



NAVAL AIR WARFARE CENTER WEAPONS DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 7, 2022

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POINT MUGU SEA RANGE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AVAILABLE

Point Mugu, CA — The U.S. Navy has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for the Point Mugu Sea Range to assess the potential environmental consequences associated with continuing military readiness activities previously analyzed in the March 2002 *Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) Point Mugu Sea Range Final EIS/OEIS* and environmental assessments completed at the Point Mugu Sea Range since 2002. In addition, the Navy also analyzed the potential environmental consequences of proposed increases in research, development, acquisition, testing, and evaluation (hereinafter referred to as “testing”) and training activities. These activities are consistent with those analyzed in the 2002 analysis and are representative of Navy activities that have occurred in the Point Mugu Sea Range for decades. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is a cooperating agency for the preparation of this EIS/OEIS. The Navy welcomes you to view the Final EIS/OEIS.

Proposed Action:

The Point Mugu Sea Range is located adjacent to Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties along the Pacific Coast of Southern California and includes 36,000 square miles of controlled sea and airspace designated for testing and training activities. NAWCWD Point Mugu meets its mission to conduct state-of-the-art weapons systems testing and evaluation, and maintains military operational readiness, by providing a safe, realistic, and instrumented sea range testing and training environment. Vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems must be able to perform in realistic marine environments and operate as intended, thus improving system accuracy and personnel safety.

The Proposed Action is to continue military readiness activities and increase testing and training activities that are the same as or similar to those currently occurring within the Point Mugu Sea Range. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide modern instrumented airspace, sea space, testing and training areas, testing and training facilities, and range infrastructure to support current, emerging, and foreseeable future testing and training requirements.

The Proposed Action allows for continued testing and training in support of military readiness and Department of Defense mission requirements as required by Title 10 and to provide combat-ready forces. The Final EIS/OEIS supports the request for federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the

Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Navy is consulting with NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required. The Navy (as the lead agency) and NMFS (as a cooperating agency) have coordinated from the outset and developed the EIS/OEIS to meet each agency's distinct National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) obligations and to support decision-making for both agencies. NMFS is evaluating the Navy's Proposed Action pursuant to its authority under MMPA and ESA and will determine whether to issue incidental take regulations and a Letter of Authorization, including any conditions needed to meet the statutory mandates of the MMPA.

Concurrent with the NEPA public involvement process, the Navy engaged with consulting and interested parties in the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process regarding potential effects on historic properties.

Availability of Final EIS/OEIS:

Regulations provide for a 30-day wait period after the Final EIS/OEIS is published before the Navy may take final action. The Navy will then publish a Record of Decision to inform the public of the Navy's decision. The Record of Decision will include a discussion of the alternatives considered and plans for any mitigation measures and monitoring efforts for the decided action.

The Navy is committed to providing the public an accessible version of the Final EIS/OEIS. If you need assistance accessing the document, please email info@pmsr-eis.com. The Final EIS/OEIS is available to the public on **Jan. 7, 2022**, on the project website at www.pmsr-eis.com, and at the following public libraries:

- Camarillo Public Library, 4101 Las Posas Road, Camarillo, CA 93010
- Carpinteria Branch Library, 5141 Carpinteria Ave., Carpinteria, CA 93013
- E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main St., Ventura, CA 93001
- San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
- Santa Barbara Public Library, 40 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101
- South Oxnard Branch Library, 4300 Saviers Road, Oxnard, CA 93033
- Downtown Oxnard Main Library, 251 S. A St., Oxnard, CA 93030

If you have questions, require additional information, or would like to request a CD-ROM of the Final EIS/OEIS, please contact the EIS/OEIS project manager at:

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Code EB2R00M
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Attention: Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS Project Manager

Visit www.pmsr-eis.com to learn more about the Navy's environmental analysis.

Please help inform your community by sharing the information in this press release.