

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Availability for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the San Ysidro Land Port of Entry Improvements Project, San Diego, California.

AGENCY: General Services Administration

ACTION: Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), which examines the potential impacts of a proposal by the General Services Administration (GSA), to reconfigure and expand the existing San Ysidro Land Port of Entry (LPOE) located at the United States (U.S.)-Mexico border in the City of San Diego community of San Ysidro, in San Diego County, California. The Final SEIS describes the reason the project is being proposed, the alternatives being considered, the potential impacts of each of the alternatives on the existing environment, and avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

DATES: The availability period for the Final SEIS ends June 30, 2014. After this date, GSA plans to issue a Record of Decision.

ADDRESSES: Further information, including an electronic copy of the Final SEIS and associated technical studies, may be found online on the following website: <http://gsa.gov/portal/category/21521>. Questions or comments concerning the Final SEIS should be directed to: Osmahn Kadri, Regional Environmental Quality Advisor/NEPA Project Manager, 50 United Nations Plaza, Room 3355, San Francisco, CA 94102, or via email to osmahn.kadri@gsa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

The SEIS for the San Ysidro LPOE Improvements Project is intended to supplement the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was adopted for the San Ysidro LPOE Improvements Project in August 2009. In September 2009, GSA prepared a Record of Decision that approved the Preferred Alternative that was identified in the 2009 Final EIS; this approved Preferred Alternative is referred to in the SEIS as the Approved Project. The SEIS documents and evaluates changed circumstances and proposed modifications to the Approved Project since adoption of the 2009 Final EIS; the Approved Project with proposed modifications is referred to in the SEIS as the Revised Project.

Both the Approved Project and the Revised Project entail the reconfiguration and expansion of the existing San Ysidro LPOE in three independent phases to improve overall capacity and operational efficiency at the LPOE. The San Ysidro LPOE is located along Interstate 5 (I-5) at the U.S. – Mexico border in the San Ysidro community of the City of San Diego, California.

The modifications to the Approved Project proposed by GSA include: (1) the incorporation of northbound pedestrian inspections at the proposed southbound-only pedestrian crossing facility on the west side of the LPOE and modification of the phasing/timing of the construction of the pedestrian crossing facility; (2) changes to the development footprint on the west side of the LPOE and design refinements to the proposed Virginia Avenue transit facility; (3) a change in the number of vehicle lanes and the installation of southbound inspection booths and overhead canopies on the proposed southbound roadway; and (4) minor changes in the

design and/or timing of implementation of several project elements. In addition to these proposed changes to the Approved Project, the Revised Project also includes the other components of the Approved Project that have not changed.

The changed circumstances associated with the Approved Project include changes to the phasing/timing of funding for proposed improvements and the construction of a temporary southbound roadway that connects I-5 and the El Chaparral LPOE in Mexico.

Due to the changed circumstances and proposed changes to the Approved Project, GSA made the decision to prepare an SEIS for the Revised Project.

The Draft SEIS analyzed two alternatives of the Revised Project, as well as the No Action Alternative (which would implement the Approved Project with no changes). The Revised Project alternatives are referred to as the Six-lane Alternative and the Ten-lane Alternative; both of the Revised Project alternatives include the proposed modifications described above, as well as the other improvements originally proposed as part of the Approved Project analyzed in the Final EIS. The only difference between the two Revised Project alternatives is the number of lanes in the southbound roadway and the corresponding number of southbound inspection booths in the primary vehicular inspection area and vehicular spaces in the secondary inspection area.

The Draft SEIS was made publicly available on September 27, 2013 for a 45-day period. GSA extended the public comment period an additional 17 days, resulting in a total public comment period of 62 days. The public review period closed on November 29, 2013. The Notice of Availability for the SEIS was published in the *Federal Register* on September 27, 2014 and a notice of the extended public review period was published in the *Federal Register* on November 1, 2013. A public meeting took place on November 14, 2013 in the San Ysidro community. In preparing this Final SEIS, GSA considered public comments received regarding the Draft SEIS during the public review period.

After careful consideration of the environmental analysis and associated environmental effects of the action alternatives and No Action Alternative, the needs of federal agencies operating at the San Ysidro LPOE, and comments received on the Draft SEIS, GSA identified the Ten-lane Alternative as the Preferred Alternative. The Ten-lane Alternative would best satisfy the purpose and need of the Revised Project, and would result in greater benefits to operational efficiency at the LPOE, cross-border circulation, and mobility within the Revised Project area compared to the Six-lane Alternative.

A public meeting will be held on June 17, 2014 in the San Ysidro Community at The Front, 147 West San Ysidro Boulevard, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.