

**MEMORANDUM**

Subject: Nationwide Evaluations for projects with  
Minor Section 4(f) Involvements

From: Director, Office of Environmental Policy  
Washington, DC 20590

To: Regional Federal Administrators  
Regions 1-10  
Direct Federal Program Administrators

Date: December 23, 1986

Reply to  
Attn. of: HEV-11

Attached are two approved nationwide Section 4(f) evaluations. One covers projects that use minor amounts of land from public parks, recreation areas and wildlife and waterfowl refuges. The other covers projects which use minor amounts of land from historic sites. While a notice on the approval of these documents will be published in the Federal Register, they are effective on the approval date and may be used immediately.

We provided you with the draft evaluations with our January 6, 1986, memorandum. We also requested public comment on the draft evaluations by means of a January 7, 1986, Federal Register notice. We received over 100 comments many State transportation agencies commented, with all but one endorsing the proposed nationwide evaluations. Several environmental organizations express serious objections, to the nationwide evaluations. After carefully considering all of the comments, we have developed what we feel is a workable and time saving mechanism for assuring Section 4(f) compliance. We are also attaching a copy of the preamble to the Federal Register notice so that you can understand how these comments were dealt with.

While the actual application of the nationwide evaluations to individual projects will be done by the Division offices, your environmental staff will play a critical role in assuring that the Divisions understand how to properly apply the evaluations. To assuage the fears of the organizations that opposed the approval of the nationwide evaluations we have pledged to systematically monitor their use. We anticipate that your office will take the

lead in this effort.

We look forward to your feedback on how widespread the use of these new nationwide Section 4(f) evaluations is, and of what problems are encountered in applying the evaluations.

/Original Signed By/

Ali F. Sevin

3 Attachments