

addresses impacts to the Morro shoulderband snail associated with the proposed project and that provides for implementation of measures to minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to the snail. The Hords propose to dedicate the remaining 2.7 acres of high quality Morro shoulderband snail habitat within the project site that is not proposed for residential development. Snail habitat would be conserved through a perpetual open space conservation easement in favor of the County of San Luis Obispo or another entity approved by the Service. The Hords would ensure that the site is managed in perpetuity in a manner that would be consistent with the Plan's conservation goals for the snail. This action would compensate for the loss of habitat resulting from the project and would benefit the long-term conservation of the snail. The Hord's permit application includes an Implementation Agreement that defines the responsibilities of all of the parties under the Plan.

The Habitat Conservation Plan, Implementation Agreement, and Environmental Assessment are available for public review and comment. The Plan and the Environmental Assessment consider four alternatives to the proposed residential development project: the No Residential Development Alternative, the Alternate Site Alternative, the Alternate Building Location Alternative, and the Reduced Intensity Alternative. The first two alternatives are no action (i.e., no permit) alternatives.

Under the No Residential Development Alternative, housing would not be developed on site. The Service would not issue a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit because there would be no take of the Morro shoulderband snail. This alternative would not adversely affect biological resources occurring on this site; therefore, impacts would be less than those of the proposed project. This alternative assumes the continuation of the site as an undeveloped area. Habitat for the snail would degrade over time without active management. This alternative would not substantially benefit the Morro shoulderband snail because no permanent onsite habitat conservation area would be established, managed, and monitored under this alternative.

The Alternate Site Alternative involves the use of another site for the Hord's residential development project that does not support any listed species. An incidental take permit would not be needed. This alternative would not meet the project purpose and need and was

considered economically unfeasible by the Hords. Although this alternative would result in no impact at the proposed construction site, it would not result in establishment of a permanent open space easement that is expected to have long-term benefits for the snail.

Under the Alternate Building Location Alternative, the proposed 4.2-acre parcel would be surveyed for snail presence and the proposed residential buildings and accessory structures would be arranged or sited within the 4.2-acre parcel to avoid and minimize disturbance to areas of the site occupied by the snails. The project might require issuance of an incidental take permit if some acreage of Morro shoulderband snail habitat would be affected. The Hords did not select the Alternate Building Location Alternative because it would not meet the project purpose and need as well as the Proposed Project Alternative and, upon analysis, would not provide greater habitat benefit to the snail.

Under the Reduced Intensity Alternative, the Hords would construct a residential development within the same 4.2-acre parcel but within a reduced construction area, so as to cause less physical disturbance to onsite Morro shoulderband snail habitat. The project could require issuance of an incidental take permit if some acreage of Morro shoulderband snail habitat would be affected. Compared to the Proposed Project Alternative, the Reduced Intensity Alternative would result, at best, in only a minor addition of undeveloped acreage. This contribution to the overall habitat requirements of the Morro shoulderband snail would not be significant.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). In determining whether the application meets the requirements of law, the Service will evaluate the application, its associated documents, and comments submitted by the public. If the Service determines that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the Morro shoulderband snail. A final decision on permit issuance will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: April 7, 1999.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,
Deputy Manager, California/Nevada
Operations Office, Region 1, Sacramento,
California.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council; Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, that a meeting of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council will be held May 18, 1999, at 8:00 a.m., in Sweetwater, Tennessee, at the Best Western Sweetwater Inn.

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council was established administratively under authority of section 3 of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1s-2(c)), to consult with the Secretary of the Interior on the implementation of a comprehensive plan and other matters relating to the Trail, including certification of sites and segments, standards for erection and maintenance of markers, preservation of trail resources, American Indian relations, visitor education, historical research, visitor use, cooperative management, and trail administration.

The matters to be discussed include:

- Plan Implementation Status
- Trail Association Status
- Cooperative Agreements Negotiation
- Trail Route

The meeting will be open to the public. However, facilities and space for accommodating members of the public are limited, and persons will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Any member of the public may file a written statement concerning the matters to be discussed with David Gaines, Superintendent.

Persons wishing further information concerning this meeting, or who wish to submit written statements may contact David Gaines, Superintendent, Long Distance Trails Group Office-Santa Fe, National Park Service, P.O. Box 728, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728, telephone 505/988-6888. Minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Superintendent, located in Room 205, Pinon Building, 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dated: April 7, 1999.

David M. Gaines,
Superintendent.

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