



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

10 Organ Pipe Drive
Ajo, Arizona 85321



H4217

November 25, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service is planning to construct two new office buildings, relocate and expand the capacity of the administrative/housing area's septic system and leach field, relocate the park's plant nursery, and restore three housing units currently being used for office space at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The new buildings would be located in previously disturbed areas adjacent to the existing maintenance facilities. There would be ground disturbing activities associated with construction of new buildings and relocation of the septic system. The new buildings are needed to provide adequate work space for law enforcement and resource management personnel. There is also a shortage of park housing and the new buildings would allow for the restoration of three buildings back to housing units. The existing septic system is currently failing and the proposed relocation and expansion would accommodate current and future needs and meet sewage disposal regulations.

Some of the actions we anticipate including in this project are:

1. Construct a 14,000 square foot law enforcement operations center to provide adequate space and facilities for their operations.
2. Construct a resource management building (approximately 4,000 square feet) to consolidate resource offices into one building with adequate work space and facilities for staff.
3. Relocate and upgrade the septic system leach field closer to the existing maintenance area to provide adequate capacity for current and future needs.
4. Provide parking for approximately 30 vehicles adjacent to the new buildings.
5. Relocate the existing plant nursery to an appropriate site within the park's administrative area.
6. Connect the new facilities to existing utilities.
7. Restore three buildings being used as offices back into housing units.

An Environmental Assessment will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates issues and impacts to park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measure to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

The park encourages public participation throughout the planning process. There will be two opportunities to comment formally on the project; once during this initial project scoping and again following release of the Environmental Assessment. The park is currently in the scoping phase of this proposed project, and invites the public to submit written suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the proposed project online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/orpi>.

If you are not able to submit comments electronically through this website, you may submit written comments to the park's address shown above. Please provide comments by December 10, 2009. These

comments will be considered during preparation of the Environmental Assessment. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lee Baiza
Superintendent