

another agency to address the problems and needs of the study area. While final alternatives have not been determined at this study initiation phase, the earlier Reconnaissance phase of the study and Section 905B Report identified several preliminary measures that could address the problems and needs within the study area. The 905B report concluded that there is the potential for significant storm damages from wave impacts to existing development and facilities along the 1,500 foot reach stretching from Ash Avenue up to Linden Avenue in the City of Carpinteria. A range of conceptual alternatives were identified as having potential for having a Federal interest to address the problems and needs of the study area: (1) Beach Nourishment with periodic renourishment; (2) Artificial Reef Submerged Breakwater; and (3) Seawall. The feasibility study will investigate measures to address the problems and needs and an array of alternatives will be developed and be analyzed for inclusion in the Feasibility Report and EIS.

DATES: A public meeting will be held on 23 September 2003 at 6:30 p.m., at the City Council Chamber, 5775 Carpinteria Avenue, Carpinteria, CA 93013, to discuss the feasibility Study and to obtain input to the scoping of the EIS. Comments concerning the Feasibility Study and Scoping for the EIS may be made at the public meeting or be mailed to the following address by October 27, 2003.

ADDRESSES: District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, ATTN: CESPL-PD-RP, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, CA 90052-2325.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Kirk C. Brus, Environmental Coordinator, telephone (213) 452-3876, or Mr. Alex Bantique, Study Manager, telephone (213)-452-3837. The cooperating entity, City of Carpinteria, requests inquiries to Mr. Matthew Roberts, telephone (805) 684-5405, ext. 449 for any additional information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Authorization

Section 208 of the Flood Control Act of 1965 (Pub. L. 89-298) authorized feasibility studies for Carpinteria Shoreline. The 89th Congress of the United States passed what became Public Law 298. Congressional Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill H.R. 21-22 (1995) provided funds to initiate the reconnaissance study for Carpinteria Shoreline.

2. Background

The Carpinteria Shoreline is part of the Carpinteria City Beach, bound by the Pacific Ocean to the west, lies within the City of Carpinteria, and is an integral part of the southern coastal area of California in Santa Barbara County. The sandy beach is typically narrow, and backed by public and private developments. The Carpinteria Salt Marsh is located north of the Carpinteria Shoreline on the ocean side of the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) 1, and is fed by the Franklin and Santa Monica Creeks. The coastal plain in the study area continues has limited groundwater resources, partly due to saltwater intrusion coming from the Pacific Ocean.

The Feasibility Studies to be evaluated by this Draft EIS will analyze: (1) Beach Nourishment concepts for the Carpinteria Shoreline using sand including vegetated sand dunes, and periodic beach nourishment operation and maintenance (O&M) operations to prevent erosion and reduce coastal storm damages to the shoreline; (2) Artificial Reef Submerged Breakwater (ARSB) opportunities located in the ocean parallel to the Carpinteria Shoreline to avoid erosion, and decrease wave and coastal storm flooding damages to public and private properties; and (3) Reinforced Concrete Seawall designs as part of the Carpinteria Shoreline to lessen off shore wave impact and storm damages to public facilities and private residences; (4) Plans for maintaining and enhancing existing recreational facilities for the Carpinteria Shoreline to maintain public access and advert a decline in its recreational value. Prehistoric and historic cultural resources are not known to exist along this stretch of the Carpinteria Shoreline.

3. Proposed Action

No plan of action has yet been identified.

4. Alternatives

Alternatives will be developed as part of the planning process. These would likely include:

a—No Action: No nourishment, improvement or reinforcement of shoreline.

b—Proposed Alternative Plans: Conceptual feasible alternatives to prevent erosion and coastal storm damage within the Carpinteria Shoreline are the following: (1a) Beach Nourishment with two year renourishment period; (1b) Beach Nourishment with five year renourishment; (2a) Artificial Reef

Submerged Breakwater (ARSB) with one segment; (2b) ARSB with three segments; and (3) Seawalls.

5. Scoping Process

Participation of all interested Federal, State, and County resource agencies, as well as Native American peoples, groups with environmental interests, and all interested individuals is encouraged. Public involvement will be most beneficial and worthwhile in identifying pertinent environmental issues, offering useful information such as published or unpublished data, direct personal experience or knowledge which inform decision making, assistance in defining the scope of plans which ought to be considered, and recommending suitable mitigation measures warranted by such plans. Those wishing to contribute information, ideas, alternatives for actions, and so forth can furnish these contributions in writing to the points of contacts indicated above, or by attending public scoping opportunities. The scoping period will conclude 45 days after publication of this NOI.

When plans have been devised and alternatives formulated to embody those plans, potential impacts will be evaluated in the DEIS. These assessments will emphasize at least thirteen categories of resources: land use, physical environment, hydrology, biological, esthetics, air quality, noise, transportation, socioeconomic, safety recreation, cultural resources, and hazardous material.

Dated: September 4, 2003.

Richard G. Thompson,
Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.
[FR Doc. 03-23173 Filed 9-10-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3710-KF-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Northwest Range Complex Extension, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Keyport, Keyport, WA

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy (Navy) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact

Statement (EIS/OEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the extension of the Northwest Range Complex, in Washington state, to provide additional space and volume outside the existing operational areas, to support the existing and evolving range operations of Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Keyport, Keyport, WA (NUWC DIVKPT). Existing and evolving range operations include requirements for testing, training, and evaluation of manned and unmanned vehicles in multiple marine environments to evaluate system capabilities such as guidance, control, and sensor accuracy.

DATES: Public scoping meetings will be held in Kitsap County, WA, Mason County, WA, Jefferson County, WA, and Grays Harbor County, WA, to receive oral and/or written comments on environmental concerns that should be addressed in the EIS/OEIS. The public meeting dates are:

1. November 17, 2003, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Kitsap County, WA.
2. November 18, 2003, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Mason County, WA.
3. November 19, 2003, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Jefferson County, WA.
4. November 20, 2003, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Grays Harbor County, WA.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting locations are:

1. Kitsap County—Naval Undersea Museum, 610 Dowell Street, Keyport, WA.
2. Mason County—Belfair Elementary School, Gymnasium, 22900 NE Highway 3, Belfair, WA.
3. Jefferson County—Quilcene Public Schools, Multi-Purpose Room, 294715 Highway 101, Quilcene, WA.
4. Grays Harbor County—Hoquiam High School, Cafeteria, 501 West Emerson, Hoquiam, WA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Shaari Unger (Code 521), Naval Undersea Warfare Center Div, Keyport, 610 Dowell St, Keyport, WA 98345; (360) 315-7730, fax (360) 396-2259, E-Mail: RangeExtensionE@efanw.navfac.navy.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Navy needs to extend the Northwest Range Complex operating area to provide multiple in-water environments that meet the evolving operational requirements for manned and unmanned vehicle testing in Washington State. The Northwest Range Complex is comprised of three marine ranging areas in the Pacific Northwest (Washington state): (1) The Dabob Bay Military Operating Area (MOA), two Hood Canal MOAs and the connecting waters known as the Dabob Bay Range

Complex (DBRC); (2) the Keyport MOA; and (3) the Quinault Underwater Tracking Range (QUTR) MOA which is located within the Navy MOA W237A. The range extension is required in order to provide adequate testing area and volume in multiple marine environments to fulfill the NUWC DIVKPT mission of providing test and evaluation services in both surrogate and simulated war-fighting environments for emergent manned and unmanned vehicle program operations.

Alternatives to be considered in the EIS/OEIS address the need to provide adequate testing area and volume as well as the type, tempo, and location of the testing and training to be conducted on the range. The alternatives proposed will meet the requirements for evolving range operations including manned and unmanned vehicle program needs. Additionally the alternatives will provide multiple marine environments including varied salinity types, variable depths, and surf zone access.

The Navy has developed three action alternatives that meet evolving range operations including manned and unmanned vehicle requirements. These alternatives meet operational criteria to provide adequate test and training area and volume in multiple marine environments in varying proximity to existing NUWC DIVKPT facilities. Alternative (1) is to conduct existing and new activities within the DBRC with extensions in Hood Canal north and south; including shallow water activity, extension of the Keyport Range operating area, and extension of QUTR operating area to W-237A. Alternative (2) is to conducting existing and new activities within the DBRC without extension, extension of the Keyport Range operating area, and extension of QUTR operating area to W-237A or (3) conducting existing and new activities within the DBRC with additional shallow water activity, extension of the Keyport Range operating area, and extension of QUTR operating area to W-237A. The No Action alternative is to continue activities carried out at existing operating areas for the DBRC, Keyport range, and QUTR.

The EIS/OEIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with identified alternatives. Issues to be addressed will include, but not be limited to, the following resource areas: marine/benthic communities, fisheries including an analysis of essential fish habitat, water quality, wildlife including threatened and endangered species and marine mammals, vegetation/plants, soils, land/shoreline use, recreation, socioeconomics, transportation, public

utilities, cultural resources, usual and accustomed fishing, air quality, and noise. The analysis will include an evaluation of the direct, indirect, short-term, and cumulative impacts. No decision will be made to implement any alternative until the NEPA process is completed.

The Navy is initiating the scoping process to identify community concerns and local issues that will be addressed in the EIS/OEIS. Federal, state, local agencies, and interested persons are encouraged to provide oral and/or written comments to the Navy to identify specific issues or topics of environmental concern that should be addressed in the EIS/OEIS. The Navy will consider these comments in determining the scope of the EIS/OEIS.

Written comments on the scope of the EIS/OEIS should be submitted in accordance with future Federal Register notices for public scoping meetings and should be mailed to: Commander, Engineering Field Activity, Northwest, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 19917 7th Ave NE., Poulsbo, WA 98370, Attn: Code 05EC3.KK (Mrs. Kimberly Kler) E-Mail: RangeExtensionE@efanw.navfac.navy.mil.

Dated: September 8, 2003.

E.F. McDonnell,

Major, U.S. Marine Corps, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-23181 Filed 9-10-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-U

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Meeting of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Executive Panel

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: The CNO Executive Panel is to report the findings and recommendations of the FORCENet Working Group to the Chief of Naval Operations. This meeting will consist of discussions relating to development of FORCENet, the Navy's transformational architecture for force integration and application. This meeting will be closed to the public.

DATE: The meeting will be held on Friday, September 12, 2003, from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ADDRESS: The meeting will be held at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Room 4E660, 2000 Navy Pentagon, Washington, DC 20350-2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Commander David Hughes, CNO Executive Panel, 4825 Mark Center