



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

September 18, 2008

Robert Montana
SEIS Project Manager (Code ROPME.RM)
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
2730 McKean St., Building 291
San Diego, CA 92136

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for developing homeport facilities for three Nimitz-class aircraft carriers in support of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Coronado, California (CEQ # 20080303)

Dear Mr. Montana:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) supplements the 1999 Final EIS with information relevant to environmental conditions that have emerged since the 2000 Record of Decision (ROD). Specifically, the DSEIS focuses on vehicular traffic and traffic-related issues around the Naval Air Station North Island (NASNI) in Coronado, California from an expected increase in the average number of intermittent nonconsecutive days each year (from 13 to 29) that the 3 nuclear powered aircraft carriers (CVNs) would be homeported simultaneously. The SDEIS also addresses impacts from minor CVN berth infrastructure improvements and potential shoreline erosion along First Street in Coronado.

Based on our review, we have rated the DEIS as Lack of Objections (LO) (see enclosed "Summary of Rating Definitions"). The DSEIS acknowledges that NASNI contributes significantly to average traffic volumes in the area; however, monitoring of the mitigation measures implemented from the 2000 ROD shows that these measures have been effective in reducing peak and total traffic on the local and regional road network. These measures include staggering of work schedules, encouraging car- and vanpools, and subsidizing public transit. The Navy's Transportation Incentive Program (TIP) has been utilized by over 1,300 commuters or approximately 6% of Navy and civilian employees and has been recognized with an award by the San Diego Area Association of Governments. EPA encourages the Navy to continue to provide transit incentives and encouragement to further increase TIP users. We also commend the Navy for identifying potential external traffic improvements that could reduce traffic impacts substantially, and its willingness to pursue Department of Defense funding should these improvements be approved by the City of Coronado and Caltrans.

The proposed minor infrastructure improvements will include removal of the top concrete and asphalt surface of the quaywall for replacement. The Navy should implement mitigation measures to ensure that this material does not enter the marine environment during removal activities. We commend the Navy for proposing drainage improvements, including a below-surface sand filter to remove metals and a wet well and sump pump to allow capture and cleaning of the first quarter inch of rainfall. These improvements will help prevent water quality degradation.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review this DSEIS. When the FSEIS is released, please send one hard copy (without appendices) and one CD to this office at the above address (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3521 or Karen Vitulano, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-947-4178 or vitulano.karen@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kathleen M. Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office (CED-2)

Enclosure: Summary of EPA Rating Definitions