



China Lake Final Environmental Impact Statement Fact Sheet

March 3, 2004

On November 22, 2002, the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources management plans. This fact sheet is an update of this process from Draft to the Final Environmental Impact.

China Lake, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, initiated the development of an Environmental Impact Statement based on two factors:

- Expected changes to the tempo and types of military testing and training needed to support military readiness in response to evolving world events and in support of the warfighter's needs; and
- Passage of new laws affecting land use and natural resources management

The proposed action is to increase the tempo of range flight operations, airfield flight operations, and the type and tempo of range ground operations. Three alternatives are being considered: two address limited to moderate operational increases over five years, while the other alternative would maintain existing operating conditions.

Under all alternatives, operations will continue to be conducted on existing disturbed land. Of the 1.1 million acres at China Lake, less than 5 percent of the land has been disturbed by Navy activities. The remainder of the land provides a safety and security buffer for military operations.

Protection of the land, natural resources and cultural resources is integrated in the Station's operational planning. Implementation of the China Lake Comprehensive Land Use Management Plan and Integrated Natural

Resources Management Plan will formalize this process.

During the Draft Environmental Impact Statement phase, the public was encouraged to participate by reviewing and providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Public hearings were scheduled in January 2003 in Ridgecrest, Inyokern, Barstow, Independence, and Trona. Both oral and written comments were received by China Lake during those hearings and during the public comment period. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was updated to the Final Environmental Impact Statement and reflects changes related to those comments. The Final Environmental Impact Statement is currently available for review, in either hard copy format (3 volume set) or CD-ROM, between 5 March and 5 April 2004.

Additional information can be found:

--On the internet, at <http://www.nawcwpns.navy.mil/~cllump/cllump.html>;

--At the Information Repositories located at

- Public Affairs Office, Room 1015, Building 1, 1 Administration Circle, China Lake
- Kern County Library, Ridgecrest Branch, 131 E. Las Flores Avenue, Ridgecrest
- Inyo County Free Library, Independence Branch, 168 N. Edwards, Independence
- San Bernardino County Library, Trona Branch, 82805 Mountain View, Trona;

--And by calling the Information Line at (760) 939-4588 or toll-free (888) 672-3244.

To be put on the mailing list or to request a copy of the document, call Peggy Shoaf at (760) 939-1683.