



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK  
P.O. BOX 129  
GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA 86023-0129



IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18 (GRCA 8217)

APR 7 2009

**Subject:** Public Scoping for design, construction and site location of new Science and Resource Management Facility

**Reference:** Request for Comments on Proposal (General Scoping)

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service (NPS) is in the initial planning stages for the construction and site location of a new facility for the Division of Science and Resource Management (SRM) within Grand Canyon National Park. In addition to providing necessary office and storage space, the building will invite visiting scientists, students and others to utilize classrooms and laboratories, offer training sessions and have some exhibits and opportunities for experiential learning. This cutting-edge facility will utilize alternative energy sources and water conservation technology.

Three sites for a building location are being considered:

- 1) Across from the Ranger Operations building, adjacent to the U. S. Magistrate's Office
- 2) Location of old service station across from NPS Headquarters
- 3) Within the existing maintenance compound

Design criteria for new building and site selection includes the following considerations:

- 1) Garage bays for supplies and for overnight parking of boats for river trips
- 2) Adequate storage and office space to accommodate all employees currently housed in the McKee, Dutton, and Powell buildings
- 3) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification eligibility

For the past five years, SRM staff has been working out of three buildings, two of which are warehouse and shop buildings vacated by the Facility Maintenance Division. One of these buildings requires extensive roof repair or replacement, as well as replacement of the heating system and boiler; neither of these buildings functions well for the office and operational needs of the SRM staff.

The NPS encourages public participation through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process during which the public has two opportunities to formally comment on the project – once during initial project scoping and again following release of the Environmental Assessment (EA). The NPS is currently in the scoping phase of this project and invites the public to submit their comments.



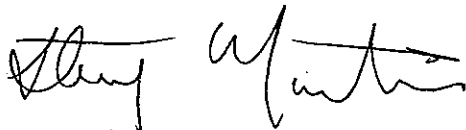
Current information about this project can be found on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca> or by contacting Denice Swanke, Project Planning Leader, at 928-774-2407. Comments will be accepted for 30 days and should be either posted at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca> or mailed to:

Grand Canyon National Park  
Office of Planning and Compliance  
Attention: SRM Building  
P.O. Box 129  
(1 Village Loop for express mail)  
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023

The comment deadline date for the scoping phase is May 6, 2009. The park expects to prepare an EA this summer, with a decision document for this project anticipated in December of 2009. Before including your address, telephone number, e-mail 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 request in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will make all submissions from organizations, businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public inspection in their entirety.

We appreciate your input on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "M".

Steve Martin  
Superintendent