

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Navy Releases Record of Decision for the
Southern California Range Complex Final EIS/OEIS**

The Navy today completed and released the record of decision for the Southern California Range Complex Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS).

Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment BJ Penn signed the record of decision, marking completion of the EIS/OEIS process for the Southern California Range Complex. The Final EIS/OEIS and the record of decision are available at www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com.

“The decision I signed today allows the Navy to train in a realistic way that does not harm marine mammals,” said Penn.

“The SOCAL EIS represents one of the most robust and detailed studies ever conducted on sonar’s effects on marine mammals,” said Penn. “It was developed using the best available science, and its conclusions are the result of extensive coordination with independent scientists and federal regulators..

“The Navy is committed to protecting the environment while guarding the nation’s freedom,” Penn said. “This decision represents a major step forward in our ability to achieve both of those ends.”

The SOCAL EIS/OEIS is one of a series of environmental impact statements the Navy is preparing for its major range complexes, which include Hawaii, the Pacific Northwest, Mariana Islands, the Gulf of Alaska and the East Coast. Policies resulting from the fleetwide review, which began four years ago, will seek to strike the proper balance between the service’s statutory requirements to maintain military readiness while minimizing its impact on the environment.

“We need to provide realistic training to our Sailors, and we also need to ensure we’re protecting the environment,” said Penn. “There is no other option. I am confident the SOCAL decision meets those requirements.”

Each EIS is a comprehensive analysis of the environmental impacts of current and potential Department of Defense activities in the range complex.

The Navy released the Final EIS/OEIS for the SOCAL Range Complex on December 5, 2008. The record of decision was prepared following a review of all public comments.

With the record of decision, the Navy selects alternative 2, the preferred alternative among three that were analyzed. Alternative 2 is designed to meet current and near-term operational training requirements and provides for

- Increased training and research, development, testing and evaluation activities.
- Force structure changes, including new weapons systems and platforms such as the Littoral Combat Ship, P-8A Multi-Mission Aircraft, MV-22 Osprey, EA-18G Growler and MH-60S Multi-Mission Helicopter.
- Range enhancements, including an additional shallow water minefield and expansion of the existing shallow water training range.

In addition to the project website, the record of decision and Final EIS/OEIS are available at:

San Diego Central Library
820 E Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Oceanside Public Library
330 North Coast Hwy
Oceanside, CA 92054

San Clemente Library
242 Avenida Del Mar
San Clemente, CA 92672

San Pedro Regional Branch Library
931 S. Gaffey Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

For further information, contact Navy Public Affairs at 703-697-5342.