project and provide input to the environmental process. At the meeting, the public will be able to view graphics illustrating preliminary planning work and talk with King County DDES and KCHA staff, and members of the consultant team providing technical analysis to the project. Translators will be available. Written comments and testimony concerning the scope of the EIS will be accepted at this meeting.

The scoping meeting will be held at the Park Lake Homes Jim Wiley Community Center, which is located at 9800 8th Ave. SW., Seattle, WA 98106.

D. 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 socioeconomic factors (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: February 4, 2003.

Nelson R. Bregon,

Acting General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Draft Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the City and County of Denver's Board of Water Commissioners, Denver, CO

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and receipt of application.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the City and County of Denver, acting by and through its Board of Water Commissioners (Denver Water) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The permit would authorize the loss and modification of habitat associated with Denver Water's Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities and the incidental take of Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) ("Preble's"), federally listed as threatened. The permit would be in effect for 30 years from the date of issuance.

The Service received Denver Water's ITP Application that includes a proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Environmental Assessment

(EA) for the Preble's on Denver Water properties. The proposed HCP/EA is available for public comments. It fully describes the proposed O&M activities and the measures Denver Water would undertake to avoid, minimize, and mitigate project impacts to the Preble's.

The Service requests comments on the HCP/EA for the proposed issuance of an ITP. Pursuant to notice requirements under section 10(c) of the Act and the National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1406.6), all comments on the HCP/EA and permit application will become part of the administrative record and will be available to the public.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application and the HCP/EA should be received on or before April 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the permit application and the HCP/EA should be addressed to LeRoy Carlson, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen Linder, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Colorado Field Office, telephone (303) 275–2370.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

Individuals wishing copies of the HCP/EA and associated documents for review should immediately contact the above office. Documents also will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours, at the Lakewood, Colorado, Field Office (See **ADDRESSES** above).

Background

Section 9 of the Act and Federal Regulation prohibits the "take" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. Take is defined under the Act, in part, as to kill, harm, or harass a federally listed species. However, the Service may issue permits to authorize "incidental take" of listed species under limited circumstances. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32.

The applicant's plan to conduct O&M activities necessary for Denver Water to meet its mission of providing a safe and high quality water supply to its customers covers properties that may constitute Preble's habitat in Boulder, Jefferson, and Douglas Counties in Colorado. Such activities would include repair and maintenance of infrastructures and facilities (*e.g.*, conduits, siphons), ditch/canal maintenance, road repair and maintenance, construction of new