

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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Prepared October 28, 2020 (for the November 6, 2020 Hearing)

To: Commissioners and Interested Parties
From: Kate Huckelbridge, Deputy Director
Subject: **Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division Deputy Director's Report for November 2020**

The following coastal development permit (CDP) waivers, immaterial CDP amendments, CDP extensions, emergency CDPs, and negative determinations for the Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division are being reported to the Commission on November 6, 2020. Pursuant to the Commission's procedures, each item has been appropriately noticed as required, and each item is also available for review at the Commission's office in San Francisco. Staff is asking for the Commission's concurrence on the items in the Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division Deputy Director's report, and will report any objections received and any other relevant information on these items to the Commission when it considers the report on November 6.

With respect to the November 6th hearing, interested persons may sign up to address the Commission on items contained in this report prior to the Commission's consideration of this report. The Commission can overturn staff's noticed determinations for some categories of items subject to certain criteria in each case (see individual notices for specific requirements).

Items being reported on November 6, 2020 (see attached)

No Items to Report

**Administrative Items for Federal Consistency Matters
Negative Determinations and No Effect Letters**

- **ND-0027-20, Department of the Air Force, Action: Concur, 10/8/2020**
Vulcan Centaur Program, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara County.
- **NE-0002-20, Phillips 66 San Francisco Refinery, Action: Concur, 10/22/2020**
Dredged material disposal at SF-8 ocean disposal site, offshore San Francisco.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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October 8, 2020

Beatrice L Kephart
Chief, Installation Management Flight
Department of the Air Force
30 CES/CEI
1028 Iceland Avenue
Vandenberg AFB CA 93437-6010

Subject: Negative Determination ND-0027-20 (Vulcan Centaur Program, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara County)

Dear Ms. Kephart:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination. The U.S. Air Force (Air Force) proposes to develop United Launch Alliance's (ULA) new Vulcan Centaur Program and make minor modifications within the present boundary of the Space Launch Complex 3 East (SLC-3E) and surrounding Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) locations to support the launch program. The proposed project involves modifications to existing SLC-3E infrastructure and roadway intersections, as well as launches of the new Vulcan Centaur Vehicle on VAFB. The Vulcan Centaur Program will comply with the current Air Force Launch Service Agreement (LSA). The Vulcan Centaur Program would have a maximum of six launches per year, comparable to past launch programs that ranged from two to eight launches per year at SLC-3E. ULA plans to phase out the current launch programs, Atlas V and Delta IV, and Delta II was retired in 2019.

The proposed roadway modifications are required to accommodate the Vulcan Centaur vehicle and include the following elements:

- Intersection of Luner Road and Coast Road: Widen turning radius at intersection and increase width of Luner Road along 200 linear feet.
- Intersection of Coast Road and Bear Creek Road: Increase width of Bear Creek Road along 200 linear feet.
- Intersection of Bear Creek Road and Napa Road: Widen turning radius at intersection and increase width of Bear Creek Road along 200 linear feet.
- Intersection of Utah Avenue and 10th Street: Widen approach apron and increase width of Utah Avenue along 400 linear feet.
- SLC-3E Entry Control Point: Widen main entrance and turning radius at the Entry Control Point.

These roadway and access modifications are not expected to have adverse impacts on natural resources as the activities would occur within the developed SLC-3E perimeter

fence and existing roadway shoulders. As directed by the Sikes Act and AFMAN 32-7003, Environmental Conservation, the Air Force is committed to long-term management of natural areas on its installations, which includes wetland protection, conservation of threatened and endangered species, and habitat restoration. Past surveys have not reported any special-status plant species within the areas of the proposed Project modifications. Construction noise is expected to be similar to ambient daily operational noise and would not adversely impact wildlife.

Vulcan Centaur launch preparation and operation activities are not expected to have significant impacts to natural resources, similar to past program launches at VAFB. Some impacts to vegetation are expected near the launch pad in an area approximately the same size as past similarly sized launch vehicles. Vegetation impacts include scorched vegetation and acid deposition. Past scorching did not permanently affect vegetation. The Air Force analyzed environmental impacts from past launches that resulted in acid deposition and found that there were no significant impacts to natural resources. Acid ground clouds resulting from launches could temporarily affect species however, their effects would be minimal and short-term. Acid deposition from Vulcan Centaur launches is expected to be within the range of past launch programs. According to the Air Force, the effects of sonic booms on marine species are not known. Sonic booms are expected to be infrequent and their footprint would be spread out over 42 miles from VAFB. An early launch abort or failure is possible however not likely, launch vehicles from similar programs have a proven record of successful launches and a reliability of approximately 95 percent. In the anomalous event that a launch fails, it is unlikely that launch vehicle debris would hit any marine life due to the low density of species in the ocean's surface water. Any liquid propellant from the launch vehicle would be consumed in the launch failure or be dispersed in the air and would be considered a negligible hazard. Post-launch monitoring of past launches and environmental analyses concluded that launch impacts to wildlife are minimal and no animal mortality at VAFB could be attributed to launch activities. ULA will comply with the 2019 Letter of Authorization (LOA) under 50 CFR 217, Subpart G - Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Rocket and Missile Launches and Aircraft Operations at VAFB, subject to the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The LOA includes mitigation and monitoring measures to minimize adverse impacts to wildlife including scheduling launches outside of harbor seal pupping season and marine mammal monitoring.

SLC-3 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), however a Historic Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record determined that no measures were needed to mitigate or minimize potential effects from similar launch programs at SLC-3. The Air Force has not found any historical or cultural resources in the footprint of the launch activities or roadway modifications in SLC-3E during past and current evaluations of the area. The Vulcan Centaur Program is not expected to adversely affect historical or cultural resources.

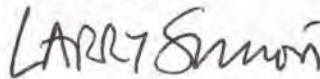
Public access to Surf Beach would be temporarily restricted for the public's safety during SLC-3E launches, which is expected to occur at a maximum of six times per year, although actual launches per year in the past have been less than six per year. The Air Force and Santa Barbara County have an evacuation and closure agreement in place which requires the Air Force to provide a launch notice at least 72 hours prior to beach closures and restricts closures to not exceed 48 hours. Disruptive noise levels resulting

ND-0027-20 (Department of the Air Force)

from Vulcan Centaur launches would occur primarily in the footprint of VAFB and would not affect residential areas.

The Commission staff **agrees** that the proposed Vulcan Centaur Program and modifications at SLC-3E will not adversely affect coastal zone resources. Under the federal consistency regulations (15 CFR Section 930.35(a)), a negative determination can be submitted for an activity "which is the same or is similar to activities for which consistency determinations have been prepared in the past." We have previously concurred with similar launch programs and related modifications at Vandenberg Air Force Base (CC-30-96, CD-049-98, ND-103-03, ND-088-05, ND-0035-14, and ND-0020-15). The proposed launch program and modifications would not generate new adverse impacts on coastal resources not previously examined by the Commission. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR Section 930.35 of the NOAA Implementing regulations. Please contact Alexis Barrera at Alexis.Barrera@coastal.ca.gov should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



FOR

JOHN AINSWORTH
Executive Director

cc: CCC - South Central Coast District

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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October 22, 2020

Brent Eastep
Environmental Team Lead
Phillips 66 San Francisco Refinery
1380 San Pablo Avenue
Rodeo, CA 94572

Subject: No Effects Determination NE-0002-20 (Dredged material disposal at SF-8)

Dear Mr. Eastep:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced "No Effects" determination for SF-8 disposal of approximately 3,239 cubic yards of material being dredged at the Phillips 66 Refinery Marine Terminal in Rodeo (San Pablo Bay). SF-8 is an EPA-authorized dredged material disposal site, located approximately three miles offshore of Ocean Beach, San Francisco. The material has been tested and is suitable for aquatic and beach disposal. The Commission notes that approximately 1,158 cubic yards of additional dredged material beyond that going to SF-8 will be beneficially reused at the Montezuma Wetlands Restoration Project. Phillips 66 proposes to dispose the dredged material at SF-8 in October and November 2020. The Commission is not reviewing the dredging itself, nor the disposal of any remaining sediments; those aspects of the project come under the purview of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC).

The suitability of the material for aquatic and littoral disposal was reviewed by BCDC and the other agencies comprising the interagency Dredge Materials Management Office (DMMO), which was set up to review San Francisco Bay dredging activities. The DMMO recommended beneficial reuse, and disposal at SF-8 has historically been considered beneficial reuse by the DMMO, and by the Commission as consistent with the Coastal Act, because sand disposed at SF-8 nourishes the littoral system at Ocean Beach in San Francisco. The Commission staff has concurred with numerous disposals of sandy material at SF-8 in its review of previous dredging from the Rodeo Refinery dredging/disposal in the following cases: NE-0007-19, NE-0008-17, NE-0009-16, NE-0008-15, NE-005-14, NE-027-11, NE-044-10, NE-45-09, NE-025-08, and NE-024-07.

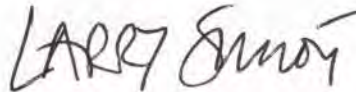
The Commission staff has also concurred with SF-8 disposal in Corps of Engineers proposals for maintenance dredging of the San Francisco Main Ship Channel (ND-020-06, ND-062-05, ND-012-04, ND-005-03, ND-004-02, ND-009-01, ND-018-00, and ND-010-98), as well as in

NE-0002-10 (Phillips 66)

other Corps of Engineers and individual San Francisco Bay Ports' dredging activities (NE-070-05, NE-075-05, ND-43-01, ND-105-00, NE-97-96, ND-99-95, and ND-82-94).

In conclusion, the Commission staff **agrees** that the proposed disposal would not adversely affect coastal zone resources. Accordingly, and consistent with the above-referenced past reviews, we **concur** with your "no effects" determination. Please contact Larry Simon at Larry.Simon@coastal.ca.gov should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



(for) JOHN AINSWORTH
Executive Director

cc: CCC – North Central Coast District
USEPA
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
BCDC
SFRWQCB