



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR WARFARE CENTER WEAPONS DIVISION
1 ADMINISTRATION CIRCLE
CHINA LAKE, CA 93555-6100

575 I AVENUE SUITE 1
POINT MUGU, CA 93042-5049

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090
Ser EB2R00M/3565
January 3, 2022

Dear Sir or Madam:

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE POINT MUGU SEA RANGE
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

This letter is to inform you that 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.

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 (Enclosure 1). 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 of proposed testing and training activities on historic properties.

The completion of the Final EIS/OEIS follows years of research, analysis, stakeholder and tribal engagement, and public involvement. The Navy welcomed public involvement and input on the scope of the analysis during the 2018 scoping process. Additionally, the Navy requested public review and comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS during the 2020 public review period. Comments received from the public, government agencies and officials, and tribes during the Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period were considered, and the Navy's responses to those comments are included in the Final EIS/OEIS. Changes made in the Final EIS/OEIS reflect the Navy's consideration of all substantive public comments received, information provided during ongoing regulatory consultation processes, and new, relevant information and updated scientific literature published since the release of the Draft 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 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

E.P. Foster Library
651 E. Main Street
Ventura, CA 93001

Carpinteria Branch Library
5141 Carpinteria Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013

San Luis Obispo Library
995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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Santa Barbara Public Library
40 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Downtown Main Library – Oxnard
251 S. A Street
Oxnard, CA 93030

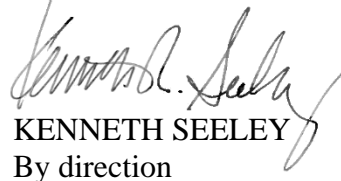
South Oxnard Branch Library
4300 Saviers Road
Oxnard, CA 93033

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:

Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division
Range Sustainability Office/Environmental
Code EB2R00M
575 I Ave., Suite 1
PM53A, First Floor Room 101 (M/S M0460)
Point Mugu, CA 93042-5049
Attention: Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS Project Manager

Please help the Navy inform the community about the availability of the Final EIS/OEIS by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

Sincerely,



KENNETH SEELEY
By direction

Enclosure: 1. Point Mugu Sea Range Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Study Area

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