

administrative, educational, commercial, light industrial, general industrial, waterfront industrial, waterfront commercial, dredge material disposal, parks and open space, conservation, buffer and greenbelt areas, and highway access areas.

The Preferred Development Plan responds to local and regional economic conditions, promotes economic recovery from the impact of CBC Davisville's closure, and is consistent with President Clinton's Five-Part Plan for revitalizing base closure communities, which emphasizes local economic redevelopment of the closing military facility and creation of new jobs as the means to revitalize these communities. 32 CFR parts 90 and 91, 59 FR 16, 123 (1994). Any resultant environmental impacts can be mitigated by the acquiring entity under the direction of Federal, State, and local regulatory requirements.

Although the "No action" alternative has less potential for causing adverse environmental impacts, this alternative would not foster local economic redevelopment of the CBC Davisville property and would not create new jobs. Additionally, it would not take advantage of the property's location, physical characteristics, and infrastructure or the current uses of adjacent property. Finally, it is not compatible with the State's Comprehensive Reuse Plan.

Accordingly, Navy will dispose of Naval Construction Battalion Center Davisville in a manner that is consistent with the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations' Preferred Development Plan for the property.

Dated: July 16, 1997.

William J. Cassidy, Jr.,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Conversion and Redevelopment).*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Future Operations on the Point Mugu Sea Range, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, Point Mugu, California

AGENCY: Department of the Navy,
Defense.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environment Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) as implemented by the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), 40 CFR 1500-1508, and Executive Order 12114 (Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions), the Department of the Navy (Navy) announces its intent to prepare a combined Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) to evaluate the potential effects of proposed future Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWPNS) Point Mugu operations on the Point Mugu Sea Range.

The geographic scope of the EIS/OEIS includes the 36,000 square miles of Point Mugu Sea Range, an area in the Southern California Bight that covers the ocean area and controlled Special Use Airspace which parallels the California coastline from San Luis Obispo to Santa Catalina Island for 200 miles and extends seaward for more than 180 miles. The Point Mugu Sea Range has been operated by Navy for the past 50 years, and is used by the U.S. military and allied military services to test and evaluate sea, land, and air weapon systems and to provide realistic training opportunities for these forces.

In recent years, U.S. military strategy has evolved due to changing worldwide political relations, increased defense costs, and decreased budgets which have required Navy to reduce its infrastructure but retain and further develop capabilities to respond to multiple, varied threats. Consequently, the role of NAWCWPNS as a test and training center has become even more critical to the successful assessment, safe operation and improvement of current and future weapons systems.

Navy has identified three key objectives: (1) The need to increase testing by evaluating new technologies and threat scenarios; (2) the need to provide a realistic training environment to ensure that military units operate at their highest state of readiness; and (3) the need to enhance existing testing capabilities to better accommodate evolving technologies. In order to meet these objectives, Navy proposes to increase testing opportunities, increase training opportunities, and enhance the capabilities of the Point Mugu Sea Range to respond to changes in technology and military strategy. The proposed action consists of the following three elements: (1) Increased Testing Element—This element includes theater-wide and area-wide missile defense testing, a new type of activity at NAWCWPNS Point Mugu. It also includes multiple alternative air-

launched target presentations, airborne laser testing, and cruise missile defense with near-shore intercepts at San Nicolas Island. (2) Increased Training Element—This element includes an increase in the current level of Fleet training exercises from two to three per year and an increase in small-scale amphibious landings at San Nicolas Island. It also includes integration of testing with Fleet training. (3) Facility Modernization Element—This element includes specific modernizations to San Nicolas Island such as installation of a new missile launcher, construction of a pier or other landing area and a vertical launch missile facility, modernization of instrumentation, and installation of new instrumentation sites. The NAWCWPNS Point Mugu modernizations include refurbishment of beach launch pads and relocation of some existing instrumentation to San Nicolas Island.

In addition to the proposed action, alternatives consisting of combinations of the above elements will be considered in the EIS/OEIS. For example, an alternative may be to maintain current levels of testing, increase training, and implement specific modernizations to San Nicolas Island. The No-Action alternative would maintain testing and training activities at current levels, with no modernization.

Environmental issues that will be addressed in the EIS/OEIS include but are not limited to air quality, noise, vegetation, wildlife, marine mammals, cultural resources, land use, water quality, public health and safety, and socioeconomics including environmental justice.

Navy will initiate a public scoping process to identify relevant environmental issues to be analyzed in this EIS/OEIS. The public scoping meetings will be held at the following times and locations: (1) August 21, 1997 at 5:30pm, Orvene Carpenter Center, 550 Park Ave., Port Hueneme, CA; (2) August 22, 1997 at 5:30pm, The Orchid Building, Orchid Room, 816 Camarillo Springs Road, Camarillo, CA; (3) August 25, 1997 at 5:30pm, Holiday Inn, 450 East Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA; (4) August 26, 1997 at 5:30pm, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Fleischmann Auditorium, 2559 Puesto del Sol Road, Santa Barbara, CA; and (5) August 27, 1997 at 5:30pm, Grant Elementary School, 2368 Pearl St., Santa Monica, CA.

The schedule for the public scoping meetings will also be available by calling toll free (888) 217-9045 or by logging onto the Point Mugu Sea Range EIS/OEIS Home Page at the following

Internet address:

<http://www.nawcwpns.navy.mil/~pmeis>.

Navy will set up several information stations at these scoping meetings; each information station will be staffed by a Navy representative who will be available to answer questions from meeting attendees. In addition, Navy representatives will give a brief presentation about current NAWCWPNS activities on the Point Mugu Sea Range followed by a description of the proposed action and alternatives (including the No-Action alternative). Members of the public may offer verbal or written comments at the scoping meetings, or subsequent to the meetings by mail, by facsimile, or by toll-free telephone at (888) 217-9045. Verbal comments will be limited to three minutes per individual. All comments, whether verbal or written, will receive the same attention and consideration during EIS/OEIS preparation.

Navy's official repository is located at the Oxnard Public Library, Reference Desk, 251 South "A" Street, Oxnard, CA 93030, (805) 385-7507.

ADDRESSES: Navy will accept comments at the address listed below. To ensure that Navy has sufficient time to consider public input during preparation of the Draft EIS/OEIS, scoping comments should be submitted to the following address by September 13, 1997: Ms. Cora Fields, Point Mugu Sea Range EIS, c/o Code 832000E, 521 Ninth Street, Point Mugu, CA 93042-5001, telephone (805) 989-0128, FAX (805) 989-0143; or, Ms. Gina Smith, telephone (805) 989-0141, FAX (805) 989-0143. Individuals or groups with special needs, such as accessibility, foreign language translation, assistance for the blind or hearing impaired, should contact Ms. Fields or Ms. Smith at least one week before the scoping meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Additional information concerning this notice may be obtained by contacting Ms. Fields or Ms. Smith.

Dated: July 21, 1997.

M.D. Sutton,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-19615 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA 84.037]

Office of Postsecondary Education; Availability of the Amendments to the National Direct Student Loan and Federal Perkins Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits for the 1996-97 School Year

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the amendments to the 1996-97 National Direct Student Loan and Federal Perkins Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools.

SUMMARY: Institutions and borrowers participating in the Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan Programs and other interested persons are advised that they may obtain information regarding the amendments to the National Direct Student Loan and Federal Perkins Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits for the 1996-97 School Year (Directory). The amendments identify changes in the list of schools that qualify borrowers for teacher cancellation benefits under each of the loan programs.

DATES: The amendments to the Directory are currently available.

ADDRESSES: Information concerning specific schools listed in the amendments to the Directory may be obtained from Systems Administration Branch, Campus-Based Programs System Division, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., (Room 4051, ROB-3), Washington, DC, 20202-5453, Telephone (202) 708-6726.

Information concerning deferment and/or cancellation of a National Direct Student Loan or Federal Perkins Loan may be obtained from Gail McLarnon or Sylvia Ross, Campus-Based Loan Programs Section, Loans Branch, Policy Development Division, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., (Room 3045, ROB-3), Washington, DC, 20202-5453, Telephone (202) 708-8242. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The amendments to the Directory are available at (1) each institution of higher

education participating in the Federal Perkins Loan Program, (2) each of the fifty-seven (57) State and Territory Departments of Education, (3) each of the major Federal Perkins Loan billing services, and (4) the U.S. Department of Education.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Education published a notice in the **Federal Register** on January 9, 1997, (62 FR 1376) that the Directory was available. The Secretary has revised the Directory due to the opening and closing of schools, school name changes, and the need for other corrections. These revisions are listed in the amendments to the Directory.

The procedures for selecting the schools that qualify borrowers for cancellation benefits are described in the Federal Perkins Loan Program regulations at 34 CFR 674.53 and 674.54. The Secretary has determined that for the 1996-97 academic year full-time teaching in the schools set forth in the Directory and the amendments to the Directory qualifies a borrower for cancellation benefits.

The Secretary is providing the amendments to the Directory to each institution participating in the Federal Perkins Loan Program. Borrowers and other interested parties may check with their lending institutions, the appropriate State or Territory Department of Education, regional offices of the Department of Education, or the Office of Postsecondary Education of the Department of Education concerning the identity of qualifying schools for the 1996-97 academic year.

The Office of Postsecondary Education retains, on a permanent basis, copies of all published amendments and Directories.

Dated: July 16, 1997.

David A. Longanecker,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Impact Statement for Siting, Construction, and Operation of the National Spallation Neutron Source

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act