

COVER SHEET
**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RANGE COMPLEX

Lead Agency for the EIS: U.S. Department of the Navy

Title of the Proposed Action: Southern California (SOCAL) Range Complex

Affected Jurisdiction: Counties of San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles

Designation: Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

Abstract

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) has been prepared by the Department of the Navy (DoN) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code § 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [C.F.R.] §§ 1500-1508); DoN Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 C.F.R. § 775); and Executive Order 12114 (EO 12114), Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions. The Navy has identified the need to support and conduct current, emerging, and future training and research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) operations in the SOCAL Range Complex. Three alternatives are analyzed in this EIS/OEIS. The No Action Alternative will continue training and RDT&E activities of the same types, and at the same levels of training intensity as currently conducted, without change in the nature or scope of military activities. Alternative 1, in addition to accommodating training operations addressed in the No Action Alternative, would support an increase in training operations. Alternative 1 also proposes training and RDT&E required by force structure changes associated with introduction of new weapons systems, new classes of ships, and new types of aircraft into the Fleet. Alternative 2 would include all elements of Alternative 1 and the No Action Alternative. In addition, under Alternative 2, training operations would be increased over levels identified in Alternative 1, and certain range enhancements would be implemented, to include establishment of a shallow water training minefield and installation and use of a shallow water training range.

This EIS/OEIS addresses the potential environmental impacts that result or could result from activities under the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2. Environmental resource topics evaluated include geology and soils, air quality, hazardous waste and materials, water resources, marine plants and invertebrates, sea turtles, marine mammals, sea birds, terrestrial biological resources, cultural resources, traffic, socioeconomics, environmental justice and the protection of children, and public safety.

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