

16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) incidental to the development of a mixed-density residential community (project) in the City of Moorpark, Ventura County, California. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's habitat conservation plan (HCP), and on the Service's preliminary determination that this proposed ITP qualifies as low effect, and may qualify for a categorical exclusion pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Department of the Interior's (DOI) NEPA regulations (43 CFR part 46), and the DOI's Departmental Manual (516 DM 1, Appendix 2 Section 8.5C(2)). To make this preliminary determination, we prepared a low-effect screening form, which is available for public review.

Background

On March 30, 1993 (58 FR 16742), the Service listed the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) as threatened. Section 9 of the ESA prohibits "take" of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered (16 U.S.C. 1538), where take is defined to include the following activities: "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct" (16 U.S.C. 1532). The take prohibitions of section 9 are extended to species listed as threatened at the discretion of the DOI Secretary of and were extended to coastal California gnatcatcher, with exceptions. On December 20, 1993, the Service published a 4(d) rule, which includes exceptions to incidental take associated land-use activities addressed in an approved Natural Community Conservation Planning Act program undertaken by the State of California and local governments (58 FR 65088).

Under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)(B)), we may issue permits to authorize take of listed fish and wildlife species that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing incidental take permits for endangered and threatened species are in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32, respectively. Issuance of an ITP also must not jeopardize the existence of federally listed fish, wildlife, or plant species. The permittee would receive assurances under our "No Surprises" regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)).

Applicant's Proposed Activities

The applicant has applied for a permit for incidental take of the coastal California gnatcatcher. The take would occur in association with activities necessary for the development of a largely vacant 68-acre (ac) site by constructing residences, associated infrastructure, flood-control facilities, a new road providing access to the site, as well as enhancement and permanent protection of disturbed coastal sage scrub vegetation on 28.76 ac of conserved land for the coastal California gnatcatcher.

The HCP includes avoidance and minimization measures for the coastal California gnatcatcher, and mitigation for unavoidable loss of occupied habitat. The applicant will commensurately offset impacts by placing conservation easements over approximately 13.22 ac of the project site, which will be restored and/or enhanced, and 15.54 ac on adjacent conserved open space areas owned by the City of Moorpark, which will be enhanced.

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 can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public view, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the applicant's proposed project would individually and cumulatively have a minor effect on the coastal California gnatcatcher and the human environment. Therefore, we have preliminarily determined that the proposed ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit would be a "low-effect" ITP that individually or cumulatively would have a minor effect on the species and may qualify for application of a categorical exclusion pursuant to NEPA, DOI's NEPA regulations, and the DOI Departmental Manual. A "low-effect" ITP is one that would result in (1) minor or nonsignificant effects on species covered in the HCP; (2) nonsignificant effects on the human environment; and (3) impacts that, when added together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable actions, would not result in significant cumulative effects to the human environment.

Next Steps

The Service will evaluate the application and the comments received to determine whether to issue the requested ITP. We will also conduct an intra-Service consultation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA to evaluate the effects of the proposed take. After considering the preceding and other matters, we will determine whether the permit issuance criteria of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA have been met. If met, the Service will issue an ITP to the applicant.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32) and the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Department's NEPA implementing regulations (43 CFR part 46).

Catherine Darst,

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

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BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2025-1035; FXES11140800000-267-FF08EVEN00]

Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Application and Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for Brand Partnerships, 3615 Foothill Road (APN 005-280-041), Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County, CA; Categorical Exclusion

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comment.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Johnny Brand, landowner, Brand Partnerships (applicant) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act. The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally listed California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) and southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys pallida*), a species proposed for listing, incidental to agricultural activities in the City of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County, California. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP), and on the

Service's preliminary determination that the proposed permitting action may be eligible for a categorical exclusion pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of the Interior's (DOI) NEPA regulations, and the DOI Departmental Manual. To make this preliminary determination, we prepared a low-effect screening form, which is also available for public review. We invite comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before July 13, 2026.

To ensure your comment is received and considered, you must submit it using one of the methods identified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. Comments submitted through any method not authorized in this document, or sent to an address not listed here, will not be considered.

ADDRESSES:

Obtaining Documents: The documents this notice announces, as well as any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2025-1035 at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Submitting Comments: All submissions must include the docket number [FWS-R8-ES-2025-1035] for this document. You must submit comments using one of the following methods:

- **Online:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2025-1035.

- **U.S. mail:** Public Comments Processing; Attn: Docket No FWS-R8-ES-2025-1035; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

Comments submitted through any method not authorized in this document, or sent to an address not listed here, will not be considered. We will not accept comments via email, fax, or hand delivery. We are not required to consider comments that are submitted after the comment period ends or that are submitted via a method outside of these instructions. Comments containing profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate content will not be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Chris Dellith, Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist, by email at chris_dellith@fws.gov, by phone at 805-644-1766, via the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 for TTY assistance, email at fw8venturaitp@fws.gov, or by U.S. mail at 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003. Individuals in the United

States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Brand Partnerships, for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) and the southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys pallida*), a species proposed for listing as threatened, incidental to the native riparian habitat restoration required by the County of Santa Barbara (County) and California Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission), as well as ongoing agricultural operations and maintenance activities on the property (project) in the City of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County, California. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's habitat conservation plan (HCP), and on the Service's preliminary determination that this proposed ITP qualifies as low effect, and may qualify for a categorical exclusion pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Department of the Interior's (DOI) NEPA regulations (43 CFR 46), and the DOI's Departmental Manual (516 DM 8.5(C)(2)). To make this preliminary determination, we prepared a low-effect screening form, which is also available for public review.

Draft HCP Covered Species

Brand Partnerships has developed a draft HCP that includes measures to mitigate and minimize impacts to the California red-legged frog and southwestern pond turtle. The California red-legged frog was federally listed as threatened on May 23, 1996 (61 FR 25813), and the southwestern pond turtle was proposed for listing as threatened on October 3, 2023 (88 FR 68370). The ITP would authorize take of the California red-legged frog incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with the HCP-covered activities. The draft HCP also includes minimization measures to reduce impacts on the southwestern pond turtle that has been proposed for listing. In the event this animal becomes listed, the ITP will be amended to authorize the take of this

species incidental to otherwise lawful activities as outlined in the HCP.

Background

Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the take of fish or wildlife species listed as endangered. As applicable to the species affected by the proposed action, the ESA implementing regulations also prohibit take of fish or wildlife species listed as threatened. "Take" is defined under the ESA to include the following activities: "[T]o harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct" (16 U.S.C. 1532); however, under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA, we may issue permits to authorize incidental take of listed species.

"Incidental take" is defined by the ESA as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species are in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22, respectively. Under the ESA, protections for federally listed plants differ from the protections afforded to federally listed animals. Issuance of an incidental take permit also must not jeopardize the existence of federally listed fish, wildlife, or plant species. The permittees would receive assurances under our "No Surprises" regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)) regarding conservation activities for the covered species.

Proposed Activities

The applicant has applied for a permit for incidental take of the California red-legged frog and southwestern pond turtle that could result from covered activities described in the HCP. The take would occur in association with activities necessary to restore native riparian habitat, agricultural operation and maintenance consisting of restoration within a 0.52-acre (ac) area adjacent to Arroyo Paredon Creek (Riparian Restoration Area); management of non-native, invasive vegetation in and adjacent to the Riparian Restoration Area; removal of an existing access road within 100 feet of Arroyo Paredon Creek; periodic maintenance/management of a detention basin and bioswale, such as repairs to banks, replacement of the existing piping, vegetation management, and sediment removal; general operations and maintenance activities including operation of greenhouse/processing facilities, vehicle use/repair and maintenance of roads, and waste removal via haul trucks; agricultural activities involving grazing animals and fruit trees; construction of an

agricultural storage barn; maintenance or repairs to septic system; expansion of a leech field; and installation of solar panels.

The HCP includes avoidance and minimization measures for the California red-legged frog and southwestern pond turtle. The covered activities will not result in loss of California red-legged frog or southwestern pond turtle upland or aquatic habitat. The applicant will commensurately offset impacts to the California red-legged frog and southwestern pond turtle by restoring 0.52-ac of riparian habitat, managing a detention basin to provide a perennial water source for California red-legged frog and southwestern pond turtle during the 30-year permit term. Although habitat protection in the plan area is not permanent via a legal conservation easement, the suite of measures proposed provides meaningful conservation benefits that mitigate impacts to Covered Species to the maximum extent practicable during the permit term.

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 can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public view, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the applicant's proposed project would individually and cumulatively have a minor effect on the California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, and the human environment. Therefore, we have preliminarily determined that the proposed ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit would be a "low-effect" ITP that individually or cumulatively would have a minor effect on the species and may qualify for application of a categorical exclusion pursuant to the NEPA, DOI's NEPA regulations, and the DOI Departmental Manual. A "low-effect" ITP is one that would result in (1) minor or nonsignificant effects on species covered in the HCP; (2) nonsignificant effects on the human environment; and (3) impacts that, when added together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable actions, would not result in

significant cumulative effects to the human environment.

Next Steps

The Service will evaluate the application and the comments received to determine whether to issue the requested ITP. We will also conduct an intra-Service consultation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA to evaluate the effects of the proposed take. After considering the preceding and other matters, we will determine whether the permit issuance criteria of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA have been met. If met, the Service will issue an ITP to the applicant.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32) and the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR 46).

Catherine Darst,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-WASO-BSO-CONC-NPS0042357;
OMB Control Number 1024-0029
PPWOBSDCO, PPMVSCS1Y.Y00000 (226)]

Agency Information Collection Activities; National Park Service Concessions Forms

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the National Park Service (NPS) are proposing to renew an information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 11, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comments to the NPS Information Collection Clearance Officer (ADIR-ICCO), 13461 Sunrise Valley Drive, (MS-263) Reston, VA 20191 (mail); or phadrea_ponds@ios.doi.gov (email). Please reference OMB Control Number "1024-0029" in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kurt Rausch, Contract Management Team Lead, National Park Service, 1849 C

Street NW, Washington, DC 20240; or by email at kurt_rausch@nps.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 1024-0029 in the subject line of your comments. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information collections require approval under the PRA.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility.
- (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- (4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this information collection request (ICR). Before including your 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—