

What is the Southern California Range Complex?

The Southern California (SOCAL) Range Complex is the most capable and heavily used U.S. Navy range complex in the eastern Pacific region. Stretching from Los Angeles County to Baja California, the SOCAL Range Complex extends more than 600 nautical miles southwest into the Pacific Ocean and covers more than 120,000 square nautical miles of ocean area. The land, air, and sea components of the SOCAL Range Complex provide the space and resources needed to conduct exercises across the training spectrum, from individual skills training to complex joint (multi-service) exercises.

The training areas in Southern California are known as “ranges” and are present in designated areas on land, at sea, and in airspace. To optimize the use of these vital training ranges, the Navy is managing training at a range complex-wide level (see sidebar). In line with range complex-wide management practices, the Navy is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to comprehensively evaluate the effects of current and future Navy activities within the range complex on the environment.



The mission of the Southern California Range Complex is to support Navy, Marine Corps, and joint training by maintaining and operating range facilities and by providing range services and support to the Pacific Fleet, Marine Corps Forces Pacific, and other military activities. The Commander, Fleet Forces Command and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet are responsible for operations, maintenance, training, and support of this national training asset.

The Navy has been training in the Southern California Range Complex for national defense purposes for over 70 years. A range complex is an organized and designated geographic area encompassing the land, air, and sea space used by the Navy for training and testing purposes. A range complex is used to conduct operations and training exercises, and for the research, development, and test and evaluation of military hardware, weapons, personnel, and tactics.

Why is the Navy conducting an Environmental Impact Statement?

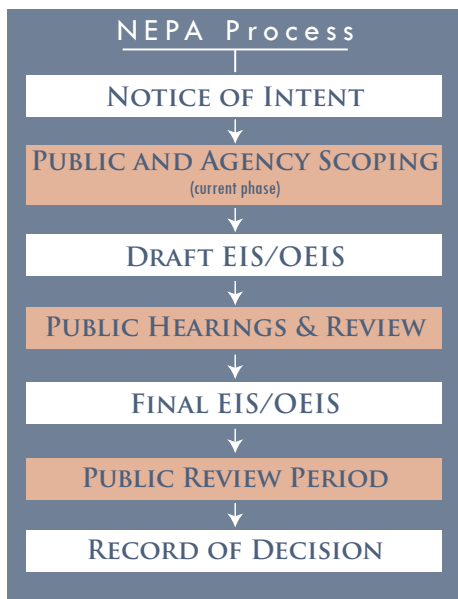
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires Federal agencies examine the individual and cumulative, or additive, environmental effects of their activities. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a detailed public document that provides an assessment of the potential effects a Federal action might have on the human, natural, or cultural environment. An Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) is being prepared to comply with Executive Order 12114, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions, signed by President Carter in 1979. This order requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of actions that may affect the environment outside U.S. territorial waters.

The Navy’s air, land, and sea ranges in Southern California provide Navy and Marine Corps personnel with the space and equipment needed to conduct realistic training, which is essential for the safety and readiness of military personnel and the success of the military mission.

The Navy is conducting the SOCAL Range Complex EIS/OEIS to plan for the future and to assess the effects of the Navy’s ongoing and future operations on the environment. The SOCAL Range Complex EIS/OEIS also gives the Navy the opportunity to review its procedures and ensure that the benefits of recent scientific and technological advances are applied toward minimizing environmental effects.

How can the community be involved in the development of this document?

The NEPA process emphasizes the importance of community involvement during the development of an EIS/OEIS. The diagram on the next page illustrates the steps of the NEPA process, with the highlighted boxes indicating opportunities for the public and interested stakeholders to provide input.



The Navy is holding three scoping meetings to inform the public of the proposed action and to solicit public comment. At each scoping meeting, informational poster stations and Navy project team representatives are available to provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the NEPA process, the proposed action, and the Navy’s environmental stewardship programs and protective measures. Government agencies, organizations, and the public are encouraged to submit comments at the scoping meetings or to provide written comments during the public comment period. The Navy will carefully consider each of the comments received and address them in the Draft EIS/OEIS.

When and where are the scoping meetings being held?

To encourage public input, the Navy is holding scoping meetings for the SOCAL Range Complex EIS/OEIS at three locations in the region.

San Pedro Monday, Jan. 29, 2007 6 to 8 p.m. Cabrillo Marine Aquarium 3720 Stephen M. White Dr San Pedro, CA 90731	Oceanside Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007 6 to 8 p.m. Civic Center Library 330 North Coast Hwy Oceanside, CA 92054	Coronado Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007 6 to 8 p.m. Coronado Public Library 640 Orange Ave Coronado, CA 92118
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Are project documents available at publicly accessible locations?

In addition to holding scoping meetings, the Navy has established a user-friendly Web site that makes it easy to find out what environmental documents are circulating and how to comment on them. The Web site also provides background information on environmental topics evaluated in the EIS/OEIS for those who want to learn more. The Web site address is: www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com.

The public may also review environmental documents related to the SOCAL Range Complex EIS/OEIS by visiting any of the following information locations:

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

Oceanside Public Library
330 N. 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

How do I comment on the EIS/OEIS?

Interested parties can comment on the SOCAL Range Complex EIS/OEIS in the following ways:

- ◆ Submit written comments at the scoping meeting
- ◆ Mail comments to:
SOCAL EIS/OEIS Project Manager
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
2730 McKean St, Bldg 291
San Diego, CA 92136

Comment forms can be downloaded from the project Web site at www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com. All comments should be submitted no later than Feb. 8, 2007, for consideration in the Draft EIS/OEIS.




 For more information about the Southern California Range Complex EIS/OEIS, please visit www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com.