



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Region
Provo Area Office
302 East 1860 South
Provo, Utah 84606-7317

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PRO-777
ENV-6.00

SEP 29 2003

To: Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

Subject: Proposed Title Transfer of the Provo Reservoir Canal, 3.79 Acres of Property with Improvements in Pleasant Grove, Utah, and the Salt Lake Aqueduct

The Bureau of Reclamation has been asked to consider transferring title to three of its Provo River Project assets to non-Federal ownership. The proposed action is as follows:

- To transfer title to the Provo Reservoir (Canal) commonly known as Murdock Canal, from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Provo River Water Users Association (PRWUA). PRWUA may subsequently transfer a majority share of the Canal to a joint public agency, yet to be established, comprised of representatives from the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD), Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy (MWDSLs), Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD), and possibly other public entities.
- To transfer title to the PRWUA office complex and 3.79 acres of land from the Bureau of Reclamation to the PRWUA.
- To transfer title to the Salt Lake Aqueduct from the Bureau of Reclamation to the MWDSLs.

The purpose of the proposed action is to transfer title of facilities which could be efficiently managed by non-Federal entities. Reclamation's title transfer process requires consideration of the following six major criteria that have been established to evaluate individual proposals:

1. The Federal Treasury, and thereby the taxpayer's financial interest, must be protected.
2. There must be compliance with all applicable state and Federal laws.
3. Interstate compacts and agreements must be protected.
4. The Secretary of the Interior's Native American trust responsibilities must be met.

5. Treaty obligations and international agreements must be fulfilled.
6. The public aspects of the project must be protected.

Further information on Reclamation's title transfer process is contained in the August 7, 1995, "Framework for the Transfer of Title, Bureau of Reclamation Projects," copies of which are available upon request using the contact information below. Reclamation does not have authorization to transfer title without Congressional action.

Reclamation will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality, and the U.S. Department of the Interior regulations implementing NEPA. This EA will analyze the potential impacts of the proposed action. As required by the NEPA implementing regulations, if potentially significant impacts to the human environment are identified, an environmental impact statement will be prepared. If no significant impacts are identified, the Bureau of Reclamation will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact. Reclamation is the lead agency for NEPA compliance. The Department of Interior, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District are cooperating agencies.

This letter begins the process of preparing that EA. Its purpose is to give notice of the proposed action and to allow interested parties to comment on the scope of analysis for the EA, as well as specific issues that should be analyzed in the EA. This letter is being sent to about 2000 individuals, organizations, or agencies which might have interest in the proposed action, including landowners adjacent to the properties proposed for transfer.

The Provo Reservoir Canal is approximately 22 miles long and begins at the Murdock Diversion at the mouth of Provo Canyon. The Canal runs northwest along the Wasatch foothills to the south end of Salt Lake County near "the Point of the Mountain." The Provo Reservoir Canal is currently operated by the PRWUA under a contract with Reclamation.

The Pleasant Grove Property is composed of 3.79 acres of land, including improvements made by PRWUA at their expense, located at 285 West 1100 North in Pleasant Grove, Utah. This property is currently used by the PRWUA for its maintenance shop and yard, vehicle storage, and office buildings.

The Salt Lake Aqueduct begins at an intake structure located at the base of Deer Creek Dam and is a 51-mile-long, 69-inch diameter pipeline that runs from the intake structure to a 40-million gallon finished water concrete reservoir in Salt Lake City. The Salt Lake Aqueduct is currently operated by MWDSLS under a contract with Reclamation.

The enclosed map shows the locations of the three properties proposed for transfer.

Public open houses will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the following dates:

October 27th: Lone Peak Pavilion, Sandy Parks and Recreation
10140 South 700 East, Sandy, Utah

October 28th: Legacy Center, 123 North Center Street, Lehi, Utah

October 30th: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office
302 East 1860 South, Provo, Utah 84606

The purpose of the open houses is to present background information and answer questions on the proposed action. The open houses will proceed along the following schedule:

- 6:00 p.m. Welcome and introductions by Bureau of Reclamation
- 6:10 p.m. Overview of proposed action by Bureau of Reclamation
- 6:25 p.m. Presentations by applicants (MWDSLs and PRWUA) on their reasons for seeking title to the three properties
- 6:45 p.m. Reclamation and applicants will answer questions from the audience

Exhibits providing additional information on the proposed action will be on display at the open houses. You will have the opportunity to provide written comments on the scope of the EA and issues that should be addressed in the EA, on comment forms available at the open houses. However, you need not attend an open house to submit comments. Comments may be provided to our office until Wednesday, November 26, 2003. Written comments should be addressed to the Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: Tennille Flint, PRO-777, 302 East 1860 South, Provo, Utah 84606-7317. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to tflint@uc.usbr.gov. Information regarding this action will be available at www.usbr.gov/uc/provo.

If you do not intend to submit comments on the scope of the EA but wish to remain on the mailing list to receive future mailings concerning this proposed action, please respond to this letter by mail, e-mail, telephone, or return the enclosed postage paid postcard.

If you need further information, please contact Tennille Flint at 801-379-1288.

Sincerely,



ACTING FOR
Bruce C. Barrett
Area Manager

Enclosures