



APPENDIX A

SCOPING PROCESS



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In accordance with NEPA, the Navy initiated a public and agency scoping process to assist in the identification of relevant environmental issues to be analyzed in this EIS/OEIS. The official Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS was published in the Federal Register on 25 July 1997 (included along with the distribution list in this Appendix). The public and other interested parties were invited and encouraged to participate in the scoping process through the publication of newspaper advertisements, news releases, and notices placed in local group's newsletters (a fact sheet is included in this Appendix). Federal, state, and local agencies were also requested to provide input on relevant issues and identify specific agency concerns. A separate package was mailed to 14 agencies (distribution information included herein) describing the proposed action and inviting agencies to meet individually with the Navy to receive more information and provide input to the scoping process. Subsequent to the distribution of the agency scoping package, the Navy met with representatives from the California Coastal Commission, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, the Channel Islands National Park, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Ventura County Economic Development Association. The Navy will continue to coordinate with these and other agencies throughout the EIS/OEIS process.

Five public scoping meetings were held between August 21 and August 27, 1997, to inform the public of the Navy's proposed action and intent to prepare the EIS, and to solicit public comment. At each scoping meeting, informational poster stations provided the public an opportunity to learn more about the NEPA process, the Navy's proposed action and alternatives, current NAWCWPNS Point Mugu operations, and Point Mugu's environmental management programs. Each information station was staffed by Navy representatives who were available to answer questions from meeting attendees. In addition, Navy representatives gave a presentation about current NAWCWPNS activities on the Point Mugu Sea Range followed by a description of the proposed action and alternatives. Agencies and the public were encouraged to contribute verbal or written comments at the scoping meetings or to provide written comments throughout the 50-day scoping period.

A total of 104 people attended the five scoping meetings. In addition to verbal comments, 40 written comments were received from various agencies, environmental groups, and citizens during the scoping period. Environmental issues identified during the scoping process included (the section(s) where these comments are addressed within the EIS/OEIS are included in parentheses):

- Potential air quality impacts from an increase in future emissions and emission dispersion (Section 4.2);
- Potential impacts on marine mammals, including acoustic impacts (Section 4.7), effects on whale migration (Section 4.7), and whale watching activities (Section 4.10);
- Potential impacts on humans (Sections 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, and 4.14), land use (Section 4.10), and property values (Section 4.12);
- Potential impacts on maritime and shipping activities (Sections 4.10 and 4.11), including safety issues (Section 4.14), hazardous materials release (Section 4.13), and commercial ship traffic (Sections 4.10 and 4.11);
- Potential overflight and noise impacts on coastal residential and recreational areas (Sections 4.3 and 4.10);



- Potential water quality impacts from ocean debris (Section 4.4);
- Potential safety impacts from bird strikes (Section 4.14);
- Potential impacts of aircraft and missile testing on migrating birds (Section 4.8); and
- Potential socioeconomic impacts on commercial air traffic, civilian aviation, freighter traffic, recreational boating, and commercial fishing (Sections 4.10, 4.11, and 4.12).