

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
 VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200
 FAX (415) 904-5400



Th 20

ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DIVISION REPORT

FOR THE

JANUARY 14, 2010 MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director
 Energy, Ocean Resources & Federal Consistency

DE MINIMIS WAIVER		
APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
E-10-001-W Southern California Edison Co.	Extend for four years, until December 31, 2013, three temporary office trailers installed at the Pebbly Beach Generating Station.	Pebbly Beach Generating Station, Los Angeles County
E-09-013-W Southern California Edison Co.	Install sixteen 20-foot tall light structures and associated power supplies and control equipment around the perimeter of the micro turbine site at Pebbly Beach Generating Station.	Pebbly Beach Generating Station, Los Angeles County

NOTICE OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT
DE MINIMIS WAIVER

DATE: January 5, 2010 **PERMIT NO. E-10-001-W**
TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties
SUBJECT: Waiver of Coastal Development Permit Requirements

Based on the plans and information submitted by the applicant for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirements for a coastal development permit (CDP), pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act.

Applicant: Southern California Edison (SCE)
P.O. Box 800
Rosemead, California 91770

Background and Project Description: In May 2005, the Coastal Commission granted to SCE a de minimis waiver (E-05-006-W) to install two temporary office trailers within the boundary of the Pebbly Beach Generating Station site until December 2009 and to extend for three and a half years (until December 2009) the removal deadline for two other previously installed temporary office trailers at the same location. Installation and use of the two initial temporary office trailers was approved by the Coastal Commission for two years (until May 2006) in de minimis waiver number E-04-009-W. In this application, SCE proposes to extend for four years, until December 31, 2013, three office trailers that were installed at the Pebbly Beach Generating Station site as part of de minimis waivers E-05-006-W and E-04-009-W. The trailers are ten feet in height and include two single wide trailers and one triple wide trailer that have a combined footprint of 3,217 square feet.

Waiver Rationale: For the following reasons, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources, nor will it conflict with Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act:

- o The temporary trailers are located on an existing asphalt pad on an industrial site, within the boundary of the Pebbly Beach Generating Station. No grading, construction or installation activities are required. No vegetation or other sensitive resources exist at the



*Notice of Coastal Development Permit De Minimus Waiver
E-10-001-W (Southern California Edison) Page 2 of 2*

project site. The height and size of the trailers are consistent with the height and size of other industrial buildings and equipment on site.

Important: This waiver is not effective unless the project site has been posted and until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission at the meeting of January 13-15, 2010 in Huntington Beach, CA. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver, a coastal development permit will be required.

Sincerely,

PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

By: Alison Dettmer

ALISON DETTMER
Deputy Director

NOTICE OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT
DE MINIMIS WAIVER

DATE: December 9, 2009 **PERMIT NO. E-09-013-W**

TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Waiver of Coastal Development Permit Requirements

Based on the plans and information submitted by the applicant for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirements for a coastal development permit (CDP), pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act.

Applicant: Southern California Edison (SCE)
PO Box 800
Rosemead, California 91770

Background and Project Description: In December 2008, the Coastal Commission granted to SCE a de minimis waiver (E-08-016-W) to install 25 micro turbines on a .4 acre industrial site directly south of the Pebbly Beach Generating Station for the purpose of adding 1500 kW of additional generating capacity to Santa Catalina Island. In this application SCE proposes to install sixteen 20-foot tall light structures and associated power supplies and control equipment around the perimeter of the .4 acre micro turbine site. The proposed light structures would be similar in height and design to those already existing around the adjacent Pebbly Beach Generating Station site and would support metal halide flood lights that would provide between 0.5 and 10 foot-candles of “white light” at key locations. Proposed lighting would include automatic, darkness activated controls for daily operations as well as manual on/off switches for maintenance and servicing situations.

Waiver Rationale: For the following reasons, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources, nor will it conflict with Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act:

- The light structures, power supplies and control equipment are to be located on the same industrial site as the already-approved Micro Turbine Project. The addition of this equipment on the site will not result in impacts to biological or archaeological resources.



- The site is adjacent to the Pebbly Beach Generating Station and is surrounded by other industrial equipment, processes and lighting. Industrial activity is the predominant use in this area. Since the area is already heavily dominated by industrial equipment and processes, the project will be visually compatible with the existing character of the area.
- Public access to the coast along this stretch of Catalina Island ends at the Pebbly Beach Generating Station where the road becomes private and continues as Roaring Canyon Road. Public traffic on Pebbly Beach Road is minimal and limited to commuters to the few businesses located in that area. Any traffic associated with the project will not preclude or interfere with public access to, or recreational users of, the coast.
- Existing lighting at the adjacent Pebbly Beach Generating Station has not been known to result in attraction of night-foraging or migrating avian species and no known nesting colonies of seabirds are located near the project area.

Important: This waiver is not effective unless the project site has been posted and until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission at the meeting of January 13-15, 2010 in Huntington Beach, CA. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver, a coastal development permit will be required.

Sincerely,

PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

By: _____



ALISON DETTMER
Deputy Director

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT STREET, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200



Th 20

DATE: December 22, 2009

TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Peter M. Douglas, Executive Director
Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director
Mark Delaplaine, Manager, Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal
Consistency Division

RE: Significant Negative Determinations Issued by the Executive Director
[Executive Director decision letters are attached]

PROJECT #:	ND-066-09
APPLICANT:	Navy
LOCATION:	Offshore Humboldt and Del Norte Co.
PROJECT:	Northwest Training Range Complex Training Activities
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	12/22/09

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
VOICE (415) 904-5200
FAX (415) 904-5400
TDD (415) 597-5885



December 22, 2009

D. A. McNair, Captain
Deputy Fleet Engineer
U.S. Navy
Commander United States Pacific Fleet
c/o Kathryn Ostapuk, J.D.
250 Makalapa Dr.
Pearl Harbor, HA 96860-3131

Re: **ND-066-09**, Navy, Negative Determination, Navy Training Activities, Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC), offshore of northern California

Dear Captain McNair:

The Navy has submitted a negative determination for the California component of its Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) training activities. The vast majority (over 99%) of the training activities within the range are offshore of the state of Washington. The Navy has submitted a separate consistency determination to Washington, as well as a Negative Determination to the State of Oregon. The Coastal Commission staff is limiting its review to activities within the range conducted offshore of California, where the southernmost portion of the range extends to waters offshore of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties (see Attachment 1 for a map of the entire extent of the range).

The Navy believes that activities conducted in California offshore waters would not affect the California coastal zone, given the small intensity of activities (>1% of the range activities), their location (generally far outside the coastal zone), and the mitigation and monitoring measures that have been included in the activities.

In summary, the California offshore activities of potential concern would consist of: (1) approximately 16 hours per year of airspace activities off California; (2) up to 1 hour of mid-frequency sonar use per year; (3) tracking by sonobuoys using active and passive sonar; (4), a small number of explosives munitions per year (up to four explosives, less than 1000 lb. each); and (5) surface firing of relatively small caliber munitions. Most of the activities would take place 50 nautical miles (nm) or more offshore, and all would be 12 nm or more offshore.

The California activities generally fall into two categories, Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW) Training, and Anti-Submarine Warfare Training (ASW) Training, as follows:

1. Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW) Training. This category includes Surface-to-Surface Gunnery Exercise (**GUNEX**) and Air-to-Surface Bombing Exercises (**BOMBEX A-S**). The surface gunnery exercises would normally occur more than 50 nm offshore, and in no event nearer to the shore than 12 nm. These involve gunnery practice using a variety of surface targets

(either stationary or maneuverable surface targets), with gun systems using 5 inch, 76 mm, 57 mm, .50 caliber and the 7.62 mm munitions. A GUNEX lasts approximately one to two hours, depending on target services and weather conditions. These normally are conducted off the Washington coast; however, naval vessels homeported in Washington may conduct this exercise off the coast of California while vessels are transiting to and from the Southern California Range Complex or Navy bases.

BOMBEX activities would also typically occur off Washington, and most are limited to inert materials. A small percentage could include use of live explosives. The Navy estimates up to 4 explosive bombs (ranging from 450 to 945 lbs.) per year offshore of California, with none nearer than 12 nm from shore. The Navy will employ marine mammal and sea turtle mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures, which are described in more detail in the Navy's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) for the NWTRC activities. These include aerial surveying and implementing safety zones, to assure the area to be used is clear of vessels and marine life prior to the training. More specifically, these measures include:

- a. If surface vessels are involved, lookouts will survey for floating kelp, which may be inhabited by immature sea turtles. Ordnance shall not be targeted to impact within 1,000 yds (914 m) of known or observed floating kelp, sea turtles, or marine mammals.
- b. A buffer zone of 1,000 yd (914 m) radius will be established around the intended target.
- c. Aircraft will visually survey the target and buffer zone for marine mammals and sea turtles prior to and during the exercise. The survey of the impact area will be made by flying at 1,500 feet or lower, if safe to do so, and at the slowest safe speed. Release of ordnance through cloud cover is prohibited: aircraft must be able to actually see ordnance impact areas. Survey aircraft should employ most effective search tactics and capabilities.
- d. The exercises will be conducted only if marine mammals and sea turtles are not visible within the buffer zone.

2. Anti-Submarine Warfare Training (ASW) Training. This category includes use of active and passive sensors, including hull-mounted sonar, towed arrays, variable depth sonar, and active and passive sonobuoys, for tracking and other surveillance training. The exercises include aircraft and surface ship tracking, as follows:

ASW TRACKEX Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA). Aircraft tracking activities include use of Maritime Patrol Aircraft (TRACKEX-MPA) dropping sonobuoys, from an altitude below 3,000 ft, and sometimes as low as 400 ft, into specific patterns based on anticipated threat and water conditions. Typically, passive sonobuoys are used first, so the threat submarine is not alerted. Active sonobuoys would be used when needed either to locate extremely quiet submarines, or to further localize and track submarines previously detected by passive sonobuoys. These exercises usually take 2-4 hours. No torpedoes are fired, and all TRACKEX-

MPA events off the California coast would be more than 12 nm from shore. Mitigation measures include maintaining a 1000 yd. safety zone for marine mammals and sea turtles.

ASW TRACKEX Surface Ship. Although less frequent in the range, locally based surface ships sometimes conduct ASW Tracking exercises. Mid-frequency active (MFA) sonar is used occasionally, with approximately 108 hours of MFA used annually within the entire range, predominantly off Washington. Only approximately one hour of MFA is used annually during ship transits through the California portion of the NWTRC. Historically, as well as projected for the future, this use of sonar takes place at a distance averaging 50 nm from shore. All surface ship MFA sonar use off the California coast would be more than 12 nm from shore. As is the case for the above-described active sonobuoy use, and as further described in its EIS/OEIS (p. 5-11 to 5-21), the Navy would employ a similar suite of monitoring and mitigation measures used in southern California training that the Commission has reviewed (see Consistency Determinations CD-086-06 and CD-049-08), plus any additional measures required by the National Marine Fisheries Service in its review (still pending) of the Navy's incidental take permit. These measures include periodic reporting, and the Navy has agreed to provide the Commission staff with copies of all monitoring reports.

Additional activities off California include surveillance and other tracking using passive acoustics and other minor support activities.

Primarily due to the small number of activities, and with the above measures, the Commission staff **agrees** with the Navy's conclusion that the proposed activities would not adversely affect coastal zone resources. In agreeing with your determination, please note that we do not intend the Navy to be left with the impression that the Commission has changed its position over the need for additional mitigation measures to protect marine mammals and sea turtles from the effects of mid-frequency sonar (as discussed in detail in the Commission's findings on Navy consistency determinations CD-086-06 and CD-049-08). We continue to believe the additional measures are warranted, and we urge the Navy and NMFS to continue to consider implementing and requiring them. Our concurrence is rather based on the absence of extensive mid-frequency sonar use offshore of California for these particular training activities. With that clarification, we **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR Section 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please contact Mark Delaplaine at (415) 904-5289 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



(for) PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

Attachment (Range Map)

cc: Eureka District Office
Washington and Oregon State Coastal Management Programs
National Marine Fisheries Service

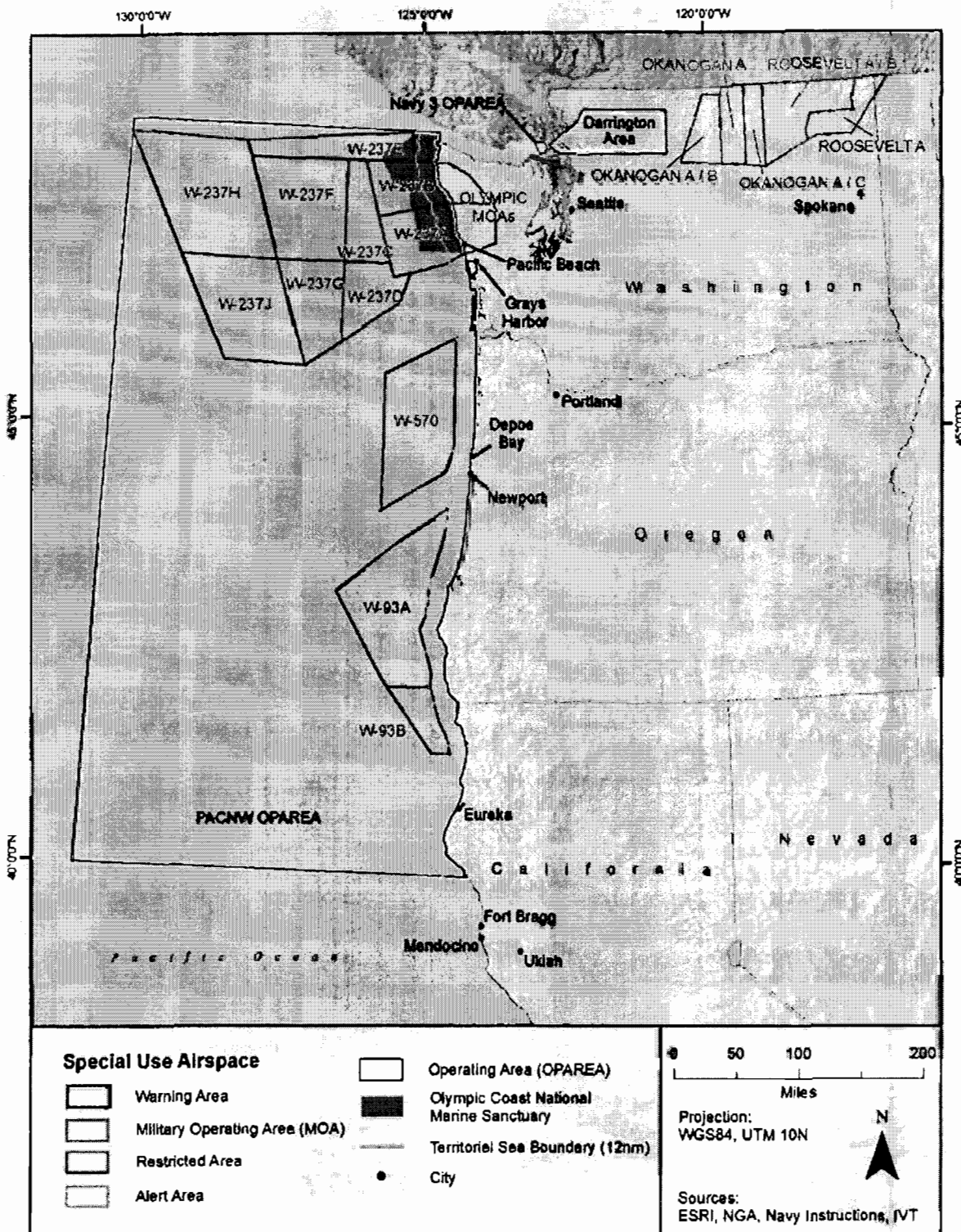


Figure 1: Location of NWTRC Training Areas