



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the General Counsel
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-1400

May 24, 2021

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Austin R. Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, District of Columbia 20005
Email: foia@americanoversight.org

Ricardo J. Salvador
Union of Concerned Scientists
1825 K Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, District of Columbia 20006

**Re: Supplemental Response to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests
2020-DA-02836-F, 2020-REE-03063-F, 2020-DA-02838-F, and 2020-DA-02842-F**

Dear Mr. Evers and Mr. Salvador:

This is the Office of Information Affairs (OIA), FOIA Division's **supplemental response** to the above referenced FOIA requests. This correspondence also responds to the matter of *American Oversight, et al. v. U.S. Department of Agriculture, et al.*, Civil Action No. 20-1259-EGS, currently pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

The pending Complaint in the above-referenced matter is based on USDA's alleged failure to comply with the applicable time-limit provisions of the FOIA in response to American Oversight (AO) and the Union of Concerned Scientist's (UCS) aforementioned requests.

The OIA has rereviewed the redactions made on the bates pages listed on the document entitled "+Litigation Follow Up Items for Agencies (Final)," sent by AO and the UCS and enclosed herein. Upon secondary review, the OIA has made some discretionary releases in each request.

Notwithstanding these discretionary releases, the OIA has determined that certain information should continue to be withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5) and (b)(6) (FOIA Exemptions 5 and Exemption 6). Below are explanations of the information that the OIA is continuing to withhold.

Application of 5 U.S.C §552(b)(5) "FOIA Exemption 5"

FOIA Exemption 5 protects from disclosure those "inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency." 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(5). This language is construed to protect records that are normally privileged in the civil discovery context, including through the deliberative process privilege and the attorney-client privilege. As an initial matter, the information withheld meets the threshold requirement because it is contained in internal emails sent between federal

employees. Where possible, the OIA has determined to make discretionary releases of information that fall within the protection of Exemption 5.

In this instance, the OIA is continuing to withhold, under the deliberative process privilege, pre-decisional, inter- and intra-agency discussions on future agency decisions and actions with regard to the Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) relocation. By withholding this information, the OIA is protecting the integrity of the agency's decision-making process and ensuring no inhibition of free and frank exchange between agency personnel. The OIA is also ensuring against the premature disclosure of proposed policy, which could if released, cause confusion to the public regarding the agency's policy positions.

The OIA is also continuing to withhold information under the attorney-client privilege. This privilege protects confidential communication between an attorney and his/her client relating to a legal matter for which the client has sought professional advice. Although this privilege fundamentally applies to facts divulged by a client to his/her attorney, this privilege also encompasses any opinion given by an attorney to his/her client based upon those facts, as well as communications between attorneys that reflect client supplied information. In this instance, the FOIA Division is withholding information that would reveal substantive content of communications and documents between clients and their counsel.

Further, the OIA is continuing to withhold information under attorney work-product. This privilege protects materials prepared by an attorney or others in anticipation of litigation by shielding materials which would disclose the attorney's theory of the case or trial strategy. The privilege is available once specific claims have been identified that make litigation probable. The materials that have been withheld under the attorney work-product privilege were prepared by or for a Department attorney in reasonable anticipation of litigation and reflect the parties' pre-litigation thoughts, comments, and evaluation of matters related to the ERS and NIFA relocation. We conclude that the withheld materials are protected in full from disclosure by the attorney work-product privilege of Exemption 5.

Application of 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) "FOIA Exemption 6"

FOIA Exemption 6 permits the government to withhold information regarding individuals in "personnel, medical and similar files" when the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and where such privacy interests outweigh any public interest that would be advanced by disclosure. For purposes of the FOIA, the public interest is advanced when disclosure of the requested information educates the public about the activities of the government.

The OIA has released some of the previously withheld Exemption 6 redactions pertaining to former USDA officials and employees as there is no longer a privacy interest that needs to be protected. The information continuing to be withheld under Exemption 6 consists of unpublished business contact information, individuals' personal reflections, references to medical appointments, and personal information. This information qualifies as "similar files" because it is information in which individuals have a privacy interest. The release of unpublished business

contact information could subject individuals to unwarranted or unsolicited communications. Although the remaining information withheld would not likely result in unsolicited communications, the information is of a private nature and its release does not shed light on governmental operations. Because there are viable privacy interests that would be threatened by disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes this office to withhold the information. Accordingly, the FOIA Division has determined that the public interest in the information's release does not outweigh the overriding privacy interests in keeping it confidential.

In light of the matter *American Oversight, et al. v. U.S. Department of Agriculture, et al.*, Civil Action No. 20-1259-EGS, currently pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, administrative appeal rights are not being provided in this supplemental response letter.

If you have any questions or concerns about this supplemental response or the pending civil action, please contact John Truong, Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice at John.Truong@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,



Alexis R. Graves
Director
Office of Information Affairs

Enclosures: +Litigation Follow Up Items for Agencies (Final)
2020-DA-02836-F DFO First Interim Response_August 20, 2020 (47 pages)
2020-DA-02838-F DFO Second Interim_July 27, 2020, Third Interim_January
29, 2021, and Final Response_February 28, 2021 (70 pages)
2020-DA-02842-F DFO First Interim Response_August 31, 2021 (49 pages)
2020-REE-03063-F REE Second Interim Response_September 25, 2020 (29
pages)

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 7:12 PM

To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC; Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC

Subject: draft docs for STL project

Attachments: USDA-internal_ERS_06292018_7pm.docx; Congressional Notification 180 days_06292018_7pm.docx; OMB one pager --- Economics at USDA_06292018_7pm.docx; Secretary Memorandum_Economics at USDA_06292018_7pm.docx; Expression of Interest-ERS_06292018_7pm.docx; Rollout Plan Economics at USDA_06292018_7pm.docx

Attachments 1-2 & 4-6 (18 pages total) are non-responsive.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hi All,

I am working off the docs from the FPAC realignment. I added one to include outreach to OMB on this as well. Comments welcome. Don, how does this align with the progress for NIFA package?

Rob



Robert Johansson, Chief Economist
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Whitten Building, Room 112-A
Washington, DC 20250-3810
☎ 202-720-4164 & 202-720-5955
🌐 <https://www.usda.gov/OCE/>

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 8:35 AM

To: CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC; Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC

CC: Beach, Allie - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: reorgs

Attachments: Rollout Plan Economics at USDA_06292018_7pm.docx; Expression of Interest-ERS_06292018_7pm.docx; Secretary Memorandum_Economics at USDA_06292018_7pm.docx; USDA-internal_ERS_06292018_7pm.docx; Congressional Notification 180 days_06292018_7pm.docx; OMB one pager --- Economics at USDA_06292018_7pm.docx **Attachments 1-5 (18 pages total) are non-responsive. Attachment 6 (2 pages) is withheld as a duplicate of Bates Nos. 0002-0003. (Bates Nos. 0006-0007).**

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Thanks. I think that makes sense. I tentatively scheduled a meeting with Kristi and Don for Thursday at 11am, but can adjust if there is a better day/time.

I also forwarded draft documents last week that we would need to have in place:

- Sec memo
- Congressional notification
- Internal staff memo
- Roll-out strategy
- OMB discussion paper
- Notification of location bid

I'll reattach those here for our discussion.

Cheers,

Rob

From: CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 8:12 AM

To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>; Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC <Brooke.Appleton@osec.usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov>; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: Beach, Allie - OSEC, Washington, DC <Allison.Beach@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: reorgs

Predecisional/Deliberative

Rob,

(b)(5) DPP

Probably makes sense for us all to compare notes on this and reach a definite conclusion/recommendation.

Allie, can you try to schedule a 30 minute meeting?

Thanks and best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office 202-20-6052

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2018 10:00 AM
To: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC <Brooke.Appleton@osec.usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov>; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>
Cc: CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC <SLC1@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: reorgs

Hi All,

When first discussed OSEC was interested in combining several re-org proposals, particularly NIFA and ERS and potentially some others.

Thought was that when briefings on the Hill were held, it would be easier to brief on several items at the same time like we did with RD and FPAC and NRE last time.

(b)(5) DPP

Can we meet this week to discuss?

Rob



Robert Johansson, Chief Economist
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Whitten Building, Room 112-A
Washington, DC 20250-3810
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🌐 <https://www.usda.gov/OCE/>

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 8:53 AM

To: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: NIFA

Attachments: Secretary Memorandum_Economics at USDA_007052018_230pm.docx; Expression of Interest-ERS_07052018_230pm.docx; Congressional Notification 180 days_07052018_230pm.docx; OMB one pager --- Economics at USDA_07052018_230pm.docx; USDA-internal_ERS_07052018_230pm.docx; Rollout Plan Economics at USDA_07052018_230pm.docx

Attachments 1-3 & 5-6 (18 pages total) are non-responsive.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Here's the updated docs I have for ERS. DSec had some comments.

If you all have any suggestions before next week, let me know.

I assume we'll need some sort of 1010 package with Org Chart and staff list and #'s.

Do you have a template for that?

Also, can we (b)(5) DPP ? If we (b)(5) DPP

Thx.

Rob

From: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 8:46 AM

To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: NIFA

(b)(5) DPP . Attached is what we have so far:

1. One page summary I talked the Deputy and Secretary through;
2. Draft of a congressional notification/report requested as part of the 2018 omnibus on the use of the \$6 million appropriated; and
3. The Draft expression of interest that would be published in the Federal Register.

I shared a template for a rollout timeline with NIFA and they were working on that.

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 5:16 PM

To: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: NIFA

FYI/ I spoke with someone at BEA today who heard that NIFA was getting moved. USDA-20-0426-D-000005

0008

Is that already public? Do you have any of those rollout materials I could use for the briefing docs on ERS?

Thx,

Rob



Robert Johansson, Chief Economist
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Whitten Building, Room 112-A
Washington, DC 20250-3810
☎ 202-720-4164 & 202-720-5955
🌐 <https://www.usda.gov/OCE/>

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 10:44 PM

To: CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC; Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC; Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: docs for tomorrow morning

Attachments: OMB one pager --- Economics at USDA_07092018_9pm.docx; Expression of Interest-ERS_07092018_9pm.docx; Secretary Memorandum_Economics at USDA_07092018_9pm.docx; USDA-internal_ERS_07092018_9pm.docx; Rollout Plan Economics at USDA_07092018_10pm.docx; Congressional Notification 180 days_07092018_11pm.docx

Attachments 2-6 (19 pages total) are non-responsive.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hi All,

These incorporate comments received from DSec Censky. If you have suggestions or edits, let me know and I'll continue to hone these docs.

The main question at this point is whether this effort remains on a track to go with NIFA, or if not, what is the timeline for ERS realignment and relocation.

I asked Campbell to schedule some time with the Secretary next Monday to brief him on this progress.

Thx,

Rob

Robert Johansson, Chief Economist
US Department of Agriculture
Whitten Building 112a
Washington DC, 20250
202-720-5955 / <http://www.usda.gov/oce>

From: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 4:29 PM

To: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC

CC: Briscoe, Johanna - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: NIFA/ERS Rollout

Attachments: Rollout Plan Relocation and Economics at USDA.docx; OMB one pagerERS.NIFA.docx; Expression of InterestNIFAandERS.docx; NIFAERSreorgrelocation.docx

Attachments 1, 3, & 4 (15 pages total) are non-responsive.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Attached are draft documents for review. These include: draft rollout plan; OMB one pager with rationale and savings calculations; Federal Register notice requesting submissions from interested parties; and Congressional notification letter.

(b)(5) DPP

Check me that I didn't screw up your logic too much.

Don

From: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC

Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2018 2:27 PM

To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: Briscoe, Johanna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Johanna.Briscoe@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: NIFA/ERS Rollout

Deliberative/Pre-decisional

All,

(b)(5) DPP

Don, can you send the draft around to this group by COB Thursday as we discussed?

Thanks all!

Brooke

From: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 1:40 PM
To: Johansson, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Meet with OMB
Attachments: OMB one pager ERS.NIFA FINAL (OBPA)response.docx;
 NIFAERSreorgrelocationCongressionalnotification.docx

Attachment 2 (3 pages) is non-responsive.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

I've added responses to OBPA questions. (b)(5) DPP, (b)(6) . (b)(5) DPP

Are you OK with me pushing back on these comments?

Don

-----Original Message-----

From: Zehren, Chris - OBPA, Washington, DC
 Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 12:20 PM
 To: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>
 Cc: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC
 <Erica.Navarro@obpa.usda.gov>; Jones, Diem-Linh - OBPA, Washington, DC <Diem-Linh.Jones@obpa.usda.gov>
 Subject: RE: Meet with OMB

See attached.

Chris Z.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC
 Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 8:28 AM
 To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC
 <Erica.Navarro@obpa.usda.gov>
 Cc: YOUNG, BENJAMIN, JR. - OGC <BENJAMIN.YOUNG@OGC.USDA.GOV>; Zehren, Chris - OBPA, Washington, DC
 <Chris.Zehren@obpa.usda.gov>; Briscoe, Johanna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Johanna.Briscoe@osec.usda.gov>
 Subject: RE: Meet with OMB

(b)(5) DPP

-----Original Message-----

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE
 Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 8:22 AM
 To: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <Erica.Navarro@obpa.usda.gov>; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC
 <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>
 Cc: YOUNG, BENJAMIN, JR. - OGC <BENJAMIN.YOUNG@OGC.USDA.GOV>; Zehren, Chris - OBPA, Washington, DC
 <Chris.Zehren@obpa.usda.gov>
 Subject: RE: Meet with OMB

Sounds good.

Chris can you schedule soon? I am running out of availability.

Don's schedule look tight --- maybe late in the day?

-----Original Message-----

From: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC

USDA-20-0426-D-000009

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 7:55 AM

To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: YOUNG, BENJAMIN, JR. - OGC <BENJAMIN.YOUNG@OGC.USDA.GOV>; Zehren, Chris - OBPA, Washington, DC <Chris.Zehren@obpa.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Meet with OMB

Hi Rob

Yes, we have comments. Chris was planning on setting something up for Wed. (b)(5) DPP . Does that work? Thanks, Erica

-----Original Message-----

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 6:37 AM

To: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: YOUNG, BENJAMIN, JR. - OGC <BENJAMIN.YOUNG@OGC.USDA.GOV>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <Erica.Navarro@obpa.usda.gov>

Subject: Meet with OMB

Hi All, Don and I are going to set up a call with OMB this week to discuss the reorg and realignment plans for NIFA and ERS. Did you have any comments on those plans before we set up the call?

Thanks Rob

Sent from my iPhone

From: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 1:44 PM

To: Zehren, Chris - OBPA, Washington, DC

CC: Johansson, Robert - OCE; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC; Jones, Diem-Linh - OBPA, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: Meet with OMB

Attachments: OMB one pager ERS.NIFA FINAL (OBPA)response.docx;

NIFAERSreorgrelocationCongressionalnotification.docx; Expression of Interest NIFAandERS.docx

Attachments 2-3 (9 pages total) are non-responsive. Attachment 1 (3 pages) is

Follow Up Flag: Follow up withheld as a duplicate of Bates Nos. 0032-0034. (Bates Nos. 0037-0039).

Flag Status: Flagged

I've incorporated edits where I could. (b)(5) DPP

. If you (b)(5) DPP

-----Original Message-----

From: Zehren, Chris - OBPA, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 12:20 PM

To: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC

<Erica.Navarro@obpa.usda.gov>; Jones, Diem-Linh - OBPA, Washington, DC <Diem-Linh.Jones@obpa.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Meet with OMB

See attached.

Chris Z.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 8:28 AM

To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC

<Erica.Navarro@obpa.usda.gov>

Cc: YOUNG, BENJAMIN, JR. - OGC <BENJAMIN.YOUNG@OGC.USDA.GOV>; Zehren, Chris - OBPA, Washington, DC

<Chris.Zehren@obpa.usda.gov>; Briscoe, Johanna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Johanna.Briscoe@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Meet with OMB

(b)(5) DPP

-----Original Message-----

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 8:22 AM

To: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <Erica.Navarro@obpa.usda.gov>; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC

<Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: YOUNG, BENJAMIN, JR. - OGC <BENJAMIN.YOUNG@OGC.USDA.GOV>; Zehren, Chris - OBPA, Washington, DC

<Chris.Zehren@obpa.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Meet with OMB

Sounds good.

Chris can you schedule soon? I am running out of availability.

Don's schedule look tight --- maybe late in the day?

-----Original Message-----

From: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC

USDA-20-0426-D-000011

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 7:55 AM

To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: YOUNG, BENJAMIN, JR. - OGC <BENJAMIN.YOUNG@OGC.USDA.GOV>; Zehren, Chris - OBPA, Washington, DC <Chris.Zehren@obpa.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Meet with OMB

Hi Rob

Yes, we have comments. Chris was planning on setting something up for Wed. (b)(5) DPP . Does that work? Thanks, Erica

-----Original Message-----

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 6:37 AM

To: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: YOUNG, BENJAMIN, JR. - OGC <BENJAMIN.YOUNG@OGC.USDA.GOV>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <Erica.Navarro@obpa.usda.gov>

Subject: Meet with OMB

Hi All, Don and I are going to set up a call with OMB this week to discuss the reorg and realignment plans for NIFA and ERS. Did you have any comments on those plans before we set up the call?

Thanks Rob

Sent from my iPhone

From: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 10:57 AM
To: Esch, Michele - ARS
Subject: FW: Relocation and Realignment
Attachments: OMB one pagerERS.NIFA FINAL (002).docx;
 NIFAERSreorgrelocationCongressionalnotification.docx; Expression of InterestNIFAandERS.docx
Attachments 2-3 (10 pages total) are non-responsive.
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Happy to get comments from you and/or Chavonda on these as well.

From: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 10:18 AM
To: Vaden, Stephen - OGC <Stephen.Vaden@ogc.usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <Erica.Navarro@obpa.usda.gov>
Cc: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC <Brooke.Appleton@osec.usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@osec.usda.gov>; Esch, Michele - ARS <Michele.Esch@ARS.USDA.GOV>; YOUNG, BENJAMIN, JR. - OGC <BENJAMIN.YOUNG@OGC.USDA.GOV>; Zehren, Chris - OBPA, Washington, DC <Chris.Zehren@obpa.usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Relocation and Realignment

(b)(5) DPP

. Files include: Info for OMB discussion; Congressional notification; and expression of interest.

From: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 10:18 AM
To: Vaden, Stephen - OGC <Stephen.Vaden@ogc.usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <Erica.Navarro@obpa.usda.gov>
Cc: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC <Brooke.Appleton@osec.usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@osec.usda.gov>; Esch, Michele - ARS <Michele.Esch@ARS.USDA.GOV>
Subject: Relocation and Realignment

Attached are documents related to a reorganization and relocation rollout that is planned for the first week in August. The documents include: 1) an expression of interest that would be published in the federal register seeking proposals to host the headquarters of two of our agencies outside the NCR; 2) Congressional notification of the relocation solicitation and a realignment; 3) a rollout plan with talking points; and 4) a summary document we intend to share with OMB staff which includes justifications and cost/savings estimates.

These are all obviously very close hold at this point so please limit distribution to only those who need to provide the necessary feedback. We would appreciate your review and comment on these documents by early next week.

Thanks!

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 11:37 AM

To: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC

CC: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: ERS/NIFA Roll Out

Attachments: OMB one pagerERS.NIFA FINAL (002).docx;

NIFAERSreorgrelocationCongressionalnotification.docx; Expression of InterestNIFAandERS.DOCX; NIFA stakeholders; USDA-internal_ERS_07302018_4pm.docx; Rolloutplanstreamlined FINAL FINAL 7-31-18.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up **Attachments 2-6 (21 pages total) are non-responsive. Attachment 1 (3 pages) is withheld as a duplicate of Bates Nos. 0041-0043. (Bates Nos. 0045-0047).**
Flag Status: Flagged

All –

Thanks for this morning's meeting. I've attached all relevant documents that I have to date. I also updated the rollout from our discussion. I have looped in Don Bice as well, who also can assist in getting additional information you may need. Rob/Don are working on Q&A and Talking Points.

Don – so you are aware OC needs more talking on NIFA. Please work with Tim/Rob. Also, Brooke I'll work with Michele to have us circle with CJY.

Thanks!
Kristi



Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: 202.281.5695

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 3:25 PM

To: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: FW: reorg and realignment

Attachments: NIFAERSreorgrelocationCongressionalnotification.docx; OMB one pagerERS.NIFA_08022018.docx

Attachment 1 (3 pages) is non-responsive.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

All,

To summarize our meeting with OMB staff ---

- (b)(5) DPP, (b)(6) [REDACTED]
- (b)(5) DPP [REDACTED]
- (b)(5) DPP [REDACTED]
- (b)(5) DPP, (b)(6) [REDACTED]
- (b)(5) DPP, (b)(6) [REDACTED]
- (b)(5) DPP [REDACTED]

(b)(5) DPP [REDACTED]

Don, did I miss anything?

Rob

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 3:16 PM

To: Herz, James P. EOP/OMB <James.P.Herz@omb.eop.gov>

Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov>; Adrienne_C._Erbach@omb.eop.gov

Subject: reorg and realignment

Hi Jim,

Just wanted to give you a heads up that you will likely be hearing from your staff today regarding a relocation and realignment of ERS and relocation of NIFA.

They just received the docs I am sending you and they didn't have a lot of time to digest before the call we had this afternoon.

This proposal lines up with the Administration's desire to save budget and to move govt out of DC back closer to stakeholders --- this plan does that.

Further the realignment of ERS will help focus economic analysis on the Administration's priority areas.

The D/Sec discussed this with Margaret Weichert last week, so you may already be aware.

We plan to notify Congress and staff next week --- in general this has been very close hold for obvious reasons.

If you want to get on the line to discuss with me or others let us know.

CC'ing Kristi Boswell on this as the lead POC in the Secretary's office.

Cheers,

Rob



Robert Johansson, Chief Economist

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Whitten Building, Room 112-A

Washington, DC 20250-3810

☎ 202-720-4164 & 202-720-5955

🌐 <https://www.usda.gov/OCE/>

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 5:42 PM

To: Zehren, Chris - OBPA, Washington, DC; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC; Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Jones, Diem-Linh - OBPA, Washington, DC

Subject: FW: reorg and realignment

Attachments: NIFAERSreorgrelocationCongressionalnotification.docx; OMB one

pagerERS.NIFA_08022018.docx **Attachment 1 (3 pages) is non-responsive. Attachment 2 (3 pages) is withheld as a duplicate of Bates Nos. 0060-0062. (Bates Nos. 0065-0067).**

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Erica, Chris, and Diem-Linh;

(b)(5) DPP

Thanks,
Rob

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 3:16 PM

To: Herz, James P. EOP/OMB <James.P.Herz@omb.eop.gov>

Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov>; Adrienne_C._Erbach@omb.eop.gov

Subject: reorg and realignment

Hi Jim,

Just wanted to give you a heads up that you will likely be hearing from your staff today regarding a relocation and realignment of ERS and relocation of NIFA.

They just received the docs I am sending you and they didn't have a lot of time to digest before the call we had this afternoon.

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We plan to notify Congress and staff next week --- in general this has been very close hold for obvious reasons.

If you want to get on the line to discuss with me or others let us know.

CC'ing Kristi Boswell on this as the lead POC in the Secretary's office.

Cheers,

Rob

From: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 11:10 AM

To: Johansson, Robert - OCE; Preston, Warren - OCE

Subject: RE: any more edits to this for OMB conversation?

Attachments: Expression of InterestNIFAandERS.docx; OMB one pagerERS.NIFA FINAL8.1.docx; NIFAERSreorgrelocationCongressionalnotification.docx

Attachments 1 & 3 (9 pages total) are non-responsive.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

No but these are the latest I have for the: expression of interest; one pager; and congressional notification letter. OMB should get the last two. They'll need to clear the notification letter.

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 11:08 AM

To: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>; Preston, Warren - OCE <wpreston@oce.usda.gov>

Subject: any more edits to this for OMB conversation?

Rob



Robert Johansson, Chief Economist
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Whitten Building, Room 112-A
Washington, DC 20250-3810
☎ 202-720-4164 & 202-720-5955
🌐 <https://www.usda.gov/OCE/>



Informational Memorandum regarding the Realignment of the Economic Research Service (ERS) and Relocation of ERS and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture Outside the National Capital Region

(b)(5) DPP

CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT – DELIBERATIVE AND PRE- DECISIONAL
JULY 30, 2018

(b)(5) DPP



CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT – DELIBERATIVE AND PRE- DECISIONAL
JULY 30, 2018

(b)(5) DPP

From: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 2:47 PM

To: Johansson, Robert - OCE; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC

Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Relocation and Realign

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

(b)(5) DPP

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 1:20 PM

To: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov>; Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC <Brooke.Appleton@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: FW: ERS/NIFA Relocation and Realign

Hi All,

Please see note below. (b)(5) DPP ?

(b)(5) DPP

(b)(5) DPP, (b)(6)

Brooke and Kristi, how do you want to proceed?

Rob

From: Stein, Nora H. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 1:12 PM
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>
Cc: Saunders, Ruth D. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>
Subject: FW: ERS/NIFA Relocation and Realign

(b)(5) DPP

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 10:08 AM
To: Herz, James P. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>
Cc: Stein, Nora H. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Saunders, Ruth D. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>
Subject: ERS/NIFA Relocation and Realign

Jim,

Good morning, please see below USDA responses to your staff questions. As you recall, the Secretary has approved the attached timeline that has him calling up to the Hill tomorrow. I believe we have thoroughly answered the concerns and need to get this wrapped up today to stay with the Secretary's timeline. I appreciate you and your staff's attention to this matter.

Thanks,



Kristi J. Boswell
 Senior Advisor to the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
 Office: 202.720.9990
 Cell: (b)(6)

From: Stein, Nora H. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, August 6, 2018 3:13 PM
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>
Cc: Saunders, Ruth D. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC

USDA-20-0426-D-000023

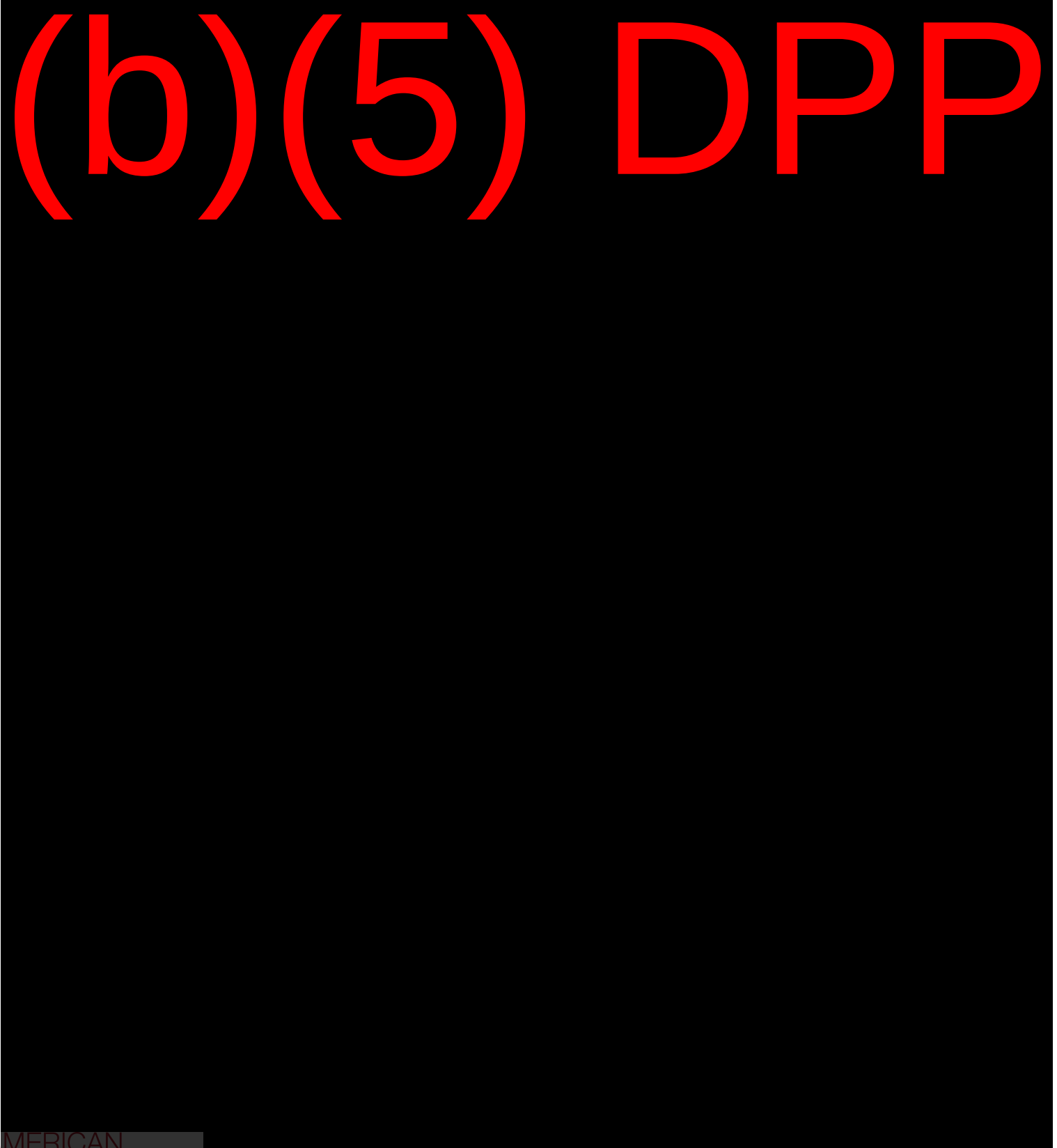
<Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: relocation/realign

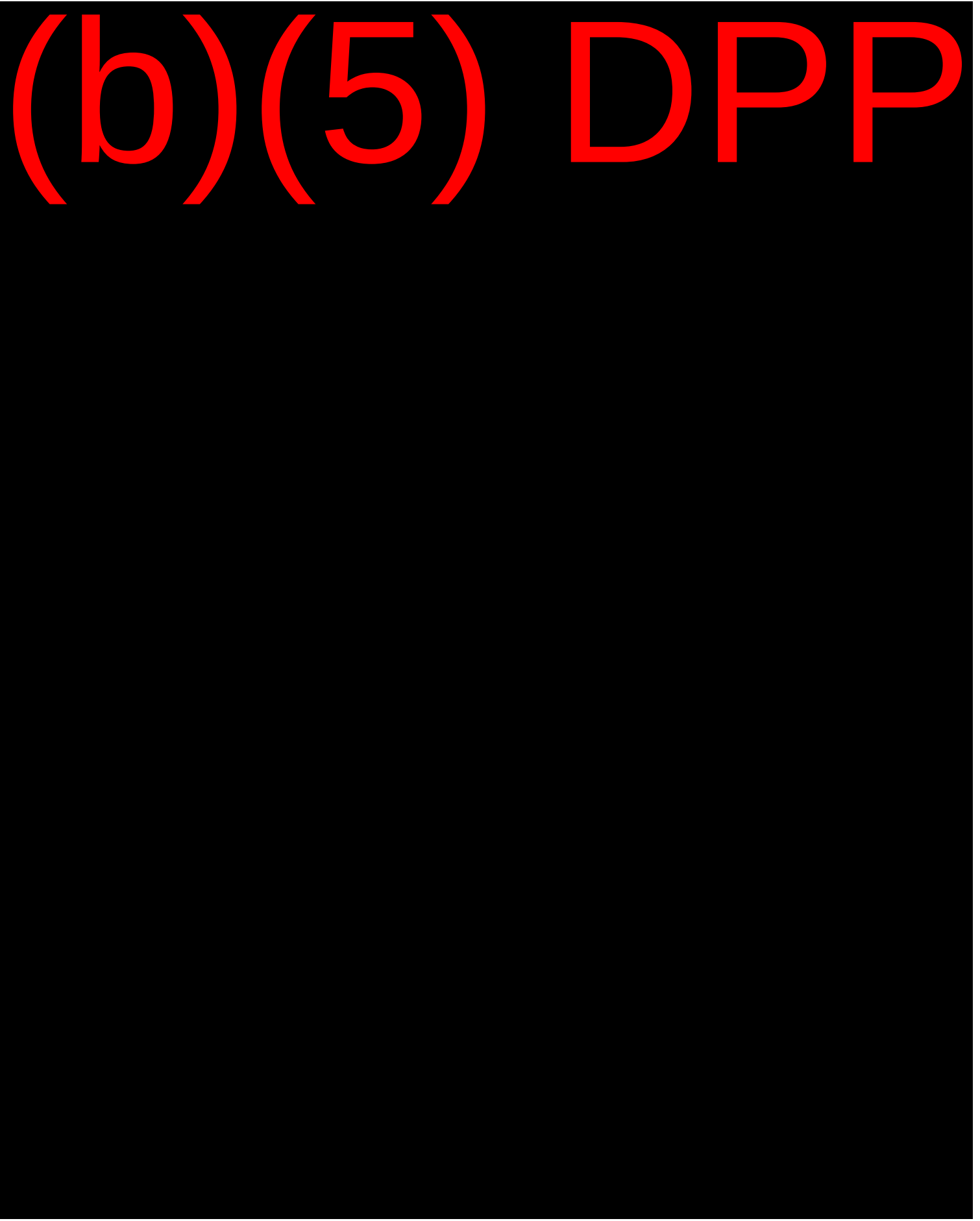
Rob—thanks for working with us on this proposal. We discussed the proposal with the GSA Examiner and have some additional questions (below and attached).

Please also provide us with a copy of the 'Expressions of Interest' that USDA plans to release as soon as possible.

(b)(5) DPP



(b)(5) DPP



(b)(5) DPP

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From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 4:47 PM
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC
CC: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC
Subject: FW: ERS/NIFA Relocation and Realign

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Just an FYI.

Kristi J. Boswell

Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: 202.281.5695

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 4:47 PM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)> James P. Herz, Nora Stein, and Ruth D. Saunders
Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)>; Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC <Brooke.Appleton@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: ERS/NIFA Relocation and Realign

Jim,

I wanted to touch base on the following to find out where this is in the OMB clearance process and respond to Nora's requests from this afternoon.

(b)(5) DPP

Please let me know as soon as things clear or if there will be an issue with our rollout as planned. Again, I appreciate your teams work on this with a quick turnaround.

Thanks,

Kristi J. Boswell

Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: 202.281.5695

From: Stein, Nora H. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 1:12 PM
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>
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Subject: FW: ERS/NIFA Relocation and Realign

(b)(5) DPP

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 10:08 AM
To: Herz, James P. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>
Cc: Stein, Nora H. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Saunders, Ruth D. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>
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Thanks,



Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: 202.281.5695

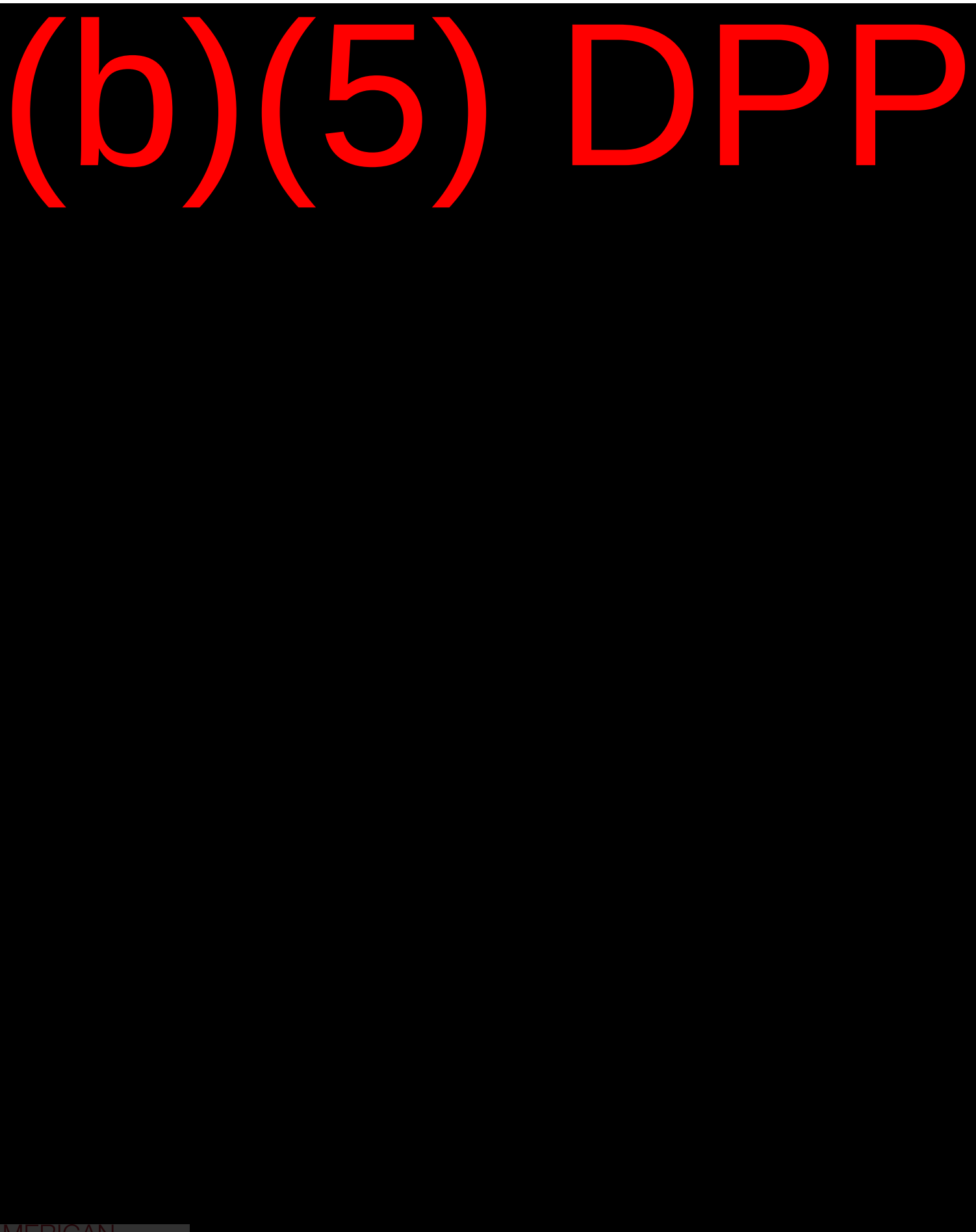
From: Stein, Nora H. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>
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To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>
Cc: Saunders, Ruth D. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: RE: relocation/realign

Rob—thanks for working with us on this proposal. We discussed the proposal with the GSA Examiner and have some additional questions (below and attached).

Please also provide us with a copy of the 'Expressions of Interest' that USDA plans to release as soon as possible.

(b)(5) DPP

(b)(5) DPP



(b)(5) DPP

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United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Cost-Benefit Analysis

XX May 2019

Overall Approach

2020-DA-02838-F

(b)(5) DPP

Ground rules and assumptions

2020-DA-02838-F



Ground rules and assumptions

Personnel - Staffing

2020-DA-02838-F

(b)(5) DPP

Ground rules and assumptions

2020-DA-02838-F

Personnel – Staffing continued

(b)(5) DPP

Ground rules and assumptions

2020-DA-02838-F

Personnel – NIFA Stay-Go list

GS Level	# of Employees staying	# of Employees relocating
1	(b)(5) DPP	(b)(5) DPP
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
SES Level V		
SES Level IV		
SES Level III		
SES Level III		
SES Level I		
Totals		
Grand Total		

Ground rules and assumptions

2020-DA-02838-F

Personnel – ERS Stay-Go list

GS Level	# of Employees staying	# of Employees relocating
1	(b)(5) DPP	(b)(5) DPP
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
SES Level V		
SES Level IV		
SES Level III		
SES Level III		
SES Level I		
Totals		
Grand Total		

Ground rules and assumptions

2020-DA-02838-F

Relocation costs

(b)(5) DPP

Relocation Entitlement	Estimated Cost
Transportation of household goods (not to exceed 18,000 lbs).	(b)(5) DPP
Storage of household goods (60 days)	
En route travel (employee and/or family)	
Miscellaneous expenses	
Temporary quarters (60 days)	
Real estate expenses (purchase & sell)	
Househunting expenses (lodging, meals & incidentals, transportation)	
Total estimated cost	

Ground rules and assumptions

2020-DA-02838-F

Real estate costs

(b)(5) DPP

Ground rules and assumptions

2020-DA-02838-F

Real estate costs (continued)

(b)(5) DPP

Ground rules and assumptions

Transition timeline

2020-DA-02838-F

Ground rules and assumptions

2020-DA-02838-F

Other

(b)(5) DPP

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 8:11 PM

To: Francisco E Rodriguez

CC: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: C/B Analysis Format

Francisco:

(b)(5) DPP

We will have our economists work on the research aspect we earlier discussed. KB chime in if needed.

we are all happy to further discuss but wanted to get this to you in an email.

Thank you,
KMT

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 8:21 PM
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Francisco E Rodriguez; Catherine Von Seggern
CC: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: C/B Analysis Format

Sorry for the dual emails. We have to many emails flying around here! My mistake

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 7:03 PM
To: Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>; Catherine Von Seggern <(b)(6)@ey.com>
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: C/B Analysis Format

Hey –

(b)(5) DPP

Happy to hop on a call to chat more about it if it is helpful. I also think Rob J could be a resource on format here. His contact is robert.johansson1@usda.gov.

Thanks!

Kristi

From: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 1:46 PM
To: Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: work on briefing materials

Please advise on this – I had to step out during the convo with EY for a phone call so must have missed this action:

From: Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 11:10 AM
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: work on briefing materials

Hey! So we talked to EY and gave them the FR notice and another example of an ERS report. I told them to contact you if there were questions on structure. Re: Chris/Ephraim discussed this with the group yesterday and yes we will need to help out. I think Scott H was going to touch base with them, but cc'ing Kailee & Courtney to confirm. Also, EY is putting together those demographics that may be helpful for them. (b)(5) DPP, (b)(6)

Kailee/Courtney – can you confirm is Rob needs to flag for Chris H.

Kristi J. Boswell
 Policy Advisor
 Mobile: 202-881-7129 (no text)

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 8:29 AM
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Subject: work on briefing materials

Hi Kristi,
 Just checking in if you need us to send you a template or something for the cost benefit format?
 Also, if you wanted us to help on the qualitative discussions on “research”.
 Cheers,
 Rob



Robert Johansson, Ph.D.
 Chief Economist
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 112-A Jamie Whitten Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20250-3810

Office: (202) 720-4164
Robert.johansson@usda.gov

From: Esch, Michele - ARS

Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 4:56 PM

To: Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: FW: BENEFITS (PREDECISIONAL/DELIBERATIVE)

Happy to assist.

I am checking in with EY about cost estimate – I believe that Kristi spoke to them earlier in the week.

Also, wanted to let you know that I am available tomorrow (b)(6)) so working offsite.

Thanks,
Michele

Michele Esch

Special Projects Coordinator

Executive Director, NAREEE Advisory Board

U.S. Department of Agriculture

(o) 202.720.8408

(c) (b)(6)

michele.esch@ars.usda.gov

From: Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 4:31 PM

To: Angle, Scott - NIFA <scott.angle@usda.gov>; Leibtag, Ephraim - ERS <ephraim.leibtag@usda.gov>; Hartley, Chris - ERS <chris.hartley@usda.gov>

Cc: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Esch, Michele - ARS <Michele.Esch@ARS.USDA.GOV>

Subject: BENEFITS (PREDECISIONAL/DELIBERATIVE)

Importance: High

PRE-DECISIONAL/DELIBERATIVE

Folks ... (b)(5) DPP

Can you get together, (b)(5) DPP

? (b)(5) DPP

Apologies if this is in play already and I missed it ...

Thanks, Scott

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2019 9:45 PM

To: Young, Benjamin - OGC, Washington, DC

Subject: FW: Briefing Document: ERS/NIFA

Attachments: FOUO_USDA_Site Visits Summary Overview_vF.pptx

Attachment (29 pages) duplicate of Bates Nos. 0002-0030 in request 2020-DA-02842-F.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

May 31 materials.

Not sure how far back youd like me to go? Keep me posted.

From: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Friday, May 31, 2019 6:53 AM

To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Beal, MaryDee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>

Subject: Briefing Document: ERS/NIFA

Importance: High

Briefing material attached for the ERS/NIFA meeting at 10:30. I will bring copies.

The focus of the conversation will be on the Executive Summary (slides 4-9) but the Appendix section provides much more detailed information.



Courtney Knupp
Chief of Staff
Research, Education and Economics
United States Department of Agriculture

(202) 870-0884
courtney.knupp@usda.gov

From: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 2:48 PM

To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Kristi J. Boswell ((b)(6)); Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Benjamin - OGC, Washington, DC

Subject: FW: FOUO: Report framework

Attachments: FOUO_USDA Cost Benefit Assessment_vFramework.docx

Attachment (4 pages) withheld in full under FOIA Exemption 5: Deliberative/Pre-decisional (Bates Nos. 0126-0129).

Team –

EY provided the attached skeleton C/B analysis in the updated format. Due to timing I don't think it's appropriate for the Secretary meeting today unless you feel differently.

Courtney

From: Francisco E Rodriguez <((b)(6))@ey.com>

Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 2:43 PM

To: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>

Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>

Subject: FOUO: Report framework

Courtney, Kailee,

Here's our initial draft of the framework for your inputs and feedback. Our next version would be much more robust, but this should give you a vector check on our direction.

((b)(5) DPP)

Looking forward to your feedback and inputs.

Feel free to contact me, thanks.

R/Francisco

Francisco E. Rodríguez | Advisory Services

Ernst & Young LLP

Mobile: ((b)(6)) | Office: ((b)(6))

((b)(6))@ey.com

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From: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 9:44 PM

To: Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC

CC: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Kristi J. Boswell ((b)(6)); Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: FW: Benefits contribution to C/B analysis

Attachments: FOUO_NIFA_RelocationBenefitsDRAFT (003).pptx; FOUO_USDA Cost Benefit Assessment_vFramework.docx

Attachment 2 (4 pages) withheld as a duplicate of Bates Nos. pages 0126-0129.

Scott

(b)(5) DPP
you (b)(5) DPP ? . Can

Kristi, Kailee and I here to help but we know this is right up your alley. Let us know what you need.

We asked Francisco to change the call tomorrow from large group to small group so we can discuss.

Let me know what questions you have.

Courtney

From: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 7:37 PM

To: Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>

Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Kristi J. Boswell ((b)(6)) <(b)(6)>; courtney.knupp@usda.gov

Subject: Benefits contribution to C/B analysis

Francisco –

(b)(5) DPP

A couple resources:

- (b)(5) DPP
- (b)(5) DPP

We need to (b)(5) DPP .

We look forward to an updated draft by COB Tuesday as discussed.

Thanks!



Benefits to NIFA Relocation Summary

- **Increased direct interactions with stakeholders** because of closer proximity
- **Improved recruitment and retention of scientific and administrative staff** with lower cost of living and broad candidate pool
- **Enhanced strategic interagency partnerships** with new positions in DC focused on collaboration



Reinvestment of Cost Savings

(b)(5) DPP



Benefits of Cost Saving in ERS and NIFA

(b)(5) DPP

From: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 9:47 PM
To: Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Benefits contribution to C/B analysis

From: Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 8:54 PM
To: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)>@ey.com>
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Benefits contribution to C/B analysis

I would (b)(5) DPP

(b)(5) DPP

Kristi J. Boswell
Policy Advisor
Mobile: 202-881-7129 (no text)

From: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 7:37 PM
To: Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)>@ey.com>
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>
Subject: Benefits contribution to C/B analysis

Francisco –

(b)(5) DPP

A couple resources:

- (b)(5) DPP
- (b)(5) DPP

We need to (b)(5) DPP

We look forward to an updated draft by COB Tuesday as discussed.

Thanks!

From: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 11:01 AM
To: Hoffman, William - NIFA
Subject: RE: Due at Noon: Final Benefits Info to Knupp

Sounds good!

From: Hoffman, William - NIFA
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 11:01 AM
To: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Due at Noon: Final Benefits Info to Knupp

(b)(6) but I believe the energy went into the 2 slide PowerPoint. (b)(6) but will ask when I get back to Whitten shortly after noon.

Bill Hoffman
Chief of Staff
USDA/NIFA
(b)(6)

From: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 10:48:34 AM
To: Hoffman, William - NIFA
Subject: RE: Due at Noon: Final Benefits Info to Knupp

Bill

This will go into a cost benefit analysis document more reflective of an OCE analysis so word/PDF format. I'll take both but I'd rather have more detail that I can distill down than high level points. Both would be nice though.

CK

From: Hoffman, William - NIFA
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 10:11 AM
To: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Due at Noon: Final Benefits Info to Knupp

Hi Courtney,
Our folks are working on a PowerPoint slide, is that what you are looking for?
Regards,

Bill Hoffman
[USDA/NIFA Chief of Staff](#)
(b)(6)

From: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 9:28 AM
To: Pompelli, Greg - ERS <greg.pompelli@usda.gov>; Leibtag, Ephraim - ERS <ephrain.leibtag@usda.gov>; Angle, Scott - NIFA <scott.angle@usda.gov>
Cc: Hoffman, William - NIFA <WHOFFMAN4@USDA.GOV>; Maguire, Kelly B. - ERS <kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov>

From: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 7:01 PM

To: Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO

Subject: FW: FOUO: Updated CBA Draft

Attachments: FOUO_USDA Cost Benefit Assessment_v5_DRAFT.docx

Attachment (8 pages) withheld in full under FOIA Exemption 5: Deliberative/Pre-decisional (Bates Nos. 0148-0155).

From: Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 6:24 PM

To: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>

Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>

Subject: FOUO: Updated CBA Draft

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Courtney, Kailee,

Attached is an updated 6pm version of the CBA report for your feedback and inputs. Still a bit rough and in draft version, but getting there.

Appreciate your feedback and feel free to contact me.

Thanks!

R/Francisco

Francisco E. Rodríguez | Advisory Services

Ernst & Young LLP

Mobile: (b)(6) | Office: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@ey.com

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From: Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Benjamin - OGC, Washington, DC <Benjamin.Young@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Preston, Warren - OCE <warren.preston@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC <Scott.Hutchins@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: one neighborhood

USE THIS VERSION.

(b)(5) DPP

Courtney/Kailee – I will (b)(5) DPP

Benny – (b)(5) DPP, (b)(5) A/C Privilege

?

Kristi J. Boswell
Policy Advisor
Mobile: 202-881-7129 (no text)

From: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 11:27 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Benjamin - OGC, Washington, DC <Benjamin.Young@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: one neighborhood

I will.

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 11:23 AM
To: Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC <Don.Bice@usda.gov>; Young, Benjamin - OGC, Washington, DC <Benjamin.Young@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>
Subject: one neighborhood
Importance: High

Don;

(b)(5) DPP

(b)(5) DPP

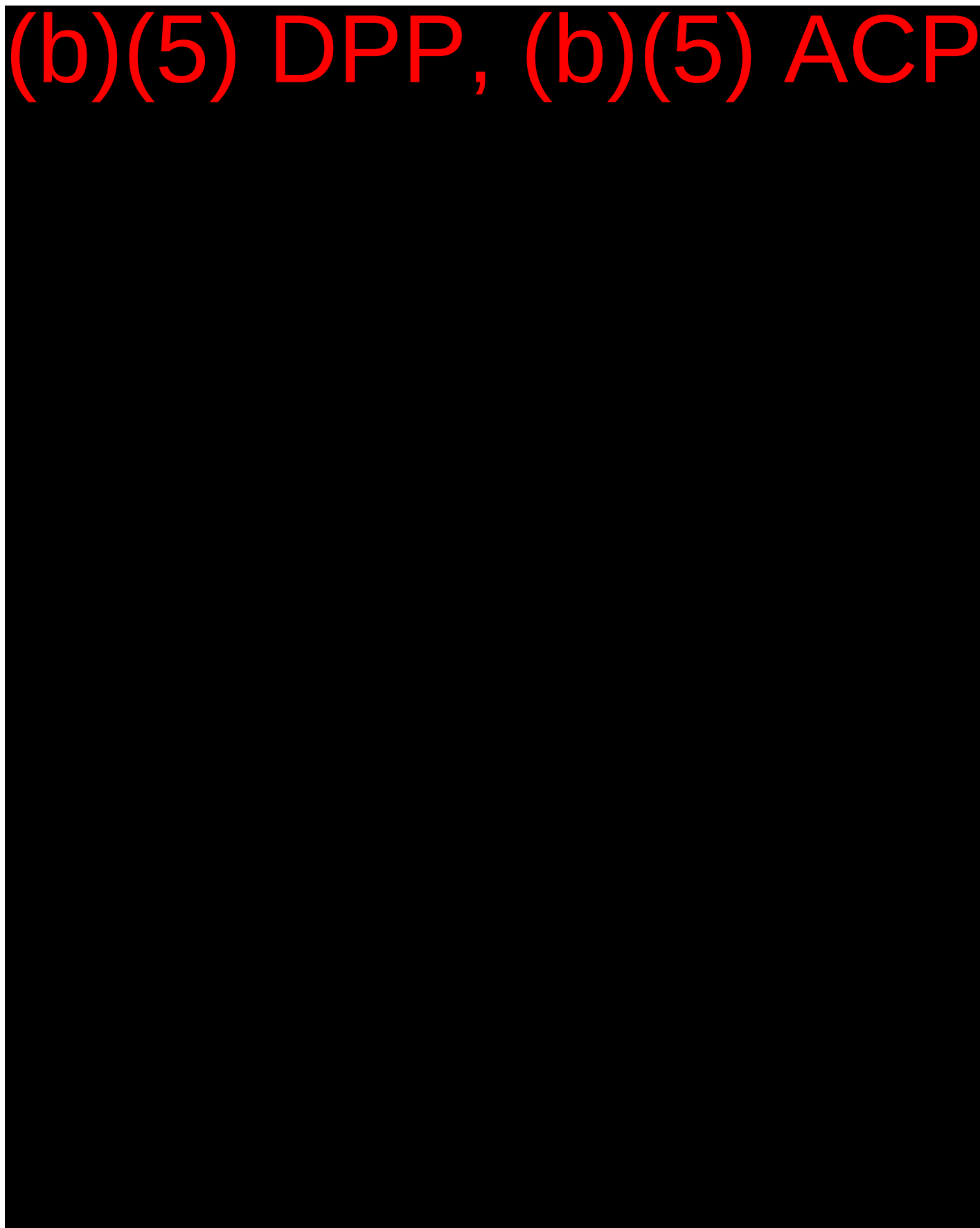


Kailee M. Tkacz

Chief of Staff to Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky
United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: 202.816.0562

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(b)(5) DPP, (b)(5) ACP



FY 19 hiring plan approved up to 302 permanent positions for NIFA.

Joon S. Park

Deputy Administrator, Administrative & Financial Management

Mission Area Business Center Chief Operating Officer

Acting Mission Area Assistant Chief Information Officer

Agricultural Research Service

Research, Education & Economics

United States Department of Agriculture

[202-690-2575](tel:202-690-2575) Office

(b)(6) Mobile Voice & Text

Joon.Park@usda.gov

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 9:57 AM

To: Park, Joon <Joon.Park@ARS.USDA.GOV>

Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO

<(b)(6)>

Subject: HR

Importance: High

Joon I know I have asked you this 100 times but please confirm numbers for hiring plans- want to use it for our cost benefit and need ASAP

Kailee M. Tkacz

Chief of Staff to Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky

United States Department of Agriculture

Cell: 202.816.0562



From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 7:29 AM
To: Francisco E Rodriguez; Preston, Warren - OCE; Johansson, Robert - OCE
CC: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: verification of docs

Yes and please confirm you are comfortable with us (b)(5) DPP .

From: Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 7:03 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Preston, Warren - OCE <warren.preston@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: verification of docs

Thanks, Kailee. Will review and provide final edits/review ASAP – would NLT 8:30am work?

Francisco E. Rodríguez | Manager | Advisory Services

Ernst & Young LLP

Mobile: (b)(6) | Office: (b)(6) | (b)(6)@ey.com

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC [<mailto:kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 6:57 AM
To: Preston, Warren - OCE <warren.preston@usda.gov>; Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>; Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Subject: Re: verification of docs

E and y can you please review ASAP and double check make sure all is accurate. This is going out at 930 today to the public

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From: Preston, Warren - OCE <warren.preston@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 6:51 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Francisco E Rodriguez; Johansson, Robert - OCE
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: verification of docs

Here's the updated (b)(5) DPP

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 12:22 AM

To: Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>; Preston, Warren - OCE <warren.preston@usda.gov>;

Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>

Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>

Subject: verification of docs

Importance: High

Just checking in FR please send our economist the spread sheets to verify numbers

Talked to warren and we are making final touches on the cost benefit and need to ensure this is ready for release.

Thank you!



Kailee M. Tkacz

Chief of Staff to Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky

United States Department of Agriculture

Cell: 202.816.0562

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From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 8:47 AM

To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wilson, Erin E. - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Fwd: new numbers

Just putting all you on this.

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From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 8:46:57 AM

To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Fwd: new numbers

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From: Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 8:26 AM

To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC

Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: new numbers

(b)(5) DPP

(b)(5) DPP

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 8:17 AM

To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO

<(b)(6)>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Zanic, Savannah - OC, Washington, DC <Savannah.Zanic@usda.gov>; Cole, Donald - OC, Washington, DC <donald.cole@usda.gov>

Subject: new numbers

USDA-20-0426-D-000065

(b)(5) DPP

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 10:02 AM
To: Young, Benjamin - OGC, Washington, DC; Adams, Kiki - RD, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Follow-up from Yesterday's Briefing
Attachments: OFFICIAL Cost Benefit Final.pdf
Attachment is a duplicate of Bates Nos. 0002-0012 in request 2020-REE-03065-F.

For records

From: Wilson, Erin E. - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 10:00 AM
To: Wilson, Erin E. - OSEC, Washington, DC <erin.wilson@usda.gov>
Subject: Follow-up from Yesterday's Briefing

Good morning,

As a follow-up to yesterday's briefing, we are providing a copy of the final cost benefit analysis, this is embargoed until our advisory goes public at 10am.

This final version contains additional cost information including the nominal data over a 15 year period. (b)(5) DPP
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

Thank you,

Erin Wilson
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
202-720-5478 (Direct)
571-289-1167 (Work Cell)

From: Francisco E Rodriguez
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 10:07 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: verification of docs

Thanks, Kailee

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:kailee.tkacz@usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 9:53 AM
To: Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>
Subject: RE: verification of docs

Thanks for you edits!! All good what I sent you is what will be going out publically soon. Will send you press release when it goes

From: Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 9:52 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: verification of docs

Do you have a final draft you need us to do a final check or is this already with the SECDA?

From: Francisco E Rodriguez
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 9:51 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: verification of docs

do you have a final to

Francisco E. Rodríguez | Manager | Advisory Services
Ernst & Young LLP
Mobile: (b)(6) | Office: (b)(6) | (b)(6)@ey.com

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:kailee.tkacz@usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 9:35 AM
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>; Preston, Warren - OCE <warren.preston@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: verification of docs

(b)(5) DPP

(b)(5) DPP

(b)(5) DPP

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 9:28 AM
To: Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Preston, Warren - OCE <warren.preston@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Subject: Re: verification of docs

The (b)(5) DPP

From: "Francisco E Rodriguez" <(b)(6)@ey.com>
Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 9:07:26 AM
To: "Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC" <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>, "Preston, Warren - OCE" <warren.preston@usda.gov>, "Johansson, Robert - OCE" <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Cc: "Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC" <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>, "Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO" <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: verification of docs

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Team,

Thanks for your patience as we reviewed the document. Attached is the updated version with our edits and suggested comments to address.

Please review and let me know if you have any questions. Could we hop on a call for all of us to discuss? I can set it up now. Please advise, thanks.

R/Francisco

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From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:kailee.tkacz@usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 7:30 AM
To: Preston, Warren - OCE <warren.preston@usda.gov>; Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>; Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: verification of docs

Thank you going with this version accepting changes and reviewing now. E&Y Please flag asap if you have any additional items, before 830 is ideal but we will hold on until 830 if need be. Thanks!

From: Preston, Warren - OCE
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 6:51 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>; Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi J. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: verification of docs

Here's the updated (b)(5) DPP [REDACTED]

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 12:22 AM
To: Francisco E Rodriguez <(b)(6)@ey.com>; Preston, Warren - OCE <warren.preston@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Subject: verification of docs
Importance: High

Just checking in FR please send our economist the spread sheets to verify numbers

Talked to warren and we are making final touches on the cost benefit and need to ensure this is ready for release.

Thank you!

Kailee M. Tkacz



Chief of Staff to Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky
 United States Department of Agriculture
 Cell: 202.816.0562

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