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## Southern California Range Complex

### National Environmental Policy Act and Commu

#### 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 address 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

#### Why is the Navy conducting an Environmental Impact Statement?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires the individual and cumulative, or additive, environmental impacts of major activities. An Environmental Impact Statement (**EIS**) is a

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,

and personnel, and tactics.

that provides an assessment of the potential effects a Fed  
On the human, natural, or cultural environment. An Over-  
Sight (OEIS) is being prepared to comply with Exec  
Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions,  
Carter in 1979. This order requires Federal agencies to cc  
actions that may affect the environment outside U.S. terri

The Navy's air, land, and sea **ranges** in **Southern Califo**  
Marine Corps personnel with the space and equipment ne  
**training**, which is essential for the safety and readiness c  
the success of the military mission.

The Navy is conducting the SOCAL Range Complex **EI**  
future and to assess the effects of the Navy's ongoing an  
on the environment. The SOCAL Range Complex **EIS/O**  
the opportunity to review its procedures and ensure that t  
scientific and technological advances are applied toward  
effects.

**How can the community be involved in  
this document?**

The NEPA process emphasizes the importance of commu  
development of an **EIS/OEIS**. The diagram on the next p  
the NEPA process, with the highlighted boxes indicating  
and interested stakeholders to provide input.

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### NEPA Process

#### Notice of Intent

#### Public and Agency Scoping (current phase)

#### Draft EIS/OEIS

#### Public Hearings & Review

#### Final EIS/OEIS

#### Public Review Period

The Navy is holding three scoping meetings to inform the public and to solicit public comment. At each scoping meeting, inform Navy project team representatives are available to provide the p to learn more about the NEPA process, the proposed action, and stewardship programs and protective measures. Government age and the public are encouraged to submit comments at the scopin written comments during the public comment period. The Navy of the comments received and address them in the Draft **EIS/OE**

### When and where are the scoping meetings b

To encourage public input, the Navy is holding scoping meeting Complex **EIS/OEIS** at three locations in the region.

San Pedro  
Monday, Jan. 29, 2007  
6 to 8 p.m.

Oceanside  
Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007  
6 to 8 p.m.

**Record of Decision**

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium  
3720 Stephen M. White Dr  
San Pedro, CA 90731

Civic Center Library  
330 North Coast Hwy  
Oceanside, CA 92054

## 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 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](http://www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com).

The public may also review environmental documents related to the SOCAL Range Complex **EIS/OEIS** by 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

## 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](http://www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com). All comments must be submitted no later than Feb. 8, 2007, for consideration in the Draft **EIS/OEIS**.

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**For more information on the  
California Range Complex  
[www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com](http://www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com)**