

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

October 11, 2019.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Comments are requested regarding: Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by November 18, 2019 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725—17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: *OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV* or fax (202) 395–5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250–7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720–8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: New Equipment Contract (Form 395) for Telecommunications and Broadband Borrowers.

OMB Control Number: 0572–0149.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Electrification Act of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, as amended (RE Act), in Title I,

sec. 2, The Administrator is authorized and empowered to make loans in the States and Territories of the United States for rural electrification and the furnishing of electric energy to persons in rural areas who are not receiving central station service, and for the purpose of furnishing and improving telephone service in rural areas, as hereinafter provided; to make or cause to be made, studies, investigations, and reports concerning the condition and progress of the electrification of and the furnishing of adequate telephone service in rural areas in the several States and Territories; and to publish and disseminate information with respect thereto.

Need and Use of the Information: In an effort to improve customer service provided to RUS rural borrowers, the Agency has proposed to revise, consolidate, and/or streamline its current contracts and contracting procedures. In this activity RUS has and will continue to work with industry groups to obtain their input as to what types of changes they and borrowers may want to see made to the contracts.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 51.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 161.

Kimble Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

October 10, 2019.

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appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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Rural Utilities Service

Title: Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households Program (SEARCH).

OMB Control Number: 0572–0146.

Summary of Collection: The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110–234 (Farm Bill) amended Section 306(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)). The amendment created a grant program to make Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) Program grants.

Under the SEARCH program, the Secretary may make predevelopment and planning grants to public or quasi-public agencies, organizations operated on a not-for-profit basis or Indian tribes on Federal and State reservations and other federally recognized Indian tribes. The grant recipients use the grant funds for feasibility studies, design assistance, and technical assistance for direct loans, grants and guaranteed loans, to financially distress communities in rural areas with populations of 2,500 or fewer inhabitants for water and waste disposal projects as authorized in Sections 306(a)(1), 306(a)(2) and 306(a)(24) of the CONACT.

Need and Use of the Information: Applicants applying for SEARCH grants

must submit an application which includes an application form, various other forms, certifications, and supplemental information. Rural Utility Service will use the information collected from applicants, borrowers, and consultants to determine applicant eligibility, project feasibility, and the applicant's ability to meet the grant and regulatory requirements.

Failure to collect proper information could result in improper determinations of eligibility, improper use of funds, or hindrances in making grants authorized by the SEARCH program.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit Institutions and State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 111.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 3,380.

Kimble Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2019-22560 Filed 10-16-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2018-0073]

Decision To Authorize the Importation of Fresh Guava From Taiwan Into the Continental United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our decision to authorize the importation of fresh guava fruit from Taiwan into the continental United States. Based on the findings of the pest risk analysis, which we made available to the public to review and comment through a previous notice, we have concluded that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of fresh guava fruit from Taiwan.

DATES: The articles covered by this notification may be authorized for importation after October 17, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Tony Román, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 851-2242.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the regulations in “Subpart L—Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–12, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into and spread within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 of the regulations contains a notice-based process based on established performance standards for authorizing the importation of fruits and vegetables. The performance standards, known as designated phytosanitary measures, are listed in paragraph (b) of that section. Under the process, APHIS proposes to authorize the importation of a fruit or vegetable into the United States if, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, we determine that the measures can mitigate the plant pest risk associated with the importation of that fruit or vegetable. APHIS then publishes a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of that fruit or vegetable.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice¹ in the **Federal Register** on December 14, 2018 (83 FR 64314–64315, Docket No. APHIS-2018-0073), in which we announced the availability, for review and comment, of a pest risk assessment (PRA) that evaluated the risks associated with the importation into the continental United States of fresh guava fruit from Taiwan and a risk management document (RMD) prepared to identify phytosanitary measures that could be applied to the commodity to mitigate the pest risk.

We solicited comments on the PRA and RMD for 60 days ending on February 12, 2019. We received five comments by that date. They were from private citizens, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

One of the commenters expressed general support for the importation of guava from Taiwan into the United States, while another expressed general opposition to the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States. The other three commenters provided

comments regarding the notice and its supporting documentation. Below, we discuss these comments, by topic.

Comments on the Pest Risk Assessment

The PRA contained a pest list of pests associated with guava and known to occur in Taiwan. The PRA identified 23² pests as being of quarantine significance and likely to follow the pathway on guava from Taiwan, and therefore possible candidates for risk mitigation.

CDFA stated that, in addition to the 23 pests identified as being of quarantine significance, there were another 12 pests listed on the pest list that were rated as either an “A” pest or “B” pest according to CDFA’s pest rating system: *Aleurodicus dispersus*, *Ceroplastes floridensis*, *Coccus viridis*, *Ferrisia virgata*, *Kilifia acuminata*, *Milviscutulus mangiferae*, *Paracoccus marginatus*, *Planococcus minor*, *Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi*, *Pulvinaria psidii*, *Rusellapsis pustulanus*, and *Selenothrips rubrocinctus*. Under CDFA’s rating system, a pest given an “A” rating is a plant pest of known economic importance subject to a State of California-enforced action that involves eradication, quarantine regulation, containment, rejection, or other holding action. A pest given a “B” rating is a pest of known economic importance subject to eradication, containment, control, or other holding action at the discretion of the individual county agricultural commissioner within the State of California.³ The commenter stated that mitigations should be developed for these pests as well.

In § 319.56–4 of the regulations, paragraph (c) provides that if a fruit or vegetable is not authorized importation into the United States, APHIS will not authorize its importation until we examine the pest risk associated with its importation and determine that the risk posed by each quarantine pest associated with the importation of the commodity can reasonably be mitigated by the application of one or more mitigation measures. Additionally, consistent with international standards to which the United States is a signatory,⁴ the regulations define a *quarantine pest* as: “A pest of potential

² Due to a typographical error, the PRA erroneously stated that 24 pests had been identified, although only 23 were listed; the RMD correctly stated that only 23 had been identified. This notice will use the latter number.

³ For further information, see https://ucanr.edu/sites/plantpest/Regulatory_Information/Pest_Ratings/.

⁴ See https://www.ippc.int/largefiles/adopted_ISPMs_previousversions/en/ISPM_05_2007_En_2007-07-26.pdf.

¹ To view the notice, PRA, RMD, supporting documents, and the comments that we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS-2018-0073>.