

### 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter describes existing environmental conditions for resources potentially affected by the Proposed Action and alternatives described in Chapter 2. This chapter also identifies and assesses the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives. As discussed in Chapter 2 (Section 2.3) under the No Action Alternative training, operations used continue at current levels. The No Action Alternative is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and is the environmental baseline. The affected environment and environmental consequences are described and analyzed according to categories of resources. The categories of resources addressed in this Preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) are:

Geology and Soils (3.1)	Air Quality (3.2)
Hazardous Materials and Wastes (3.3)	Water Resources (3.4)
Acoustic Environment (3.5)	Marine Plants and Invertebrates (3.6)
Fish (3.7)	Sea Turtles (3.8)
Marine Mammals (3.9)	Sea Birds (3.10)
Terrestrial Biological Resources (3.11)	Cultural Resources (3.12)
Traffic (3.13)	Socioeconomics (3.14)
Environmental Justice and Protection of Children (3.15)	Public Safety (3.16)

In the environmental impact analysis process, the resources analyzed are identified and the expected geographic scope of potential impacts for each resource, known as the resource's Region of Influence (ROI), is defined. The discussion and analysis, organized by resource area, covers the ocean areas of the SOCAL Range Complex (referred to as SOCAL Operating Areas [OPAREAs]), Special Use Airspace (SUA), and the land area of San Clemente Island (SCI) to the extent affected resources or potential impacts are present.

In describing and analyzing affected resources and environmental consequences, this chapter identifies current mitigation measures such as Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Best Management Practices (BMPs), and Conservation Measures that are integral to the activities covered by the Proposed Action and alternatives. This chapter also identifies further measures not currently being undertaken that would mitigate environmental impacts to a given resource. All mitigation measures are listed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation Measures).

Included in the resource-specific assessments of potential impacts is a discussion of cumulative impacts on that resource. The discussion under the Affected Environment sections includes past and present environmental impacts. The approach taken in the analysis of cumulative impacts follows the objectives of NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and CEQ guidance. CEQ regulations (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500-1508) provide the implementing procedures for NEPA. The regulations define cumulative impacts as:

The impact on the environment which results from the *incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions* regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions (40 C.F.R. § 1508.7) (*emphasis added*).

Reasonably foreseeable actions with the potential for creating cumulative impacts when combined with potential impacts from implementation of the Proposed Action were also reviewed. A summary of cumulative impacts and reasonably foreseeable actions are also listed in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts).