

Appendix E

BLM Application Summary of Proposed Expansion of MCAGCC

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United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer To:
CACA 50194
CA-680. 20

MAY 29 2009

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC
ATTN: Land Expansion Program Manager
Box 788104, Building 1554, Room 138
Twenty-nine Palms, CA 92278-8104

APPLICATION SUMMARY OF PROPOSED EXPANSION OF MARINE COPRS AIR TO GROUND COMBAT CENTER AT 29 PLAMS, CALIFORNIA

Dear Joe:

The following is a summary of the actions that have taken place as part of the BLM's Segregation Process for the Proposed Expansion of Marine Corps Air to Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) at 29 Palms, California.

SEGREGATION APPLICATION RECEIVED

The Department of the Navy, U.S. Marine Corps Air to Ground Combat Center at 29 Palms, California submitted an application to the Barstow Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on August 4, 2008 for a proposed expansion of the installation. The application was to withdraw 365,906 acres of Public Lands, and approximately 507 acres of Federal subsurface mineral estate from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including surface entry, mining, mineral leasing under the Mineral Act of 1947.

This withdrawal would provide the USMC at MCAGCC at 29 Palms, California the opportunity to evaluate the best alternative that meets both the needs of MCAGCC, and is the least intrusive on the environment and the Off Highway Vehicle Community in the 29 Palms area. Appendix A

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE

The BLM published a Notice of Proposed Legislative Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting: California. This notice was published in the *Federal Register, Volume 73, No. 179* on Monday, September 15, 2008. This Notice provided a ninety day comment period from September 15 through December 15, 2008 for stakeholders to express their views about the impacts of the proposed expansion.

The U.S. Navy, MCAGCC published a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the *Federal Register, Volume 73, No. 211 on Thursday, October 30, 2008*. The publication of this document started the Official Segregation Date for the project. The segregation is for two years, and expires on October 30, 2010. The Segregation may be renewed upon request by the USMC. Appendix B

SEGREGATION DATES:

The Segregation is effective from September 15, 2008 through September 15, 2010. The Segregation may be renewed at the request of MCAGCC.

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

The BLM held two Segregation meetings to inform the public of the BLM's responsibility related to the segregation request. The meeting dates were announced in the Federal Register, and local newspapers. The first meeting was held on September 23, 2008 at the Twenty-nine Palms Junior High School, Hays Gym, 5798 Utah Trail, Twenty-nine Palms, CA. The second meeting was held on September 24, 2008 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 12603 Mariposa Road, Victorville, CA.

The meetings were held in an Open House Format with posters describing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process; BLM's requirements with on the Segregation Process; and MCAGCC's proposed expansion alternatives and maps of these alternatives. Attendance of interested parties at each meeting ranged from 50 to 150 people. Interested parties were provided the opportunity submit written comments at each location and were provided a physical address and e-mail addresses to submit comments at a later date. Appendix D

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS:

The BLM Segregation Comment Period ran from September 15, 2008 through December 15, 2008. The BLM received over 500 written comments, 898 e-mail comments, and a few faxed comments.

OHV Community Opposed to Expansion: 898 e-mails and approximately 500 written comments opposed to the expansion.

Mining Interests: Five comments concerned about their leases. There are over 75 mining leases in the segregation area, but most are held by one or two individuals.

Residential Property Owners: Approximately 10 residents were concerned about noise and dust associated with the expansion. They were also concerned with loss of property values.

Local Communities: Two local communities, Apple Valley, and Yucca Valley, passed resolutions against the proposed expansion.

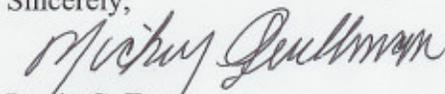
Alternative Energy Issues: Three alternative energy companies; FPL, Sterling Energy, and Opti-solar have submitted comments about the potential impacts to their pending energy projects.

Small Business Concerns: There were several comments from small business owners from the communities around Johnson Valley who sell to the OHV community. They are very concerned about the loss of income if the proposed expansion is successful.

Miscellaneous comments: One stakeholder was concerned with the loss of use of a dirt runway in the Johnson Valley Expansion Area.

Should you require any further information on this project, please contact Mickey Quillman, BLM, Barstow Field Office, Resource Manager at (760) 252-6020.

Sincerely,



Roxie C. Trost
Field Manager

for

Enclosures:

Appendix A, B, C and D
Third Party List

This summary filed in Withdrawal Case file: CACA50194, 29 January, 2009.

This summary and all information in appendix forwarded to Military for inclusion in administrative record for EIS on 29 January, 2009 along with copy of transmittal letter.

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