

Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

Point Mugu Sea Range

TABLE OF CONTENTS

7	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND DISTRIBUTION.....	7-1
7.1	Project Website.....	7-1
7.2	Scoping Period	7-1
7.2.1	Public Scoping Notification	7-1
7.2.1.1	Notification Letters	7-1
7.2.1.2	Postcard Mailers	7-9
7.2.1.3	Newspaper Advertisements	7-11
7.2.1.4	Press Releases.....	7-12
7.2.2	Public Scoping Meetings.....	7-19
7.2.2.1	Meetings Summary.....	7-19
7.2.3	Public Scoping Comments	7-20
7.2.3.1	Testing and Training Activities.....	7-20
7.2.3.2	Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Analysis	7-20
7.2.3.3	Sediments and Water Quality.....	7-20
7.2.3.4	Air Quality	7-20
7.2.3.5	Marine Species.....	7-21
7.2.3.6	Mitigation	7-21
7.2.3.7	Fishes	7-21
7.2.3.8	Public Health and Safety	7-21
7.2.3.9	Cultural Resources and Historic Properties	7-21
7.2.3.10	Cumulative Impacts	7-21
7.2.3.11	Other.....	7-22
7.3	Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Public Review and Comment Period	7-22
7.3.1	Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement.....	7-22
7.3.1.1	Notification Letters	7-22

7.3.1.2	Postcard Mailer.....	7-31
7.3.1.3	Newspaper Advertisements	7-33
7.3.1.4	Press Releases.....	7-34
7.3.1.5	Subscriber Email Notification	7-34
7.3.2	Public Meetings	7-34
7.3.3	Public Email and Voicemail System	7-34
7.4	Distribution of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement	7-41
7.4.1	Federal Agencies.....	7-41
7.4.2	Information Repositories.....	7-41
7.5	Public Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement	7-41
7.5.1	Testing and Training Activities.....	7-42
7.5.2	Marine Species.....	7-42
7.5.3	Mitigation	7-42
7.5.4	Public Health and Safety.....	7-42
7.5.5	Cultural Resources and Historic Properties	7-42
7.5.6	Other.....	7-43
7.6	Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement	7-43
7.6.1	Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement.....	7-43
7.6.1.1	Notification Letters	7-43
7.6.1.2	Postcards	7-44
7.6.1.3	Newspaper Advertisements	7-44
7.6.1.4	Press Release	7-44
7.6.1.5	Subscriber Email Notification	7-44
7.7	Distribution of the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement	7-44
7.7.1	Federal Agencies.....	7-44
7.7.2	Information Repositories.....	7-44
7.8	Record of Decision	7-44
7.8.1	Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision	7-44
7.8.1.1	Notification Letters	7-44
7.8.1.2	Postcards	7-45
7.8.1.3	Newspaper Advertisements	7-45
7.8.1.4	Press Release	7-45

7.8.1.5	Subscriber Email Notification	7-45
7.9	Distribution of the Record of Decision.....	7-45
7.9.1	Federal Agencies.....	7-45
7.9.2	Information Repositories.....	7-45
7.10	Notification of National Marine Fisheries Service Proposed Rule	7-45

List of Figures

Figure 7.2-1:	Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter.....	7-6
Figure 7.2-2:	Postcard Mailer for Scoping (Front and Back)	7-10
Figure 7.2-3:	Newspaper Announcement of Scoping	7-12
Figure 7.2-4:	Command, Navy Region Southwest Press Release.....	7-13
Figure 7.2-5:	Command, Navy Region Southwest Correction Press Release.....	7-15
Figure 7.2-6:	Command, Navy Region Southwest Press Release Refresher	7-17
Figure 7.3-1:	Stakeholder Letter for the Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement.....	7-27
Figure 7.3-2:	Postcard Mailer for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (Front and Back)	7-32
Figure 7.3-3:	Newspaper Announcement of the Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement.....	7-33
Figure 7.3-4:	Press Release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (April 24, 2020).....	7-35
Figure 7.3-5:	Press Release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (May 15, 2020)	7-38

List of Tables

Table 7.2-1:	Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter.....	7-2
Table 7.2-2:	Newspaper Publications of Scoping Meetings.....	7-11
Table 7.2-3:	Summary of Scoping Meetings	7-19
Table 7.3-1:	Entities that Received the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Notification Letter	7-23
Table 7.3-2:	Newspaper Announcements of the Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement.....	7-33
Table 7.4-1:	Information Repositories	7-41

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7 Public Involvement and Distribution

This chapter describes the efforts to involve the public in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) for Point Mugu Sea Range. The Navy requested the National Marine Fisheries Service serve as a cooperating agency due to the nature and scope of the Proposed Action and due to its regulatory responsibility for administering the Marine Mammal Protection Act permit program. The National Marine Fisheries Service accepted the request. Appendix G (Agency Correspondence) contains correspondence sent between the Navy and the National Marine Fisheries Service with respect to cooperating agency status.

7.1 Project Website

A public website was established to provide the public with project information and to accept comments electronically. The project website is www.pmsr-eis.com, and it was made available to the public on April 27, 2018. The website address was included in the *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for the Point Mugu Sea Range and to Announce Public Scoping Meetings*. The website address was also included in newspaper advertisements, stakeholder and tribal letters, and postcards for the Notice of Intent. The scoping fact sheet booklet, public notifications, maps, frequently asked questions, technical reports, informational videos, and various other materials are available on the project website and will be updated and made available throughout the course of the project.

7.2 Scoping Period

The public scoping period began with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* (FR) (83 FR 18543) on April 27, 2018. The 60-day scoping period ran from April 27, 2018, through June 26, 2018. Comments on the scope of the analysis were accepted at the public meetings on May 15, 2018, in Ventura, CA, and May 16, 2018, in Santa Barbara, CA; by mail; and through the project website.

7.2.1 Public Scoping Notification

The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the scoping process. A summary of these efforts follows.

7.2.1.1 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. Entities that received the scoping notification letter can be found in Table 7.2-1, and an example of a stakeholder letter can be found in Figure 7.2-1.

Table 7.2-1: Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter

<i>Federally Recognized Tribes, Non-Federally Recognized Tribes, and Tribal Groups</i>	
Federally Recognized Tribes	
Pauma Band of Mission Indians	
Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians	
Rincon Band of Mission Indians	
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	
Non-Federally Recognized Tribes	
Chumash Council of Bakersfield	
Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation	
Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians	
Northern Chumash Tribal Council	
Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation	
Tribal Groups	
Chumash Maritime Association	
Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe	
Native American Heritage Commission	
Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation	
<i>Federal Elected Officials and Federal Agencies</i>	
U.S. Senators (California)	
U.S. Representatives (California Districts 18, 22, 24, 25, 26, 29, 33, 37, 43)	
Bureau of Indian Affairs	
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	
Pacific OCS Region	
Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs	
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	
Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs	
Channel Islands Air National Guard Station	
Channel Islands National Park	
Council on Environmental Quality	
General Services Administration	
Environmental Policy and Planning Branch	
Marine Mammal Commission	
National Marine Fisheries Service	
West Coast Region	
Protected Resources Division	
National Park Service	
Pacific West Region	
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries	
UC Santa Barbara	
Advisory Council	
National Marine Fisheries Service	
Southwest Region	
U.S. Department of Commerce	
Environmental Observation and Prediction	
U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District	
U.S. Coast Guard	

Table 7.2-1: Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

<i>Federal Elected Officials and Federal Agencies (continued)</i>	
U.S. Department of Energy	Environmental, Health, Safety & Security National Environmental Policy Act Policy and Compliance (GC-54)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	
U.S. Department of Justice	Wildlife and Marine Resources Section
U.S. Department of the Interior	Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
U.S. Department of Transportation	Federal Aviation Administration Office of Policy, International Affairs, Environment and Energy San Francisco District Western-Pacific Region Maritime Administration
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	NEPA Compliance Division Region 9
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Pacific Southwest Ventura Office
U.S. Forest Service	Los Padres National Forest Headquarters Pacific Southwest Region
U.S. Geological Survey	Pacific Regional Directors Office Western Ecological Research Center
Vandenberg Air Force Base	
<i>State Elected Officials and State Agencies</i>	
Office of the Governor (California) and Staff	
State Senators (California Districts 19, 27, 33) and Staff	
State Assembly (California Districts 35, 37, 44)	
California Coastal Commission	South Central Coast District South Coast District Central Coast District
California Coastal National Monument	
California Department of Conservation	
California Department of Education	
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Marine Region Office of Spill Prevention and Response
California Department of Health Services	
California Department of Industrial Relations	
California Department of Parks and Recreation	Division of Boating and Waterways Historic Preservation Office

Table 7.2-1: Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

<i>State Elected Officials and State Agencies (continued)</i>
California Department of Transportation California Department of Water Resources California Energy Commission California Environmental Protection Agency California Fish & Game Commission California Natural Resources Agency California Preservation Foundation California Resources Agency California Sea Grant California State Lands Commission California Wildlife Conservation Board Coastal Conservancy Department of Toxic Substances Control Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment Office of Planning and Research Regional Water Quality Control Board (District 3 and 4) South Coast Air Quality Management District Water Resources Control Board
<i>Local Elected Officials and Local Agencies</i>
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Districts 4 and 5) Ventura County Board of Supervisors (Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors City of Camarillo City of Long Beach City of Los Angeles City of Oxnard City of Port Hueneme City of San Luis Obispo City of Santa Barbara City of Ventura Police Department Central Coast Regional Quality Control Board Convention & Visitor Bureau of Oxnard California Black Chamber of Commerce Camarillo Chamber of Commerce Filipino American Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Malibu Chamber of Commerce Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce Ventura Chamber of Commerce Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce

Table 7.2-1: Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

<i>Local Elected Officials and Local Agencies (continued)</i>	
Santa Barbara County	
Air Pollution Control Board	
Tech and EA Division	
Association of Governments	
Planning Division	
Parks and Recreation Department	
Planning and Development	
Public Health Officer	
Ventura Council of Governments	
Ventura County	
Air Pollution Control District	
Cultural Heritage Board	
Public Health Services	
Resource Management Agency	
Ventura County Planning Division	
Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau	
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency	
Local Agency Formation Commission	
Oxnard Visitors Bureau	
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	
Port of Hueneme	
Port of Long Beach	
Public Works Agency	
Ventura County Watershed Protection District	



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR WARFARE CENTER WEAPONS DIVISION
1 ADMINISTRATION CIRCLE 575 I AVENUE SUITE 1
CHINA LAKE, CA 93555-6100 POINT MUGU, CA 93042-5049

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090
Ser 52F00ME/2805
April 18, 2018

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to inform you that the Department of the Navy (Navy) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for the Point Mugu Sea Range. The Navy proposes to continue conducting research, development, testing, and evaluation activities and training activities (hereinafter referred to as "testing and training activities") within the Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS Study Area as analyzed in the March 2002 Point Mugu Sea Range Final EIS/OEIS. In addition, the Navy is proposing changes in activity frequency, new mission areas, and new platforms (such as aircraft and vessels). The Navy welcomes your comments on the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives to be considered during the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to (1) provide modern instrumented airspace and sea space, maneuver areas, testing and training areas, and range infrastructure to fully support current, emerging, and future testing and training requirements; and (2) ensure the long-term viability of the Point Mugu Sea Range while protecting human health and the environment. The environmental impact analysis will support the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS Study Area includes the Point Mugu Sea Range, which consists of 36,000 square miles of controlled sea and airspace designated for military testing and training activities (Enclosure 1). The Study Area is located 60 miles northwest of Los Angeles offshore of Ventura County in southern California. The Navy has conducted testing and training activities in the Study Area for decades, with some activities dating back to 1946 when the Point Mugu Sea Range was established. The majority of the proposed testing and training activities to be analyzed in the EIS/OEIS are similar to the types of activities that have occurred in the Study Area for decades.

The Navy is holding two open house public scoping meetings to provide information and an opportunity for the public to comment on the scope of the analysis. The public scoping meetings will include an open-house information session, during which time Navy representatives will be available to provide information and answer questions. The public may arrive at any time as there will not be a presentation or formal oral comment session. Written comments will be accepted during the scoping meetings, which are being held from 5 to 8 p.m., at the following locations:

Figure 7.2-1: Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter

5090
Ser 52F00ME/2805
April 18, 2018

Tuesday, May 15, 2018
Ventura, CA
San Buenaventura City Hall
Community Meeting Room
501 Poli St.

Wednesday, May 16, 2018
Santa Barbara, CA
Louise Lowry Davis Center
Larry Crandell Room
1232 De La Vina St.

Comments may also be submitted via the project website at <http://pmsr-eis.com>, or by mail to:

Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Range Sustainability Office
Attention: EIS/OEIS Project Manager
Point Mugu Sea Range, Building 53A, Code 52F00ME
575 I Ave., Suite 1
Point Mugu, CA 93042

Public scoping comments will be accepted during the 60-day public review and comment period beginning April 27, 2018, through June 26, 2018. Comments must be postmarked or received online by **June 26, 2018**, for consideration in the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS.

For more information, please visit the project website at <http://pmsr-eis.com> or contact Dr. Kenneth R. Seeley, Program Manager, at 805-989-0927 or email kenneth.seeley@navy.mil.

Please help the Navy inform the community about the intent to prepare the EIS/OEIS for the Point Mugu Sea Range activities by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

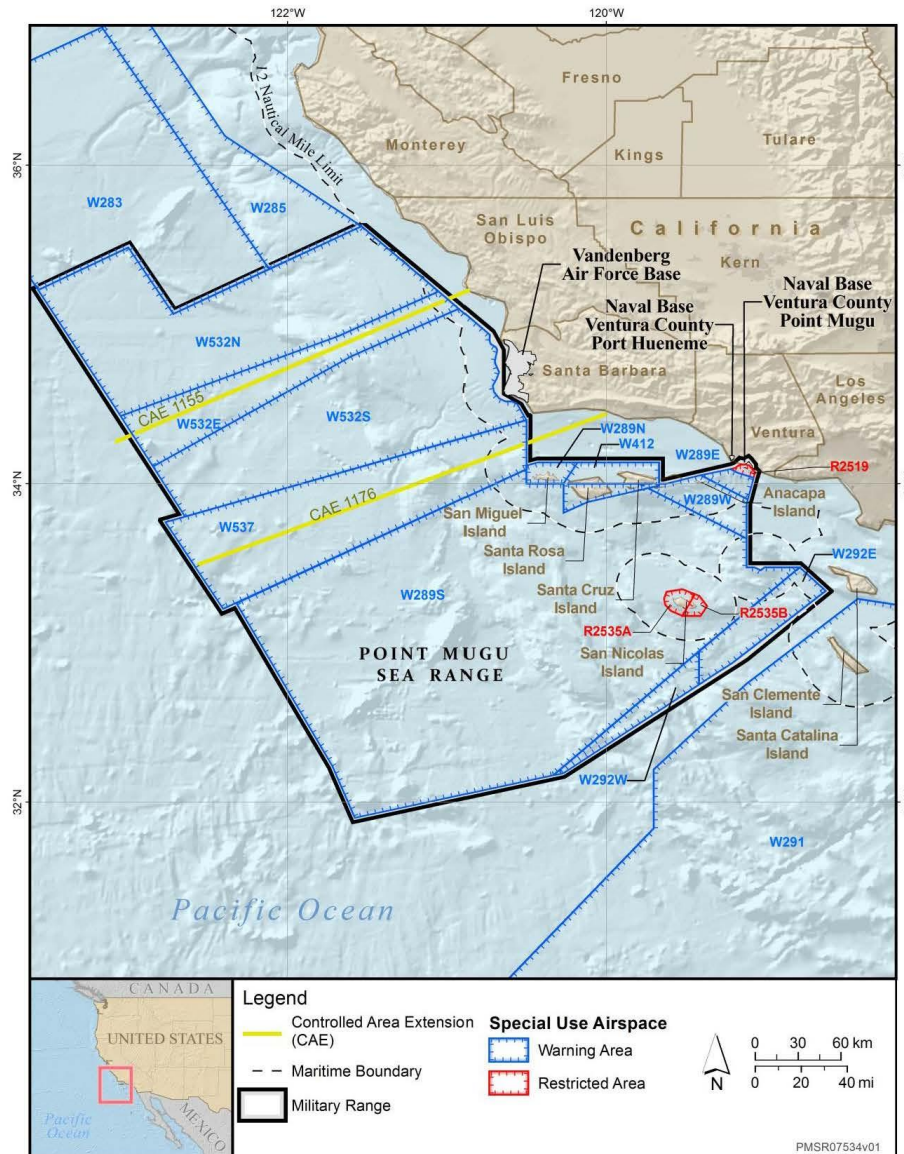
Sincerely,

JOHN GURKA
By direction

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

Figure 7.2-1: Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

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



Enclosure (1)

Figure 7.2-1: Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

7.2.1.2 Postcard Mailers

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. The postcard provided information about the Proposed Action, the website address, and how to submit public comments. An example of the postcard is shown in Figure 7.2-2.




POINT MUGU SEA RANGE EIS/OEIS

The U.S. Navy invites you to participate in the public involvement process for the Point Mugu Sea Range Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS).

The Navy is preparing an EIS/OEIS for the Point Mugu Sea Range. The majority of proposed activities are similar to those that have occurred in the Study Area for decades.

Public Involvement

The Navy requests your comments on the scope of the analysis. You can participate in the following ways:

- Visit <http://pmsr-eis.com> to learn more and submit comments online.
- Attend a public meeting and submit comments.
- Mail written comments to:
 Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division
 Range Sustainability Office
 Attention: EIS/OEIS Project Manager
 PMSR, Bldg. 53A, Code 52F00ME
 575 I Ave., Suite 1
 Point Mugu, CA 93042

SCOPING MEETINGS

Open house meetings include informational poster stations staffed by Navy representatives. The public may arrive at any time as there will not be a presentation or formal oral comment session.

Tuesday, May 15, 2018
 5 to 8 p.m.
 San Buenaventura City Hall
 Community Meeting Room
 501 Poli St.
 Ventura, CA

Wednesday, May 16, 2018
 5 to 8 p.m.
 Louise Lowry Davis Center
 Larry Crandell Room
 1232 De La Vina St.
 Santa Barbara, CA

Comments must be postmarked or received online by **June 26, 2018**, for consideration in the Draft EIS/OEIS.



PROPOSED ACTION

The Navy proposes to continue conducting testing and training activities within the Study Area as analyzed in the 2002 Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS. The Proposed Action also accommodates an increase in the frequency of activities, new mission areas, and new platforms (such as aircraft and vessels).

The Proposed Action is needed to allow for continued testing and training activities in support of military readiness and Department of Defense mission requirements as required by Title 10 to provide combat ready forces.

Naval Air Warfare Center
 Weapons Division Range
 Sustainability Office
 Attention: EIS/OEIS
 Project Manager
 PMSR, Bldg. 53A, Code 52F00ME
 575 I Ave., Suite 1
 Point Mugu, CA 93042

For more information or to submit comments online, visit <http://pmsr-eis.com>.



Figure 7.2-2: Postcard Mailer for Scoping (Front and Back)

7.2.1.3 Newspaper Advertisements

To announce the scoping period and scoping meetings, display advertisements were published in local and regional newspapers to advertise the public's opportunity to comment on the scope of the analysis. The advertisements included a description of the Proposed Action, location of the scoping meetings, the address of the project website, the duration of the comment period, and information on how to provide comments. The newspapers and publication dates are indicated in Table 7.2-2. An example of the announcement is shown in Figure 7.2-3.

Table 7.2-2: Newspaper Publications of Scoping Meetings

Newspaper	Newspaper Coverage	Publication Dates
<i>Los Angeles Times</i>	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
<i>Santa Barbara Independent</i>	Santa Barbara County, CA	Thursday, May 3, 2018 Thursday, May 10, 2018
<i>Santa Barbara News-Press</i>	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
<i>San Luis Obispo Tribune</i>	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
<i>Ventura County Star</i>	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
<i>Vida Newspaper</i> (Spanish language)	Ventura County, CA	Thursday, May 3, 2018 Thursday, May 10, 2018



**The U.S. Navy
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE
in the Point Mugu Sea Range
EIS/OEIS Scoping Process**

The U.S. Navy is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for the Point Mugu Sea Range. The Navy proposes to continue conducting testing and training activities within the Study Area as analyzed in the 2002 Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS, as well as changes in activity frequency, new mission areas, and new platforms (such as aircraft and vessels).

Public Involvement

The Navy is requesting substantive input from the public on the scope of the analysis. Comments will be accepted at the scoping meetings, online at <http://pmsr-eis.com>, or by mail to:

Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons
Division Range Sustainability Office
Attention: EIS/OEIS Project Manager
PMSR, Bldg. 53A, Code 52F00ME
575 I Ave., Suite 1
Point Mugu, CA 93042

Comments must be postmarked or received online by June 26, 2018, for consideration in the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Scoping Meetings: 5 to 8 p.m.

Ventura, CA
Tuesday, May 15, 2018
San Buenaventura City Hall
Community Meeting Room
501 Poli St.

Santa Barbara, CA
Wednesday, May 16, 2018
Louise Lowry Davis Center
Larry Crandell Room
1232 De La Vina St.

Open house meetings include informational poster stations staffed by Navy representatives. The public may arrive at any time as there will not be a presentation or formal oral comment session.

For more information or to submit comments online, visit: <http://pmsr-eis.com>.

Figure 7.2-3: Newspaper Announcement of Scoping

7.2.1.4 Press Releases

Environmental Public Affairs Officer, Commander, 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 a refresher press release followed on May 14, 2018. The press releases are shown in Figure 7.2-4, Figure 7.2-5, and Figure 7.2-6.

-----Original Message-----

From: Haase, Helen K CIV CNRSW, N00P

Sent: Friday, April 27, 2018 8:58 AM

To: 'LA Times'; 'VC Reporter'; 'Ventura Breeze'; 'KVTa'; 'Santa Barbara Independent'; 'Malibu News';
monica.white@vcstar.com; Andrea.howry@vcstar.com

Cc: Miller, Theresa C CIV NAVBASE Ventura County, N00 - PAO; BROWN, Kimberly E CIV NAVAIR,
750000E; Megliola, Lori K CIV NAVFAC SW, EV

Subject: PRESS RELEASE - Point Mugu Sea Range Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental
Impact Statement

Immediate Release - Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental
Impact Statement for Point Mugu Sea Range and to Announce Public Scoping Meetings

PRESS/MEDIA CONTACT: Command Navy Region Southwest - Public Affairs Office, Environmental Public
Affairs Specialist at 619-532-3496 or 619-532-1430.

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and Presidential Executive Order (EO) 12114, the Department of the Navy (DoN) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for the Point Mugu Sea Range. The Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS will include an assessment of potential environmental consequences associated with continuing military activities analyzed in the 2002 Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS, plus an increased tempo of military Research Development Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) and training activities at the Point Mugu Sea Range, and new mission areas and platforms.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Two public scoping meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

1.) May 15, 2018, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., San Buenaventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93001-2697.

2.) May 16, 2018, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101-3119.

The 60-day public scoping period begins April 27, 2018 and ends June 26, 2018. All public comments are due by June 26, 2018. Comments may be provided at public scoping meetings, by mail, and through the project website at: <http://pmsr-eis.com>. Mailed comments must be postmarked no later than June 18, 2018 and mailed to the address below for consideration in the Draft EIS/OEIS preparation. The DoN is requesting public comments on the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives to be considered during the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The scoping meetings will consist of an informal, open house session with informational poster stations staffed by DoN representatives. Meeting details will be announced in local area newspapers. Additional information on the public scoping meetings and comment submittal will be available on the project website at: <http://pmsr-eis.com>.

CONTACT INFORMATION (for public comments on the EIS/OEIS): Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Range Sustainability Office, Point Mugu Sea Range, Building 53A, Code 52F00ME, 575 I Avenue, Suite 1, Point Mugu, CA 93042-5049, Attn: EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 805-989-0927, or project website: <http://pmsr-eis.com>.

PRESS/MEDIA CONTACT: Command Navy Region Southwest - Public Affairs Office, Environmental Public Affairs Specialist at 619-532-3496.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DoN's action proponent is Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) Point Mugu Sea Range. NAWCWD Point Mugu Sea Range is located offshore of Ventura County in Southern California and includes 36,000 square miles of controlled sea and airspace designated for testing and training activities. The NAWCWD Point Mugu Sea Range meets the established mission to conduct state-of-the-art weapons systems testing and evaluation, and maintain military operational readiness, by providing a safe, operationally realistic, and thoroughly instrumented sea range testing environment. The evolution of international threats and operational technologies require large areas for testing and training.

Figure 7.2-4: Command, Navy Region Southwest Press Release

As part of this process, the DoN will seek the issuance of regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act. Pursuant to 40 CFR § 1501.6, the DoN will invite the National Marine Fisheries Service to be a cooperating agency in preparation of the EIS/OEIS.

The Proposed Action is to accommodate an increase in the tempo of military RDT&E and training activities within the Point Mugu Sea Range Study Area. Proposed testing and training activities are similar to those that have occurred in the Study Area for decades. The proposed tempo is higher than the tempo covered in the 2002 Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide modern instrumented airspace and sea space, maneuver areas, testing and training areas, and range infrastructure to fully support current, emerging, and future RDT&E and Fleet testing and training requirements, and ensure long-term viability of the Point Mugu Sea Range while protecting human health and the environment.

The need for the Proposed Action is to allow for continued RDT&E and training activities in support of military readiness and DoD mission requirements as required by Title 10 to provide combat ready forces.

In the Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS, the DoN will evaluate the potential environmental impacts from a No Action Alternative and action alternatives. The DoN will analyze potential impacts on environmental resources resulting from activities included in the alternatives.

The scoping process is helpful in identifying public concerns and local issues to be considered during the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Federal, state, and local agencies; federally recognized tribes; and interested persons are encouraged to provide substantive comments to the DoN on environmental resources and issue areas of concern that the commenter believes the DoN should consider. All substantive comments, provided orally or in writing at the scoping meetings, submitted via the project website, or mailed will be taken into consideration during the development of the EIS/OEIS.

PRESS/MEDIA CONTACT: Command Navy Region Southwest - Public Affairs Office, Environmental Public Affairs Specialist at 619-532-3496 or 619-532-1430.

Figure 7.2-4: Command, Navy Region Southwest Press Release (continued)

-----Original Message-----

From: Haase, Helen K CIV CNRSW, N00P

Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 8:52 AM

Subject: CORRECTION TO PRESS RELEASE FROM FRIDAY, April 27, 2018

CORRECTION TO PRESS RELEASE FROM FRIDAY, April 27, 2018. - Mailed comments must be postmarked no later than June 26, 2018 and mailed to the address below for consideration in the Draft EIS/OEIS preparation. The 60-day public scoping period begins April 27, 2018 and ends June 26, 2018. All public comments are due by June 26, 2018. Comments may be provided at public scoping meetings, by mail, and through the project website at: <http://pmsr-eis.com>. The DoN is requesting public comments on the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives to be considered during the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS.

All other information remain the same - please see below for reference.

###"Immediate Release - Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Point Mugu Sea Range and to Announce Public Scoping Meetings

PRESS/MEDIA CONTACT: Command Navy Region Southwest - Public Affairs Office, Environmental Public Affairs Specialist at 619-532-3496 or 619-532-1430.

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and Presidential Executive Order (EO) 12114, the Department of the Navy (DoN) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for the Point Mugu Sea Range. The Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS will include an assessment of potential environmental consequences associated with continuing military activities analyzed in the 2002 Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS, plus an increased tempo of military Research Development Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) and training activities at the Point Mugu Sea Range, and new mission areas and platforms.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Two public scoping meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

- 1.) May 15, 2018, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., San Buenaventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93001-2697.
- 2.) May 16, 2018, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101-3119.

The 60-day public scoping period begins April 27, 2018 and ends June 26, 2018. All public comments are due by

Figure 7.2-5: Command, Navy Region Southwest Correction Press Release

June 26, 2018. Comments may be provided at public scoping meetings, by mail, and through the project website at: <http://pmsr-eis.com>. Mailed comments must be postmarked no later than June 26, 2018 and mailed to the address below for consideration in the Draft EIS/OEIS preparation. The DoN is requesting public comments on the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives to be considered during the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The scoping meetings will consist of an informal, open house session with informational poster stations staffed by DoN representatives. Meeting details will be announced in local area newspapers. Additional information on the public scoping meetings and comment submittal will be available on the project website at: <http://pmsr-eis.com>.

CONTACT INFORMATION (for public comments on the EIS/OEIS): Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Range Sustainability Office, Point Mugu Sea Range, Building 53A, Code 52F00ME, 575 I Avenue, Suite 1, Point Mugu, CA 93042-5049, Attn: EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 805-989-0927, or project website: <http://pmsr-eis.com>.

PRESS/MEDIA CONTACT: Command Navy Region Southwest - Public Affairs Office, Environmental Public Affairs Specialist at 619-532-3496.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DoN's action proponent is Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) Point Mugu Sea Range. NAWCWD Point Mugu Sea Range is located offshore of Ventura County in Southern California and includes 36,000 square miles of controlled sea and airspace designated for testing and training activities. The NAWCWD Point Mugu Sea Range meets the established mission to conduct state-of-the-art weapons systems testing and evaluation, and maintain military operational readiness, by providing a safe, operationally realistic, and thoroughly instrumented sea range testing environment. The evolution of international threats and operational technologies require large areas for testing and training.

As part of this process, the DoN will seek the issuance of regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act. Pursuant to 40 CFR § 1501.6, the DoN will invite the National Marine Fisheries Service to be a cooperating agency in preparation of the EIS/OEIS.

The Proposed Action is to accommodate an increase in the tempo of military RDT&E and training activities within the Point Mugu Sea Range Study Area. Proposed testing and training activities are similar to those that have occurred in the Study Area for decades. The proposed tempo is higher than the tempo covered in the 2002 Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide modern instrumented airspace and sea space, maneuver areas, testing and training areas, and range infrastructure to fully support current, emerging, and future RDT&E and Fleet testing and training requirements, and ensure long-term viability of the Point Mugu Sea Range while protecting human health and the environment.

The need for the Proposed Action is to allow for continued RDT&E and training activities in support of military readiness and DoD mission requirements as required by Title 10 to provide combat ready forces.

In the Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS, the DoN will evaluate the potential environmental impacts from a No Action Alternative and action alternatives. The DoN will analyze potential impacts on environmental resources resulting from activities included in the alternatives.

The scoping process is helpful in identifying public concerns and local issues to be considered during the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Federal, state, and local agencies; federally recognized tribes; and interested persons are encouraged to provide substantive comments to the DoN on environmental resources and issue areas of concern that the commenter believes the DoN should consider. All substantive comments, provided orally or in writing at the scoping meetings, submitted via the project website, or mailed will be taken into consideration during the development of the EIS/OEIS.

PRESS/MEDIA CONTACT: Command Navy Region Southwest - Public Affairs Office, Environmental Public Affairs Specialist at 619-532-3496 or 619-532-1430."###

Figure 7.2-5: Command, Navy Region Southwest Correction Press Release (continued)

-----Original Message-----

From: Haase, Helen K CIV CNRSW, N00P
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 1:15 PM
Subject: PRESS RELEASE REFRESHER

"Immediate Release - Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Point Mugu Sea Range and to Announce Public Scoping Meetings

PRESS/MEDIA CONTACT: Command Navy Region Southwest - Public Affairs Office, Environmental Public Affairs Specialist at 619-532-3496 or 619-532-1430.

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and Presidential Executive Order (EO) 12114, the Department of the Navy (DoN) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for the Point Mugu Sea Range. The Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS will include an assessment of potential environmental consequences associated with continuing military activities analyzed in the 2002 Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS, plus an increased tempo of military Research Development Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) and training activities at the Point Mugu Sea Range, and new mission areas and platforms.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Two public scoping meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

- 1.) May 15, 2018, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., San Buenaventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93001-2697.
- 2.) May 16, 2018, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101-3119.

The 60-day public scoping period begins April 27, 2018 and ends June 26, 2018. All public comments are due by June 26, 2018. Comments may be provided at public scoping meetings, by mail, and through the project website at: <http://pmsr-eis.com>. Mailed comments must be postmarked no later than June 26, 2018 and mailed to the address below for consideration in the Draft EIS/OEIS preparation. The DoN is requesting public comments on the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives to be considered during the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The scoping meetings will consist of an informal, open house session with informational poster stations staffed by DoN representatives. Meeting details will be announced in local area newspapers. Additional information on the public scoping meetings and comment submittal will be available on the project website at: <http://pmsr-eis.com>.

CONTACT INFORMATION (for public comments on the EIS/OEIS): Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Range Sustainability Office, Point Mugu Sea Range, Building 53A, Code 52F00ME, 575 I Avenue, Suite 1, Point Mugu, CA 93042-5049, Attn: EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 805-989-0927, or project website: <http://pmsr-eis.com>.

PRESS/MEDIA CONTACT: Command Navy Region Southwest - Public Affairs Office, Environmental Public Affairs Specialist at 619-532-3496.

Figure 7.2-6: Command, Navy Region Southwest Press Release Refresher

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DoN's action proponent is Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) Point Mugu Sea Range. NAWCWD Point Mugu Sea Range is located offshore of Ventura County in Southern California and includes 36,000 square miles of controlled sea and airspace designated for testing and training activities. The NAWCWD Point Mugu Sea Range meets the established mission to conduct state-of-the-art weapons systems testing and evaluation, and maintain military operational readiness, by providing a safe, operationally realistic, and thoroughly instrumented sea range testing environment. The evolution of international threats and operational technologies require large areas for testing and training.

As part of this process, the DoN will seek the issuance of regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act. Pursuant to 40 CFR § 1501.6, the DoN will invite the National Marine Fisheries Service to be a cooperating agency in preparation of the EIS/OEIS.

The Proposed Action is to accommodate an increase in the tempo of military RDT&E and training activities within the Point Mugu Sea Range Study Area. Proposed testing and training activities are similar to those that have occurred in the Study Area for decades. The proposed tempo is higher than the tempo covered in the 2002 Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide modern instrumented airspace and sea space, maneuver areas, testing and training areas, and range infrastructure to fully support current, emerging, and future RDT&E and Fleet testing and training requirements, and ensure long-term viability of the Point Mugu Sea Range while protecting human health and the environment.

The need for the Proposed Action is to allow for continued RDT&E and training activities in support of military readiness and DoD mission requirements as required by Title 10 to provide combat ready forces.

In the Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS, the DoN will evaluate the potential environmental impacts from a No Action Alternative and action alternatives. The DoN will analyze potential impacts on environmental resources resulting from activities included in the alternatives.

The scoping process is helpful in identifying public concerns and local issues to be considered during the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Federal, state, and local agencies; federally recognized tribes; and interested persons are encouraged to provide substantive comments to the DoN on environmental resources and issue areas of concern that the commenter believes the DoN should consider. All substantive comments, provided orally or in writing at the scoping meetings, submitted via the project website, or mailed will be taken into consideration during the development of the EIS/OEIS.

PRESS/MEDIA CONTACT: Command Navy Region Southwest - Public Affairs Office, Environmental Public Affairs Specialist at 619-532-3496 or 619-532-1430.

Figure 7.2-6: Command, Navy Region Southwest Press Release Refresher (continued)

7.2.2 Public Scoping Meetings

The Navy held two scoping meetings on May 15, 2018, and May 16, 2018, at the locations listed in Table 7.2-3. 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.

7.2.2.1 Meetings Summary

Table 7.2-3 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 7.2-3: Summary of Scoping Meetings

Site/Date	Attendance	Comment Letters
San Buenaventura City Hall Community Meeting Room Ventura, CA Tuesday, May 15, 2018	9	0
Media Attendance: Not Applicable		
Topics Discussed: - 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 <i>Ventura County Reporter</i> - Request for clarification regarding the W-291 area depicted on the Study Area map (which is a range that is part of another Navy study)		
Attendees: - 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		
Louise Lowry Davis Center Larry Crandell Room Santa Barbara, CA Wednesday, May 16, 2018	3	0
Media Attendance: Not Applicable		
Topics Discussed: Appreciation for the information provided		
Attendees: Concerned individuals		

7.2.3 Public Scoping Comments

Scoping comments were submitted in two ways:

- Comments submitted during the public meetings
- Written letters (received any time during the public comment period)
- Comments submitted directly on the project website (received any time during the public comment period)

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. A brief summary of concerns follows.

7.2.3.1 Testing and Training Activities

- Request for more information on the numbers and types of munitions proposed by location

7.2.3.2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Analysis

- Recommendation 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

7.2.3.3 Sediments and Water Quality

- 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
- Request that the Navy 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

7.2.3.4 Air Quality

- 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 (e.g., aircrafts, vessels), as well as any potential stationary source emissions located in Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
- Request that the Navy evaluate the impact of air pollutant emissions from proposed operations occurring within and outside the U.S. territorial sea
- Request that the Navy analyze any stationary engines and equipment that may be subject to permitting requirements

7.2.3.5 Marine Species

- 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

7.2.3.6 Mitigation

- 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 unavoidable impacts from testing and training

7.2.3.7 Fishes

- 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

7.2.3.8 Public Health and Safety

- General concern about the Navy polluting the land and sea and how that pollution impacts people and animals

7.2.3.9 Cultural Resources and Historic Properties

- 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

7.2.3.10 Cumulative Impacts

- 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
- Request for the Navy to consider cumulative noise impacts to the ocean environment

7.2.3.11 Other

- Recommend review of 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 contacting 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 completion of a comprehensive survey assessment and analysis of the flora and fauna located within the Study Area

7.3 Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Public Review and Comment Period

The Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period began with issuance of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* (85 FR 23011 and 85 FR 23022) on April 24, 2020, which included an overview of the Proposed Action and its purpose and need, public commenting information, and where to access the Draft EIS/OEIS. Comments were accepted by mail and through the project website at www.pmsr-eis.com. *Federal Register* notices can be found in Appendix F (Federal Register Notices).

7.3.1 Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

The Navy made efforts to facilitate maximum public participation during the Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period. A summary of these efforts follows.

7.3.1.1 Notification Letters

Tribal notification letters, along with a fact sheet booklet, were mailed on April 22, 2020, to 17 tribal chairpersons, founders, presidents, executive directors, and administrators of federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribes and tribal groups who have an interest in the Point Mugu Sea Range Study Area. Chairpersons of federally recognized tribes previously invited to participate in government-to-government consultation received a CD-ROM of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Subsequent mailings of letters and fact sheet booklets were sent to an additional 20 tribes or tribal members on May 15, 2020; May 20, 2020; and May 21, 2020. Stakeholder letters, along with a fact sheet booklet, were mailed on April 22, 2020, to 194 federal, State, and local government agencies and elected officials. Entities that received the notification letters are listed in Table 7.3-1, and Figure 7.3-1 provides an example of the notification letter.

Table 7.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Notification Letter

<i>Federally Recognized Tribes, Non-Federally Recognized Tribes, and Tribal Groups</i>	
Federally Recognized Tribes	- La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians - Pala Band of Mission Indians - Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians - Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians - Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians - Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians - Soboba Band of Luiseño Mission Indians
Non-Federally Recognized Tribes	- Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians - Chumash Council of Bakersfield - Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation - Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians - Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation - Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council - Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe - Gabrielino/Tongva Nation - Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians - Northern Chumash Tribal Council - Salinan Tribe of Monterey, San Luis Obispo Counties - San Fernando Band of Mission Indians - San Luis Obispo County Chumash Council - Serrano Nation of Mission Indians - Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation - Xolon-Salinan Tribe - yak tityu tityu yak tithini – Northern Chumash Tribe
Tribal Groups	- Chumash Maritime Association - Native American Heritage Commission - Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation
<i>Federal Elected Officials and Federal Agencies</i>	
	- U.S. Senators (California) - U.S. Representatives (California Districts 18, 22, 24, 25, 26, 29, 33, 37, 43) - Bureau of Indian Affairs - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management - Pacific OCS Region - Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs - Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement - Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs - Channel Islands Air National Guard Station - Channel Islands National Park - Council on Environmental Quality - General Services Administration - Environmental Policy and Planning Branch - Marine Mammal Commission - National Marine Fisheries Service

Table 7.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Notification Letter (continued)

<i>Federal Elected Officials and Federal Agencies (continued)</i>	
West Coast Region	Protected Resources Division
National Park Service	Pacific West Region
	Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries
	UC Santa Barbara Advisory Council
National Marine Fisheries Service	Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
	Southwest Region
	U.S. Department of Commerce
	Environmental Observation and Prediction
Pacific Fishery Management Council	
U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District	
U.S. Coast Guard	Channel Islands Harbor
	Office of Environmental Management
	Santa Barbara
	San Pedro
U.S. Department of Energy	Environmental, Health, Safety & Security
	National Environmental Policy Act Policy and Compliance (GC-54)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	
U.S. Department of Justice	Wildlife and Marine Resources Section
U.S. Department of the Interior	Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
U.S. Department of Transportation	Federal Aviation Administration
	Office of Policy, International Affairs, Environment and Energy
	San Francisco District
	Western-Pacific Region
	Maritime Administration
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	NEPA Compliance Division
	Region 9
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Pacific Southwest
	Ventura Office
U.S. Forest Service	Los Padres National Forest Headquarters
	Pacific Southwest Region
U.S. Geological Survey	Pacific Regional Directors Office
	Western Ecological Research Center
Vandenberg Air Force Base	

Table 7.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Notification Letter (continued)

<i>State Elected Officials and State Agencies</i>
Office of the Governor (California) and Staff State Senators (California Districts 19, 27, 33) and Staff State Assembly (California Districts 35, 37, 44) California Coastal Commission South Central Coast District South Coast District Central Coast District California Coastal National Monument California Department of Conservation California Department of Education California Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Region Office of Spill Prevention and Response California Department of Health Services California Department of Industrial Relations California Department of Parks and Recreation Division of Boating and Waterways Historic Preservation Office
<i>Local Elected Officials and Local Agencies</i>
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Districts 4 and 5) Ventura County Board of Supervisors (Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors City of Camarillo City of Long Beach City of Los Angeles City of Oxnard City of Port Hueneme City of San Luis Obispo City of Santa Barbara City of Ventura Police Department Central Coast Regional Quality Control Board Convention & Visitor Bureau of Oxnard California Black Chamber of Commerce Camarillo Chamber of Commerce Filipino American Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Malibu Chamber of Commerce Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce Ventura Chamber of Commerce Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control Board Tech and EA Division Association of Governments Planning Division

Table 7.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Notification Letter (continued)

<i>Local Elected Officials and Local Agencies (continued)</i>	
Parks and Recreation Department	
Planning and Development	
Public Health Officer	
Waterfront Department	
Ventura Council of Governments	
Ventura County	
Air Pollution Control District	
Cultural Heritage Board	
Harbor Department	
Public Health Services	
Resource Management Agency	
Ventura County Planning Division	
Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau	
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency	
Local Agency Formation Commission	
Oxnard Visitors Bureau	
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	
Port of Hueneme	
Port of Long Beach	
Public Works Agency	
Ventura County Watershed Protection District	



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR WARFARE CENTER WEAPONS DIVISION
1 ADMINISTRATION CIRCLE 575 I AVENUE SUITE 1
CHINA LAKE, CA 93555-6100 POINT MUGU, CA 93042-5049

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090
Ser EB2R00M/005
6 Apr 20

Dear Sir or Madam:

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

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft 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 is also analyzing 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 Navy welcomes your review and substantive comments on the Draft 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 to maintain operational readiness by providing a safe, realistic, and instrumented testing 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 fully support current, emerging, and foreseeable future testing and training requirements.
- Ensure the long-term viability of the Point Mugu Sea Range while protecting human health and the environment.

Figure 7.3-1: Stakeholder Letter for the Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

5090
Ser EB2R00M/005
6 Apr 20

The need for the Proposed Action is to allow 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 Draft EIS/OEIS supports the request for federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Navy is consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required. The National Marine Fisheries Service is also a cooperating agency for the preparation of this EIS/OEIS.

Concurrent with the National Environmental Policy Act public involvement process, the Navy is consulting with interested parties for the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process regarding potential effects of proposed testing and training activities on historic properties. Historic properties include districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Draft EIS/OEIS is available for public review on the project website at www.pmsr-eis.com. Copies of the Draft EIS/OEIS are available for public review at the following public libraries, depending on COVID-19 conditions regulating access to public facilities. Please check with the library regarding its hours of operation and the availability of the document.

Camarillo Public Library
4101 Las Posas Road
Camarillo, CA 93010

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

Carpinteria Branch Library
5141 Carpinteria Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013

South Oxnard Branch Library
4300 Saviers Road
Oxnard, CA 93033

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

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

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

Due to current federal and state guidance on social distancing in response to COVID-19, the Navy will not hold in-person public meetings to support the Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period. If you have questions about the Proposed Action, the draft environmental impact analysis, or the Section 106 process, please email info@pmsr-eis.com or call 888-238-2375.

The Navy welcomes public comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS and potential effects on historic properties. Public comments will be accepted during the 45-day public review and comment period beginning April 24, 2020, through June 8, 2020. Comments must be

Figure 7.3-1: Stakeholder Letter for the Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

5090
Ser EB2R00M/005
6 Apr 20

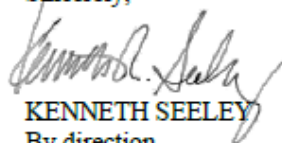
postmarked or received online by **June 8, 2020**, for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS. All comments will become part of the public record and substantive comments will be addressed in the Final EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted via the project website at www.pmsr-eis.com or by mail to:

Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division
Range Sustainability Office
Point Mugu Sea Range, Building 53A, Room 106G, Code EB2R00M
575 I Avenue, Suite 1
Point Mugu, CA 93042-5049
Attention: EIS/OEIS Project Manager

For more information, please review the project informational brochure (Enclosure 2) or visit the project website at www.pmsr-eis.com. A CD-ROM of the Draft EIS/OEIS can be made available by submitting a request to the project manager at the address above.

Please help the Navy inform the community about the availability of the Draft 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
2. Point Mugu Sea Range Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Project Informational Brochure

Figure 7.3-1: Stakeholder Letter for the Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

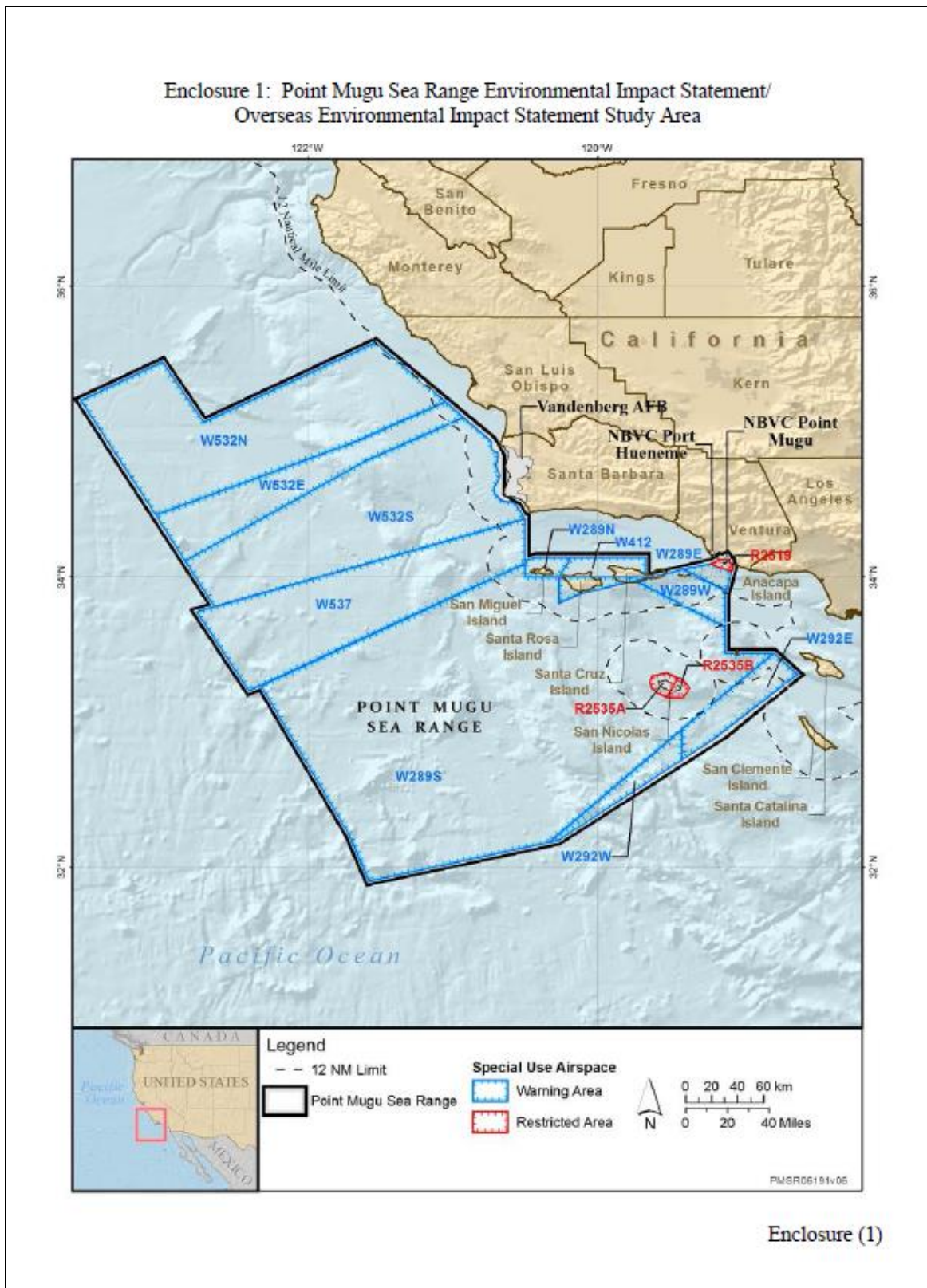


Figure 7.3-1: Stakeholder Letter for the Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

7.3.1.2 Postcard Mailer

Postcards were mailed to 100 nongovernmental organizations; community and business groups; fishing, aviation, and recreation groups; researchers and universities; and private companies on April 22, 2020. The postcards included the website address, email and voicemail information for questions from the public, commenting information, and a brief summary of the Proposed Action. The postcard mailer is shown in Figure 7.3-2.

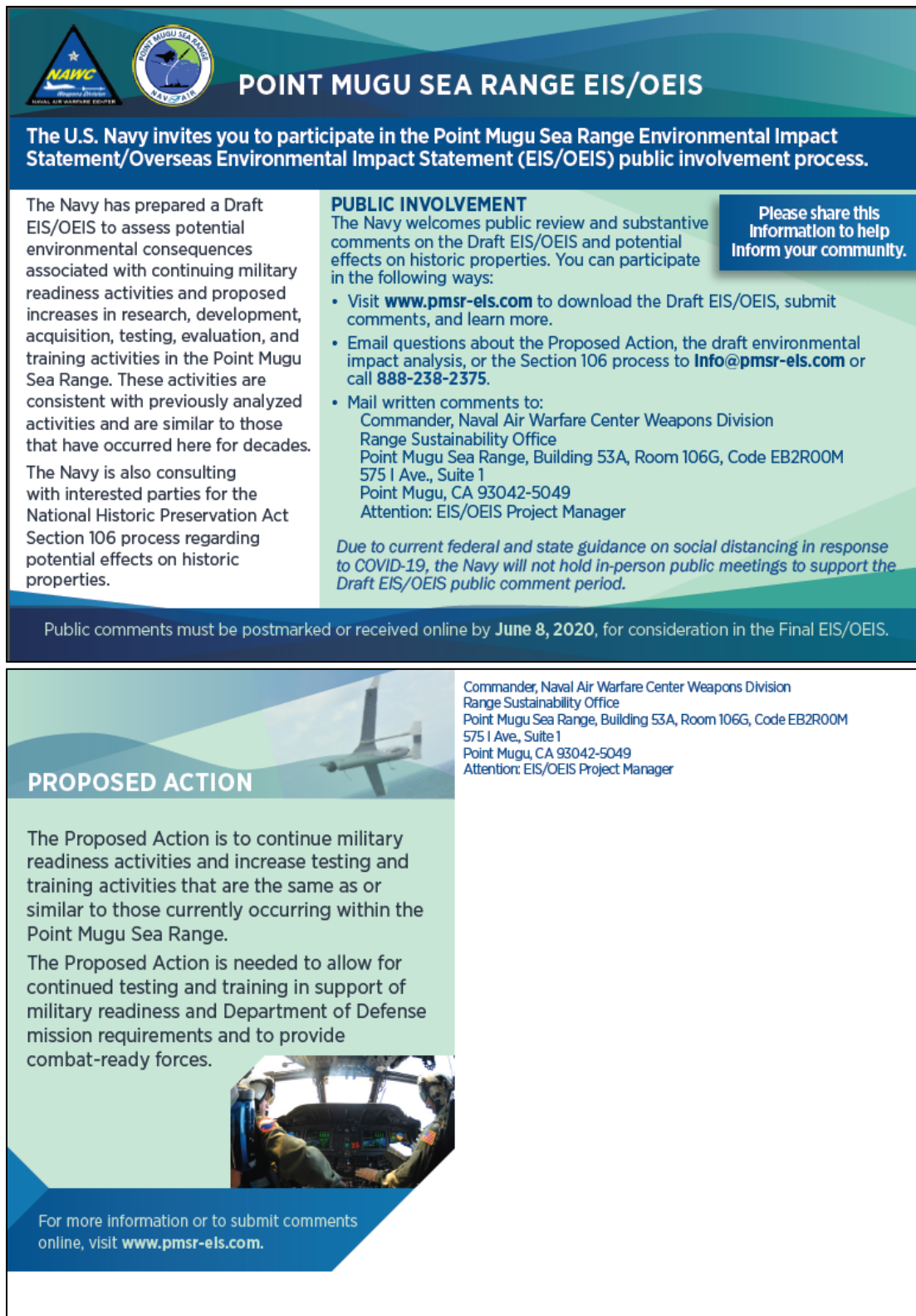


Figure 7.3-2: Postcard Mailer for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (Front and Back)

7.3.1.3 Newspaper Advertisements

To announce the availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS, advertisements were placed in area newspapers listed in Table 7.3-2. The advertisements included a description of the Proposed Action, the project website, email and voicemail information for questions from the public, the duration of the comment period, and information on how to provide comments. An example of the newspaper announcement is shown in Figure 7.3-3.

Table 7.3-2: Newspaper Announcements of the Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

Newspaper	Newspaper Coverage
<i>Los Angeles Times</i>	Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, CA
<i>Santa Barbara Independent</i>	Santa Barbara County, CA
<i>Santa Barbara News-Press</i>	Santa Barbara County, CA
<i>San Luis Obispo Tribune</i>	San Luis Obispo County, CA
<i>Ventura County Star</i>	Ventura County, CA
<i>Vida Newspaper (Spanish language)</i>	Ventura County, CA

**The U.S. Navy
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE
in the Point Mugu Sea Range
EIS/OEIS Public Involvement Process**

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess potential environmental consequences associated with continuing military readiness activities and proposed increases in research, development, acquisition, testing, evaluation, and training activities in the Point Mugu Sea Range. These activities are consistent with previously analyzed activities and are similar to those that have occurred here for decades.

The Navy is also consulting with interested parties for the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process regarding potential effects on historic properties.

Public Involvement

The Navy welcomes public review and substantive comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS and potential effects on historic properties. Visit www.pmsr-eis.com to review the document and submit comments online, or submit by mail to:

Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division
Range Sustainability Office
Point Mugu Sea Range, Bldg. 53A, Rm. 106G, Code EB2R00M
575 I Ave., Suite 1
Point Mugu, CA 93042-5049
Attention: EIS/OEIS Project Manager

Public comments must be postmarked or received online by June 8, 2020, for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS.

For More Information

Due to current federal and state guidance on social distancing in response to COVID-19, the Navy will not hold in-person public meetings to support the Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period. If you have questions about the Proposed Action, the draft environmental impact analysis, or the Section 106 process, please email info@pmsr-eis.com or call 888-238-2375.

Figure 7.3-3: Newspaper Announcement of the Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

7.3.1.4 Press Releases

Press releases to announce the availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS were distributed to local and regional media on April 24, 2020, and May 15, 2020. The press releases provided a description of the Proposed Action, project website, email and voicemail information for questions from the public, duration of the comment period and commenting methods, and information repositories. The press releases are shown in Figure 7.3-4 and Figure 7.3-5.

7.3.1.5 Subscriber Email Notification

On April 24, 2020, an email notification was sent to 19 website subscribers carried over from the scoping phase. The email informed subscribers of the Proposed Action, availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS, duration of the public comment period, and commenting methods. As of December 2020, there are 36 website subscribers.

7.3.2 Public Meetings

Due to federal and State guidance on social distancing in response to COVID-19, the Navy was unable to hold in-person public meetings as planned in May 2020. In lieu of public meetings, the Navy set up a project email address and phone voicemail system to allow for verbal and written questions from the public. The public was also able to submit comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS through previously established channels (website and mail).

7.3.3 Public Email and Voicemail System

Due to federal and State guidance on social distancing in response to COVID-19, the Navy established a project email address and voicemail system, in lieu of public meetings, to allow for verbal and written questions from the public during the Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period.

Naval Base Ventura County Advisory



COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

Public Affairs Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **April 24, 2020**

Tel: (805)989-9234	311 Main Rd., Bldg. 1
Fax: (805)989-1785	Point Mugu, CA 93042

**POINT MUGU SEA RANGE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AVAILABLE FOR
PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT**

San Diego, CA — The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess potential environmental consequences associated with continuing military readiness activities and proposed increases in research, development, acquisition, testing, and evaluation (referred to as “testing”) and training activities in the Point Mugu Sea Range. These activities are consistent with previously analyzed activities and are similar to those that have occurred here for decades. The Navy welcomes public review and substantive comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Due to current federal and state guidance on social distancing in response to COVID-19, the Navy will not hold in-person public meetings to support the Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period. If you have questions about the Proposed Action, the draft environmental impact analysis, or the Section 106 process, please email info@pmsr-eis.com or call 888-238-2375.

The Navy welcomes public comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS and potential effects on historic properties. Public comments will be accepted during the 45-day public review and comment period beginning April 24, 2020, through June 8, 2020. Comments must be postmarked or received online by June 8, 2020, for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS. All comments will become part of the public record and substantive comments will be addressed in the Final EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted via the project website at www.pmsr-eis.com

Concurrent with the National Environmental Policy Act public involvement process, the Navy is consulting with interested parties for the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process regarding potential effects of proposed testing and training activities on historic properties. Historic properties include districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Proposed Action:

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 in the Point Mugu Sea Range. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to:

Figure 7.3-4: Press Release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (April 24, 2020)

- Provide modern instrumented airspace, sea space, testing and training areas, testing and training facilities, and range infrastructure to fully support current, emerging, and foreseeable future testing and training requirements.
- Ensure the long-term viability of the Point Mugu Sea Range while protecting human health and the environment.

The need for the Proposed Action is to allow for continued testing and training in support of military readiness and Department of Defense mission requirements and to provide combat-ready forces. The Draft EIS/OEIS supports the request for federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Navy is consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required. The National Marine Fisheries Service is also a cooperating agency for the preparation of this 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. Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Point Mugu meets its mission to conduct state-of-the-art weapons systems testing and evaluation and to maintain operational readiness by providing a safe, realistic, and instrumented testing 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.

Public Review and Comment Period and Availability of Draft EIS/OEIS:

Due to current federal and state guidance on social distancing in response to COVID-19, the Navy will not hold in-person public meetings to support the Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period. If you have questions about the Proposed Action, the draft environmental impact analysis, or the Section 106 process, please email info@pmsr-eis.com or call 888-238-2375.

The Navy welcomes public comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS and potential effects on historic properties. Public comments will be accepted during the 45-day public review and comment period beginning April 24, 2020, through June 8, 2020. Comments must be postmarked or received online by June 8, 2020, for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS. All comments will become part of the public record and substantive comments will be addressed in the Final EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted via the project website at www.pmsr-eis.com or by mail to:

Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division
Range Sustainability Office
Point Mugu Sea Range, Building 53A, Room 106G, Code EB2R00M
575 I Avenue, Suite 1
Point Mugu, CA 93042-5049
Attention: EIS/OEIS Project Manager

The Draft EIS/OEIS is available for public review on the project website at www.pmsr-eis.com. Copies of the Draft EIS/OEIS are available for public review at the following public libraries, depending on COVID-19 conditions regulating access to public facilities. Please check with the library regarding its hours of operation and the availability of the document.

- Camarillo Public Library, 4101 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo, CA 93010
- Carpinteria Branch Library, 5141 Carpinteria Ave., Carpinteria, CA 93013
- E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main St., Ventura, CA 93001

Figure 7.3-4: Press Release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (April 24, 2020) (continued)

- 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 Rd., Oxnard, CA 93033
- Downtown Oxnard Main Library, 251 S. A St., Oxnard, CA 93030

For more information, please visit the project website at www.pmsr-eis.com.

– USN –

**Figure 7.3-4: Press Release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Statement (April 24, 2020) (continued)**

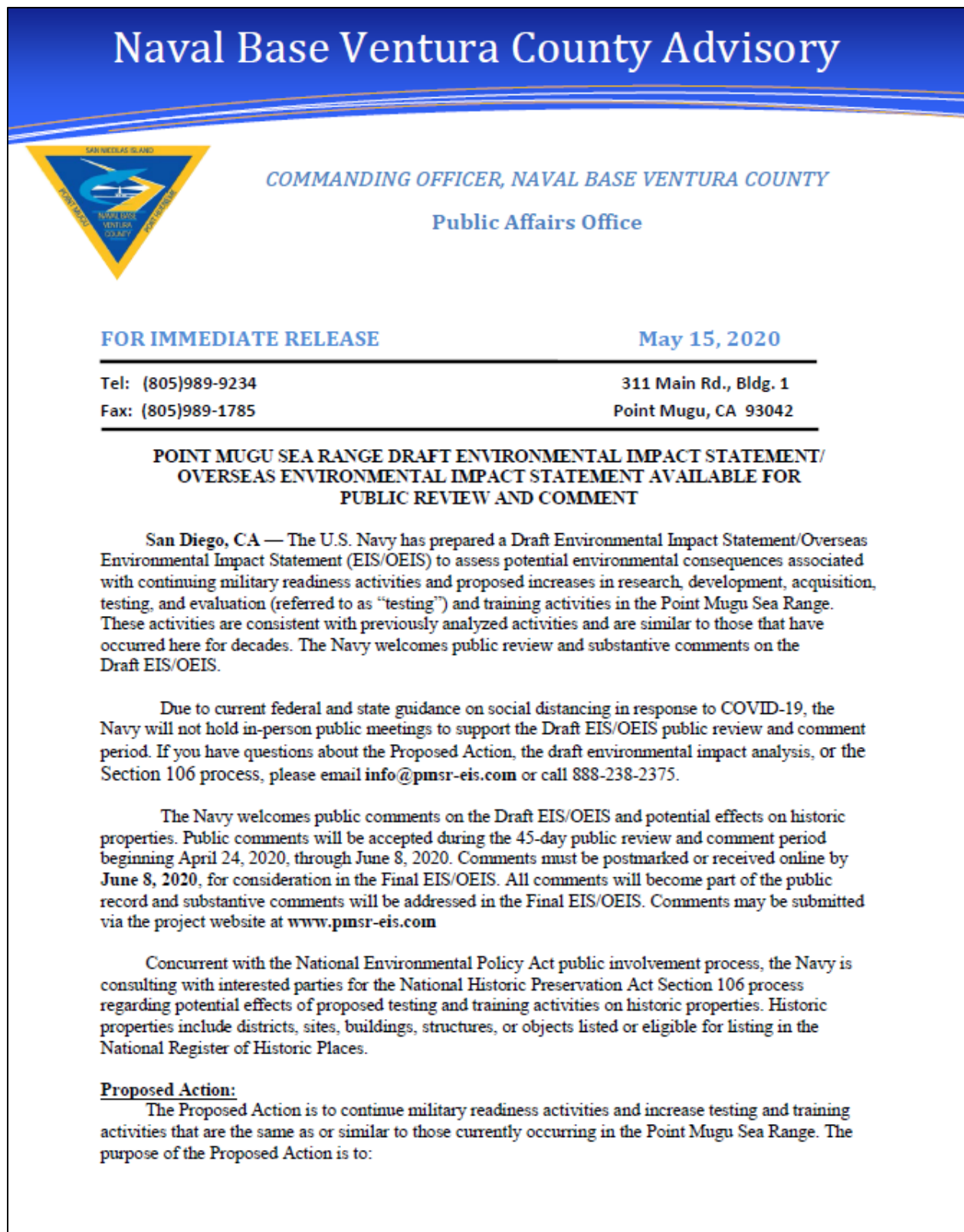


Figure 7.3-5: Press Release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (May 15, 2020)

- Provide modern instrumented airspace, sea space, testing and training areas, testing and training facilities, and range infrastructure to fully support current, emerging, and foreseeable future testing and training requirements.
- Ensure the long-term viability of the Point Mugu Sea Range while protecting human health and the environment.

The need for the Proposed Action is to allow for continued testing and training in support of military readiness and Department of Defense mission requirements and to provide combat-ready forces. The Draft EIS/OEIS supports the request for federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Navy is consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required. The National Marine Fisheries Service is also a cooperating agency for the preparation of this 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. Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Point Mugu meets its mission to conduct state-of-the-art weapons systems testing and evaluation and to maintain operational readiness by providing a safe, realistic, and instrumented testing 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.

Public Review and Comment Period and Availability of Draft EIS/OEIS:

Due to current federal and state guidance on social distancing in response to COVID-19, the Navy will not hold in-person public meetings to support the Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period. If you have questions about the Proposed Action, the draft environmental impact analysis, or the Section 106 process, please email info@pmsr-eis.com or call 888-238-2375.

The Navy welcomes public comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS and potential effects on historic properties. Public comments will be accepted during the 45-day public review and comment period beginning April 24, 2020, through June 8, 2020. Comments must be postmarked or received online by June 8, 2020, for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS. All comments will become part of the public record and substantive comments will be addressed in the Final EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted via the project website at www.pmsr-eis.com or by mail to:

Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division
Range Sustainability Office
Point Mugu Sea Range, Building 53A, Room 106G, Code EB2R00M
575 I Avenue, Suite 1
Point Mugu, CA 93042-5049
Attention: EIS/OEIS Project Manager

The Draft EIS/OEIS is available for public review on the project website at www.pmsr-eis.com. Copies of the Draft EIS/OEIS are available for public review at the following public libraries, depending on COVID-19 conditions regulating access to public facilities. Please check with the library regarding its hours of operation and the availability of the document.

- Camarillo Public Library, 4101 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo, CA 93010
- Carpinteria Branch Library, 5141 Carpinteria Ave., Carpinteria, CA 93013
- E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main St., Ventura, CA 93001

Figure 7.3-5: Press Release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (May 15, 2020) (continued)

- 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 Rd., Oxnard, CA 93033
- Downtown Oxnard Main Library, 251 S. A St., Oxnard, CA 93030

For more information, please visit the project website at www.pmsr-eis.com.

– USN –

**Figure 7.3-5: Press Release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Statement (May 15, 2020) (continued)**

7.4 Distribution of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

The Draft EIS/OEIS was made available on the project website (www.pmsr-eis.com). Copies of the Draft EIS/OEIS were made available for public review at information repositories listed in Section 7.4.2 (Information Repositories), depending on COVID-19 conditions regulating access to public facilities. The public was encouraged to check with the library regarding its hours of operation and the availability of the document.

7.4.1 Federal Agencies

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regional offices received electronic versions of the Draft EIS/OEIS. The National Marine Fisheries Service headquarters office received a CD-ROM of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Chairpersons of federally recognized tribes invited to participate in government-to-government consultation received a CD-ROM of the Draft EIS/OEIS.

7.4.2 Information Repositories

The Draft EIS/OEIS was mailed in hard copy form, along with a CD-ROM, to the information repository locations shown in Table 7.4-1. The public was encouraged to check with the library regarding its hours of operation and the availability of the document.

Table 7.4-1: Information Repositories

Repository Name	Physical Address	Phone
Camarillo Public Library	4101 Las Posas Road Camarillo, CA 93010	805-388-5222
Carpinteria Branch Library	5141 Carpinteria Avenue Carpinteria, CA 93013	805-684-4314
E.P. Foster Library	651 E. Main Street Ventura, CA 93001	805-648-2716
San Luis Obispo Library	995 Palm Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	805-781-5783
Santa Barbara Public Library	40 E. Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101	805-564-5608
South Oxnard Branch Library	4300 Saviers Road Oxnard, CA 93033	805-385-8129
Oxnard Downtown Main Library	251 S. A Street Oxnard, CA 93030	805-385-7500

7.5 Public Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

The public review and comment period for the Draft EIS/OEIS ran from April 24, 2020, to June 8, 2020. The Navy received six comment letters during the comment period. Comment letters were submitted via the project website's electronic comment form (4) and postal mail (1).

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 considered the impact, significance, and relevance of the comments to the preparation of the Final EIS/OEIS. Issues and concerns provided in the comment letters are responded to in Appendix H (Public Comment Responses). A brief summary of public comments follows.

7.5.1 Testing and Training Activities

- Recommendation to exclude close-to-shore areas as target areas to avoid any impacts of explosives, thereby preserving these areas for further research of submerged archeological resources
- Request that reports be provided on testing and training activities to the extent the reporting does not contain classified information
- Question about whether radar equipment testing in the Naval Surface Warfare Engineering Facility area is included in the Proposed Action

7.5.2 Marine Species

- 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
- Concern about the impacts testing and training will have on marine species habitat
- Recommendation that the Navy incorporates seasonal and geographic avoidance areas for the Santa Barbara Channel and the San Miguel Biologically Important Area since they are heavily used by blue whales and least used by the military
- Request for the Navy to provide additional information in the Final EIS/OEIS regarding entanglement impacts on sea turtles from decelerators/parachutes
- Request to discuss the acoustic monitoring efforts the Navy is funding and any coordination occurring with the ocean research community's efforts to use passive acoustic monitoring to detect marine mammals to reduce commercial ship strikes

7.5.3 Mitigation

- Recommend the use of time-area management to mitigate harm expected to vulnerable marine mammal populations, including management measures that reduce harm to the endangered blue, humpback, fin, and gray whale populations
- Recommend the Navy recover as much ocean expended testing and training materials as possible and consider rectifying the impacts from materials that are not recoverable
- Recommend the Navy implement better mitigation to reduce entanglement of marine species, such as enhancing the visibility of parachutes in the water column

7.5.4 Public Health and Safety

- Concern about the Navy polluting the ocean with plastic expended military materials that cannot be easily recovered. Recommend discussing the potential for chaff and flare cartridges to be produced without plastic components in the future to reduce plastic pollution.

7.5.5 Cultural Resources and Historic Properties

- General concern about 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 consult with affiliated tribes to ensure any impacts on culturally significant resources would be handled in accordance with the customs and traditions of each tribe
- Request for the Navy to notify affiliated tribes of any cultural resource discoveries and that the significance of tribal cultural resources and the treatment of any findings will be determined in consultation with the affiliated tribes
- Request no further ground disturbance within 100 feet of a discovery, until the Naval Base Ventura County Cultural Resources Manager in consultation with affiliated tribes approves the measures to protect cultural resource(s)

7.5.6 Other

- Request for additional language to be included that will clarify the term “vicinity” in nautical miles or other commonly used measure
- Request for an annual report on impacts on birds, marine mammals, sea turtles, and Endangered Species Act-listed species, and all cultural resources information be provided to affiliated tribes
- Request that, in consultation with affiliated tribes, the Navy develop measures to offset impacts on natural and cultural resources by developing, enhancing, and creating protected natural habitats; performing further survey work; and exploring recovery methods to excavate remnants due to military use
- Recommendation that the Navy choose Alternative 2 as it appears to be the environmentally preferable alternative
- Request clarification as to whether the Navy will be submitting any monitoring reports to the National Marine Fisheries Service that are not listed on the Navy’s Marine Species Monitoring webpage, and request to submit such reports
- Request to confirm the Navy has informed and coordinated with all tribes listed by the California Native American Heritage Commission as interested in activities in San Luis Obispo through Los Angeles counties

7.6 Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

7.6.1 Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

The Final EIS/OEIS public review and 30-day wait period will begin with the publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. The intent of public involvement efforts during the Final EIS/OEIS phase of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is to notify federally recognized tribes, stakeholders, and the public of the availability of the document, the 30-day wait period, and the next steps in the NEPA process.

7.6.1.1 Notification Letters

Tribal notification letters will be distributed before the release of the Final EIS/OEIS to appropriate tribal chairpersons, founders, presidents, executive directors, or administrators of federally recognized tribes and non-federally recognized tribes, and to tribal groups who have an interest in the Study Area. Stakeholder letters will be mailed before the release of the Final EIS/OEIS to interested federal, State, and local government agencies and elected officials.

7.6.1.2 Postcards

Postcards will be mailed to recipients on the project mailing list, including individuals; nongovernmental organizations; community and business groups; fishing, aviation, and recreation groups; researchers and universities; and private companies.

7.6.1.3 Newspaper Advertisements

Advertisements will be placed in the area newspapers listed in Table 7.3-2 to announce the availability of the Final EIS/OEIS.

7.6.1.4 Press Release

A press release to announce the availability of the Final EIS/OEIS will be distributed to local and regional media.

7.6.1.5 Subscriber Email Notification

An email notification will be sent to website subscribers announcing the availability of the Final EIS/OEIS.

7.7 Distribution of the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

The Final EIS/OEIS will be made available on the project website (www.pmsr-eis.com) and at the information repositories listed in Section 7.4.2 (Information Repositories), unless COVID-19 conditions preclude public access to the repository.

7.7.1 Federal Agencies

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regional offices will receive electronic versions of the Final EIS/OEIS. The National Marine Fisheries Service Headquarters will receive a CD-ROM of the Final EIS/OEIS.

7.7.2 Information Repositories

The Final EIS/OEIS will be mailed in hard copy form, along with a CD-ROM, to the information repository locations listed in Table 7.4-1, unless COVID-19 conditions preclude public access to the repository. In this case, the Navy would seek alternative methods of making the document accessible.

7.8 Record of Decision

7.8.1 Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision

The Record of Decision phase of the NEPA process follows the Final EIS/OEIS 30-day wait period and includes selection of an alternative by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations, and Environment).

A Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision will be published in the *Federal Register*. The intent of public involvement efforts during this phase of the NEPA process is to notify federally recognized tribes, stakeholders, and the public of the availability of the Record of Decision and where it can be accessed, and the Navy's decision to implement or not implement the Proposed Action or selected alternative.

7.8.1.1 Notification Letters

Tribal notification letters will be distributed upon the publication of the Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision to appropriate tribal chairpersons, founders, presidents, executive directors, or administrators of federally recognized tribes and non-federally recognized tribes, and to tribal groups

who have an interest in the Study Area. Stakeholder letters will be mailed upon the publication of the Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision to interested federal, State, and local government agencies and elected officials.

7.8.1.2 Postcards

Postcards will be mailed to recipients on the project mailing list, including individuals; nongovernmental organizations; community and business groups; fishing, aviation, and recreation groups; researchers and universities; and private companies.

7.8.1.3 Newspaper Advertisements

Advertisements will be placed in the area newspapers listed in Table 7.3-2 to announce the availability of the Record of Decision.

7.8.1.4 Press Release

A press release to announce the availability of the Record of Decision will be distributed to local and regional media.

7.8.1.5 Subscriber Email Notification

An email notification will be sent to website subscribers announcing the availability of the Record of Decision.

7.9 Distribution of the Record of Decision

The Record of Decision will be made available on the project website (www.pmsr-eis.com) and at the information repositories listed in Section 7.4.2 (Information Repositories).

7.9.1 Federal Agencies

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regional offices will receive electronic versions of the Record of Decision. The National Marine Fisheries Service headquarters office will receive a CD-ROM of the Record of Decision.

7.9.2 Information Repositories

The Record of Decision will be mailed in hard copy form, along with a CD-ROM, to the information repository locations listed in Table 7.4-1, unless COVID-19 conditions preclude public access to the repository. In this case, the Navy would seek alternative methods of making the document accessible.

7.10 Notification of National Marine Fisheries Service Proposed Rule

National Marine Fisheries Service released its proposed rule and request for comment in the *Federal Register* on July 16, 2021. A copy of the *Federal Register* notice is included in Appendix F (Federal Register Notices).

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