

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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

**F 8**

**ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DIVISION REPORT**  
**FOR THE**  
**DECEMBER 12, 2014 MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

**TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties**

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

NEGATIVE DETERMINATIONS		
APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
<b>ND-0037-14</b> Department of the Navy	Indoor Shooting Range Facility Action: <b>Concur, 11/20/2014</b>	Silver Strand Training Complex-South, Coronado San Diego County
<b>ND-0041-14</b> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Aerial Herbicide Application to control Invasive Veldt Grass Action: <b>Concur, 12/01/2014</b>	Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge San Luis Obispo County



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# F8

**DATE:** December 5, 2014

**TO:** Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

**FROM:** Charles Lester, Executive Director  
Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director  
Mark Delaplaine, Manager, Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal  
Consistency Division

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

PROJECT #:	ND-0037-14
APPLICANT:	Department of the Navy
LOCATION:	Silver Strand Training Complex-South, Coronado, San Diego Co.
PROJECT:	Indoor Shooting Range Facility
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	11/20/2014

PROJECT #:	ND-0041-14
APPLICANT:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
LOCATION:	Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge, San Luis Obispo Co.
PROJECT:	Aerial herbicide application to control invasive veldt grass
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	12/1/2014

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November 20, 2014

C. E. Sund  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer  
Naval Base Coronado  
Box 357033  
San Diego, CA 92135-7033

Attn: Deb McKay

RE: **ND-0037-14** Negative Determination, Navy, Indoor Shooting Range Facility,  
SSTC-South, Coronado, San Diego Co.

Dear Captain Sund:

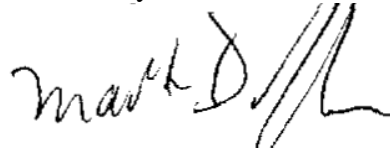
The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination submitted by the Department of the Navy for the construction of an Indoor Shooting Range Facility at the Silver Strand Training Complex-South (SSTC-South) in Coronado. The project would include an 80,000 sq. ft. indoor dynamic shooting facility, a 7,000 sq. ft. administration building, a paved parking lot, outdoor lighting and minor utility connections.

On November 12, 2014, the Commission concurred the Navy's consistency determination CD-0003-14 for a 1.5 million square foot Coastal Campus at Silver Strand Training Complex – South, in the same area as the proposed shooting facility. After the hearing, in discussions with the Commission staff the Navy committed to incorporating similar measures into the shooting range facility to those agreed to by the Navy during the Commission hearing for the Coastal Campus. The Navy notes that the shooting range falls within the spatial and analytical footprint of the Coastal Campus, and the Navy has agreed that, during the course of the Coastal Campus construction program (2015-2021), it will provide sufficient habitat restoration to address habitat affected by the shooting range facility as well as the Coastal Campus. The Navy has also agreed, as it did for the Campus, to minimize weekend and holiday construction traffic, and work with the City of Coronado on reviews of final architectural plans prior to construction.

Under the federal consistency regulations (Section 15 CFR 930.35(a)), a negative determination can be submitted for an activity "which is the same or similar to activities for which consistency determinations have been prepared in the past." The proposed project would, with the above

commitments, be similar to the above-mentioned consistency with which the Commission concurred (CD-0003-14). We therefore 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "mark D L" with a stylized flourish at the end.

(for) CHARLES LESTER  
Executive Director

cc: San Diego District Office  
City of Coronado (Ann McCaull)

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December 1, 2014

Michael Brady  
Project Leader  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2493-A Portola Drive  
Ventura, CA 93005

Subject: Negative Determination ND-0041-14 (Aerial herbicide application research study,  
Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge, San Luis Obispo County)

Dear Mr. Brady:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to undertake a research study to evaluate the effectiveness of aerial herbicide application as a management strategy to control invasive veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) on the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. The project objectives are to kill perennial veldt grass, to deplete the perennial veldt grass seed bank in the soil, facilitate the growth of native plant species, and ultimately restore native plant communities and active sand dunes on the Refuge. The project site is located in central coast dune scrub habitat located in the south-central portion of the Refuge and is heavily dominated by perennial veldt grass with low densities of native plants. The nearest wetlands, riparian woodlands, federally listed species, or non-Refuge lands are located more than 200 yards from the project site.

A helicopter equipped with a spray boom would apply a sethoxydim herbicide (Poast) on up to 20 acres of Refuge land. Depending on available funding and the efficiency of treatments, aerial herbicide applications would continue for up to five veldt grass growing seasons (November through April), with up to three herbicide applications per season. Aerial applications would not be conducted during high wind or rainy weather conditions that could increase herbicide drift or runoff. As a result, the Service determined that the potential is extremely low for runoff or drift to carry herbicide into sensitive habitats or non-Refuge lands. In addition, due to the remoteness of the treatment site, Refuge staff have not observed or detected the presence of visitors in this portion of the Refuge in more than seven years.

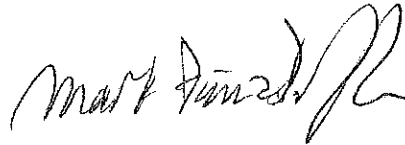
The project also includes herbicide drift monitoring to assess the spray accuracy of the aerial herbicide application and to determine the appropriate buffer needed to protect sensitive resources in future treatments should the proposed project be deemed successful in controlling and/or eliminating veldt grass. A vegetation monitoring program will be implemented in order to evaluate the efficiency and success of the aerial spraying project. Treatment and control plots would be established and quantitative and qualitative sampling methods would be used to conduct a baseline botanical inventory at the plots. Vegetation sampling and data collection would occur prior to and following the aerial herbicide application. Quantitative assessment of

the study plots would be conducted approximately four months after the final herbicide application that is conducted each season to assess the efficiency of the treatment. Study results would be presented in a final report, including vegetation and drift monitoring data and conclusions regarding project success in eliminating veldt grass.

The proposed project includes participation by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, the Dunes Center, the Biological Sciences Department at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, and Padre Associates, Inc. However, the Refuge manager would provide final approval prior to the start of any aerial spray activities.

In conclusion, we **agree** with your negative determination that the proposed project would be located on federal land and would not adversely affect coastal resources, including public access and recreation on the Refuge. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please contact Larry Simon at (415) 904-5288 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Lester", with a stylized flourish at the end.

(for)

CHARLES LESTER  
Executive Director

cc: CCC – Central Coast District