



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

Point Mugu Sea Range Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

FINAL

27 August 2018

**Point Mugu Sea Range
Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement
Public Involvement Summary Report**

This report summarizes the public involvement and outreach activities conducted by the U.S. Navy (Navy) and the main issues heard from the public during the *Point Mugu Sea Range Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)* Scoping Period, which ran from April 27, 2018, to June 26, 2018. The purpose of public involvement and outreach was 1) to notify and inform stakeholders and the public about the Proposed Action, and 2) to provide the opportunity for the public and stakeholders to comment on the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives. Involvement and outreach efforts were conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Navy guidance.

Summary of Activities

A. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The Navy prepared materials to notify the public of its intent to prepare an EIS/OEIS and to provide information about the Proposed Action, the scoping meetings, and the opportunity for the public to submit comments on the scope of the analysis to be considered during the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Public notices can be found on the [Public Notices page](#).

Federal Register Notice

A Notice of Intent was published in the *Federal Register* on April 27, 2018.

Newspaper Advertisements

Display advertisements were published in local and regional newspapers for a total of seven times (with the exception of the Santa Barbara Independent and Vida, which ran advertisements twice), beginning on April 27, 2018, through May 16, 2018. Publication dates were dependent on the newspaper’s publication frequency, e.g., daily, semi-weekly, weekly.

Advertisements were published in the following newspapers on the corresponding publication dates.

Table 1: Newspapers and Publication Dates

Newspaper	Newspaper Coverage	Publication Dates
Los Angeles Times	Los Angeles County, CA	Friday, April 27, 2018 Saturday, April 28, 2018 Monday, April 30, 2018 Tuesday, May 8, 2018 Saturday, May 12, 2018 Monday, May 14, 2018 Tuesday, May 15, 2018
Santa Barbara Independent	Santa Barbara County, CA	Thursday, May 3, 2018 Thursday, May 10, 2018

Santa Barbara News-Press	Santa Barbara County, CA	Friday, April 27, 2018 Saturday, April 28, 2018 Monday, April 30, 2018 Wednesday, May 9, 2018 Monday, May 14, 2018 Tuesday, May 15, 2018 Wednesday, May, 16, 2018
San Luis Obispo Tribune	San Luis Obispo County, CA	Friday, April 27, 2018 Saturday, April 28, 2018 Monday, April 30, 2018 Wednesday, May 9, 2018 Monday, May 14, 2018 Tuesday, May 15, 2018 Wednesday, May, 16, 2018
Ventura County Star	Ventura County, CA	Friday, April 27, 2018 Saturday, April 28, 2018 Monday, April 30, 2018 Tuesday, May 8, 2018 Saturday, May 12, 2018 Monday, May 14, 2018 Tuesday, May 15, 2018
Vida News (Spanish newspaper)	Ventura County, CA	Thursday, May 3, 2018 Thursday, May 10, 2018

Postcard Mailer

A postcard was mailed first-class to 83 nongovernmental organizations; community and business groups; fishing, aviation, and recreational groups; and researchers and universities on April 26, 2018.

Tribal and Stakeholder Notification Letters

Tribal letters were mailed on April 25, 2018, to 13 tribal chairpersons, founders, presidents, executive directors, and administrators of federally recognized tribes and non-federally recognized tribes, and to tribal groups who have an interest in the Study Area. Stakeholder letters were mailed on April 26, 2018, to 170 federal, state, and local elected officials and federal, state, and local government agencies. Two stakeholder letters were returned to sender, and the mailing list was updated accordingly.

News Releases and Media Outlets

Environmental Public Affairs Officer, Command, Navy Region Southwest distributed a news release to local regional media outlets on April 27, 2018. A second news release correcting the public comment period information was redistributed on May 1, 2018, and again on May 14, 2018.

B. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Project Website

A project website was established and became available to the public on April 26, 2018. The website provided the public with project information and public meeting and commenting information. The public notices, fact sheet handout, posters, and other public involvement information were posted on the website. The website was periodically updated with project announcements. The website address is <http://pmsr-eis.com>.

Scoping Meetings

The Navy held two [scoping meetings](#) on May 15, 2018 and May 16, 2018, at the locations listed below. Each scoping meeting included informational poster stations and a video station staffed by Navy representatives. Members of the public could arrive at any time during the event and each meeting was three hours in duration. Staff at the welcome station greeted guests and encouraged meeting attendees to sign in and be added to the project mailing list. A fact sheet handout, scoping meeting schedule and room layout handout, and comment form were provided to attendees, along with verbal direction on the general flow of the poster stations and commenting methods.

Stations were set up around the room offering visual poster displays, a project video, fact sheet handouts, and comment forms. Subject matter experts staffed each station to answer questions and provide project information.

A comment station with tables, chairs, pens, and comment forms were provided to facilitate the public completing and submitting written comments at the meeting. Individuals could submit completed comment forms at the meetings, by mail, or via the project website.

Information on the 2018 public scoping meetings can be found on the [Scoping Meetings page](#).

Posters

Six [posters](#) were developed and included the following topics:

- Importance of Testing and Training
- Study Area
- Proposed Action and Alternatives
- Environmental Resource Areas: Public Access and Safety
- Resource Protection
- NEPA

The posters were on display during the scoping meetings and posted on the project website. The posters can be found on the [Public Informational Materials page](#).

Fact Sheet Handout

A four-page [fact sheet handout](#) was developed to provide project information to the public and included the following topics:

- Introduction to the project and intent to prepare an EIS/OEIS
- Proposed Action, including purpose and need
- Evaluating alternatives
- Public access and safety
- Resource protection programs, including protective measures at sea, protective measures at San Nicolas Island, and cultural resource programs at San Nicolas Island
- Resource areas to be analyzed in the Draft EIS/OEIS
- NEPA process, public and community involvement, NEPA timeline
- Submitting comments

The fact sheet handout was distributed at scoping meetings, and posted on the project website. The fact sheet handout can be found on the [Public Informational Materials page](#).

Handouts

A comment form and scoping meeting schedule and room layout were distributed to scoping meeting

attendees. The comment form allowed attendees to submit written comments at the meeting or return it via postal mail any time during the comment period. The scoping meeting schedule and room layout provided information on the scoping meetings, including meeting dates, times, and venue locations, and poster station flow. A sign-in sheet was available at the welcome table for meeting attendees to sign-in and request to be added to the project mailing list.

Media Kits

Media kits were prepared to provide the media with project information in one convenient packet and included the fact sheet handout, copy of a stakeholder letter, Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register*, news release, and display advertisement. Persons identifying themselves as media at the public meetings received a media kit.

Project Video

An approximately 5-minute [video](#), produced by Naval Air Systems Command, was shown at the scoping meetings and emphasized the importance of testing and training in the Point Mugu Sea Range. The video was shown on a laptop and was available with headphones. The videos were posted on the project website and can be found on the [Informational Videos page](#).

Meeting Summary

Table 2 summarizes the scoping meetings held on May 15, 2018, in Ventura, CA, and May 16, 2018, in Santa Barbara, CA. In total, 12 people attended the two scoping meetings. In general, the meeting discussions were productive. Topics informally discussed at the scoping meetings are intended to illustrate the main issues heard. It is not the intent to capture all aspects of the feedback or to serve as a legal record.

Table 2: Summary of Scoping Meetings

Site/Date	Attendance	Comment Letters
<i>San Buenaventura City Hall Community Meeting Room Ventura, CA Tuesday, May 15, 2018</i>	9	0
Media Attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		
Topics Discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation for the information provided • Question about information included in a Naval Air Systems Command video regarding an expansion of 120,000 square miles • Recommendation to publish newspaper advertisements in the Ventura County Reporter • Request for clarification regarding the W-291 area depicted on the Study Area map (which is a range that is part of another Navy NEPA study) 		
Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff representative for Congresswoman Julia Brownley • Staff representative for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement office • Staff representative for the Ventura Water office • Staff representative for the Navy • Concerned individuals 		

Site	Attendance	Comment Letters
Louise Lowery Davis Center Larry Crandell Room Santa Barbara, CA Wednesday, May 16, 2018	3	0
Media Attendance:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 		
Topics Discussed:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciation for the information provided 		
Attendees:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned individuals 		

C. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

This section is intended to illustrate the main issues heard from the public during the public comment period; it is not meant to capture all aspects of the comments or to serve as a legal record.

The public comment period ran from April 27, 2018, to June 26, 2018. Throughout the public comment period, a total of 12 comment letters were received. Comment letters were submitted via the project website’s electronic comment form (4), postal mail (5), and email (3). No written comments were submitted at the scoping meetings.

Each comment letter was reviewed and categorized into specific resource areas or topics. One comment letter may include comments on multiple resource areas or topics. All comments were compiled, logged, and distributed to the EIS/OEIS project team and appropriate subject matter experts. The EIS/OEIS project team discussed the impact, significance, and relevance of the comments to the preparation of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Issues and concerns provided in the comment letters will be considered during the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS; however, Navy responses to comments will not be included in the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Table 3 includes a summary of public comments to provide a brief overview of the general issues or concerns expressed by the public. All substantive issues and concerns provided in the comment letters will be considered during the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Table 3: Summary of Public Comments

Resource Area/Topic	Issue/Concern
Testing and Training Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for more information on the numbers and types of munitions proposed by location.
Draft EIS/OEIS Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend that impact discussions focus on impacts on the specific resources affected in the testing and training areas, and avoid methodologies that average impacts over large ocean areas. Request for the Navy to analyze the adverse impacts on foraging areas; pupping, nesting, spawning, and rearing grounds; species migrations; noise; lighting; and other environmental impacts as a result of testing and training activities.

Resource Area/Topic	Issue/Concern
Sediments and Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about whether the proposed changes would result in an increase in groundwater demand as a result of additional support staff, support services personnel, and equipment or facility water demand. • Request that the Navy address potential increases in groundwater demand in the Draft EIS/OEIS. • Request that the Navy identify hazardous materials present in testing and training equipment/materials, and address their release into the environment during Navy activities. • Request for the Navy to identify whether testing and training areas currently contain hazardous materials or are contaminated with hazardous wastes. • Evaluate the potential for underwater detonations to resuspend contaminants in the water column or make previously buried contamination resurface. • Concerns about water turbidity, pollution, and ocean debris.
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request that the Navy evaluate all potential short-term and long-term air quality impacts that may result from the project. • Request that the Navy consider reactive organic compounds, nitrogen oxide emissions, and particulate matter from all proposed sea range operations (aircrafts, vessels, etc.), as well any potential stationary source emissions located in Ventura County Air Pollution Control District Channel Islands. • Request for the Navy to evaluate the impact of air pollutant emissions from proposed operations occurring within and outside the U.S. territorial sea. • Request for the Navy to analyze any stationary engines and equipment that may be subject to permitting requirements.
Marine Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about the potential impacts on marine species, sea turtles, and sea birds, including disruptions to feeding and breeding and impacts on state-listed species, fully protected species, and species of special concern. • Concern about marine species entanglement from training materials not recovered. • Concerns about the impacts testing and training will have on marine species habitat. • Concern about impacts on Marine Protected Areas and sanctuaries. • Request to avoid nesting/foraging grounds for sea birds and pupping grounds for marine species.
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for more detail on current monitoring efforts. • Request for more detailed information on the established protective measures at sea and at San Nicolas Island. • Request for a comprehensive species and habitat protection plan, including monitoring and reporting, to avoid, minimize, and mitigate

Resource Area/Topic	Issue/Concern
	unavoidable impacts from testing and training.
Fishes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to establish a long-term communication channel between the Navy and California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations. • Request for advanced notification to avoid any potential disruptions to planned oceanographic and biological surveys. • Concern about impacts on the numerous fish species located in the coastal nearshore and offshore areas of the Southern California Bight. • Concern about unintentional impacts on the recreational and commercial fishing industries.
Public Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General concern about the Navy polluting the land and sea and how that pollution impacts people and animals.
Cultural Resources and Historic Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General concerns for the impacts on historic and cultural resources, including historic properties. • General concerns about how found items of significant cultural value could be disturbed or destroyed. • Request for the Navy to contact tribes within the project area to ensure any impacts on culturally significant resources would be handled in accordance with the customs and traditions of each tribe. • Request to ensure compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
Cumulative Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for the Navy to consider other Navy activities, such as the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing, the Silver Strand Training Complex, and Northwest Training and Testing, as well as other coastal and at-sea activities including shipping, energy development, and aquaculture. • Consider cumulative noise impacts to the ocean environment.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend to review abandoned oil and gas well locations on three Channel Islands (San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz) and their surrounding state waters prior to conducting Navy activities. • Recommend to contact the permitting agency, property owner, or developer to avoid any issues associated with development near oil and gas wells. • Request for notification if oil and gas wells are inadvertently discovered during Navy activities. • Request to complete a comprehensive survey assessment and analysis of the flora and fauna located within the Study Area.

D. MEDIA COVERAGE

The following news articles discussed the public scoping period.

Summary

Three articles, social media posts, or announcements were published in various local and regional media outlets between April 27, 2018, and May 26, 2018. Articles published the dates of the public comment period and scoping meetings, and included the project website and commenting methods. The lengthier articles also included information similar to the official project news release, such as project background and the Proposed Action.