



SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

San Clemente Island Training and Testing Environmental Impact Statement

July 2026

ID# EISX-007-17-USN-1772115300

**San Clemente Island Training and Testing
Environmental Impact Statement
Scoping Summary Report**

This report includes a summary of public involvement and stakeholder outreach activities conducted by the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps) during the scoping period for the *San Clemente Island Training and Testing (SCITT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*. This report also summarizes comments received during the scoping period, which was open from April 24, 2026, to May 24, 2026.

The Navy recognizes the importance of engagement with the public, stakeholders, and Native American tribes and made significant efforts to encourage their participation and submission of comments. The purpose of public involvement during the scoping period was to:

1. Notify the public, stakeholders, and Native American tribes of the Navy's intent to prepare an EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of continued and expanded military readiness activities at San Clemente Island and associated public involvement opportunities;
2. Disseminate information about the Proposed Action and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 processes; and
3. Provide an opportunity for the public, stakeholders, and Native American tribes to comment during the scoping period; a means to submit information or comments regarding historic properties; and a way to request information on the NHPA Section 106 consultation process, roles of consulting parties, and how to participate.

Involvement and outreach efforts were conducted in accordance with NEPA and Department of War guidance. Additional outreach efforts beyond those required by NEPA were taken to more broadly notify and inform the public, stakeholders, and Native American tribes. Examples of additional outreach efforts include:

- Holding a 30-day scoping period to ensure understanding of the proposal and receive input from the public, stakeholders, and Native American tribes to enhance the accuracy and thoroughness of the environmental analysis.
- Focused stakeholder briefings.
- Multiple newspaper advertisements throughout the Southern California area.
- Notification letters and other direct mailings.
- A news release, distributed to local and regional media outlets.
- A virtual scoping presentation (including narration and transcript) on the project website.

Summary of Public Involvement and Outreach Activities

A. NOTIFICATIONS

The Navy prepared materials to notify the public, stakeholders, and Native American tribes of their intent to prepare an EIS and the scoping period. All notices included information about the Proposed Action and its purpose and need; virtual scoping presentation; NEPA and NHPA Section 106 processes, including how to participate and how to request information on the NHPA Section 106 consultation process; commenting opportunities; and the project website address. The Navy disseminated notices beginning April 23, 2026. The following is a summary of those notices.

Notice of Intent

The Navy [posted a notice of intent on the project website](#) April 24, 2026.

Newspaper Advertisement

Newspaper display advertisements were published in three newspapers throughout Southern California. The advertisements were published for three consecutive days, including a Sunday, beginning April 24, 2026, to coincide with posting the Notice of Intent on the project website.

Table 1 lists the newspapers and corresponding publication dates for each advertisement.

Table 1: Newspaper Publications for the Notice of Intent

Newspaper	Newspaper Coverage	Publication Frequency	Publication Dates
<i>Los Angeles Times</i>	Los Angeles County	Daily	Friday, April 24, 2026 Saturday, April 25, 2026 Sunday, April 26, 2026
<i>Orange County Register</i>	Orange County	Daily	Friday, April 24, 2026 Saturday, April 25, 2026 Sunday, April 26, 2026
<i>San Diego Union Tribune</i>	San Diego County	Daily	Friday, April 24, 2026 Saturday, April 25, 2026 Sunday, April 26, 2026

Stakeholder and Tribal Database/Mailing List

The Navy developed a stakeholder and tribal database/ mailing list, that included stakeholders (i.e., those with jurisdiction or regulatory role), Native American Tribes (i.e., federally recognized tribes and non-federally recognized tribes with interests overlapping the Study Area), and contacts from the 2025 Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing EIS/Overseas EIS (OEIS). The list was updated and validated to manage and document the distribution of project notices.

Stakeholder and Tribal Notification Letters

The Navy mailed personalized stakeholder letters first-class April 23, 2026, to 33 federal elected officials, and mailed 141 generic stakeholder letters to non-federally recognized tribes; state and local elected officials; and federal, state, and local government agencies. The Navy mailed personalized tribal letters April 23, 2026, via certified mail to 43 federally recognized tribal chairpersons and cultural resource leads. Seven federally recognized tribes, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Coastal Commission were also emailed a copy of the notification letter on either April 23 or April 24, 2026.

Two tribal letters were returned. One tribal letter was corrected and sent via certified mail May 7, 2026. It was deemed not necessary to resend the second returned tribal letter because updated contact information could not be obtained from the internet or by calling the telephone number available. All letters offered a briefing upon request and provided a point of contact for questions.

Postcard

The Navy mailed postcards first-class April 23, 2026, to 75 nongovernmental organizations, community and business groups, research institutes, universities, private companies, and consultants.

News Release and Media Distribution

The Public Affairs Office (PAO) for Naval Base Coronado distributed a news release April 27, 2026, to local and regional print and broadcast (radio and television) media and included contact information for media questions.

Website Subscribers and Email Notification

The Navy emailed a notice April 24, 2026, to 101 website subscribers. Website subscribers include California-affiliated subscribers from the 2025 Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing EIS/OEIS.

An individual can subscribe or unsubscribe from the website at any time. As of July 1, 2026, there were 98 total website subscribers.

B. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Navy developed and disseminated informational materials to provide the public, stakeholders, and Native American tribes with comprehensive, accurate, and timely information. These materials are described below.

Project Website

The Navy established a project website to make information readily available in one convenient location. The website was made publicly available April 24, 2026. All materials posted were compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. The website address (www.nepa.navy.mil/scitteis) was included in all notices and informational materials. During the scoping period, information available on the website included:

- Proposed Action and the importance of military readiness activities, including training, testing, and range improvement and maintenance
- Map of the Study Area
- NEPA and NHPA Section 106 processes, including a Section 106 consulting party informational request form
- Notices
- Project fact sheet
- San Clemente Island educational video
- Previous analyses and technical documents for the following projects:
 - 2025 Hawaii-California Training and Testing EIS/OEIS
 - 2009 Southern California Range Complex EIS/OEIS
- Virtual scoping presentation
- Links to other Navy projects and additional Navy resources

The public, stakeholders, and Native American tribes were able to submit comments via the website using the online comment form and subscribe to receive future notifications via email. Parties with demonstrated interest in the undertaking and its effects on historic properties were able to request to become a consulting party in the NHPA Section 106 process via the informational request form. The NHPA Section 106 informational request form will continue to be available on the project website until the release of the Final EIS.

Project Video

The Navy developed an educational video of San Clemente Island to provide information on the importance of military readiness activities on the island and protecting its environmental and cultural resources. The [project video](#) will remain accessible on the homepage of the website throughout the project.

Virtual Scoping Presentation

The Navy hosted a [virtual scoping presentation on the project website](#) with information organized by topic. The public, stakeholders, and Native American Tribes were able to view the presentation anytime during the scoping comment period, and the presentation remains available for viewing on the project website. Audio narration and written transcripts were also available for each topic. Some of the topics included:

- SCITT EIS Overview
- Purpose of the EIS
- Previous environmental analyses
- San Clemente Island facts and importance
- Importance of military readiness activities
- Proposed Action, including purpose and need
- SCITT Study Area
- Current and proposed military readiness activities, including training, testing, and range improvements and maintenance
- Wildland Fire Management Plan
- Proposed alternatives, including the No Action Alternative
- Potential resource areas to be analyzed in the EIS
- Regulatory processes, including the Endangered Species Act, NHPA, and NEPA
- Protecting the environment
- Scoping outreach
- Commenting information

[The presentation will remain accessible on the Project Materials webpage.](#)

Stakeholder Briefings

The Navy briefed project stakeholders to provide information and identify and respond to issues early in the process. Briefings were also offered upon request to recipients of the notification letters. Briefing topics were tailored for each stakeholder based on their area of interest, expertise, or jurisdiction. Table 2 includes a summary of stakeholder briefings conducted.

Table 2: Stakeholder Briefings

Stakeholders	Conducted By	Format of Outreach	Date
Environmental Protection Agency Region IX	U.S. Pacific Fleet	Virtual	May 5, 2026
California Coastal Commission	U.S. Pacific Fleet	Virtual	May 27, 2026

Fact Sheet Booklet

The Navy developed a fact sheet booklet which included the following topics:

- Virtual scoping presentation
- Military activities on San Clemente Island
- Proposed Action, including purpose and need
- SCITT Study Area
- Alternatives to be analyzed
- Wildland Fire Management Plan
- Cultural and natural resources protection
- Military stewardship partnerships
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Environmental compliance
- Public involvement opportunities
- Commenting information

[A downloadable version of the fact sheet booklet was posted on the project website.](#)

C. SUMMARY OF SCOPING COMMENTS

This section is intended to illustrate the main concerns presented during the scoping period; it is not meant to capture all aspects of the comments or to serve as a legal record. Additionally, not all issues presented here are within the scope of the EIS. Substantive comments received during the scoping period will be considered in the development of the EIS.

The scoping period was open from April 24, 2026, to May 24, 2026. The Navy received six comments during the scoping period. Comments were received via the website (2) and by postal mail (4). Please note that if a comment was submitted by the same person or group more than once via different methods, e.g., the same comment was submitted by email and the website by the same person, it was only counted once. Additionally, one comment submission may include comments on multiple resource areas or topics.

Scoping comments were received from government agencies, organizations, and individuals. Table 3 includes a breakdown of scoping commenters.

Table 3: Scoping Commenters

Commenter Category (Total)	Commenter Name
Elected officials/government agencies (2)	• California Coastal Commission • Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Review Program
Businesses and recreational groups (1)	• Sportfishing Association of California

Commenter Category (Total)	Commenter Name
Individuals (3)	Individual names excluded from table

The EIS team reviewed, compiled, logged, and discussed the impact, significance, and relevance of the scoping comments, as well as the substantive issues and concerns, during the preparation of the EIS. All comments submitted through the appropriate channels during the scoping period are part of the public record.

Table 4 includes a summary of scoping comments to provide a brief overview of the general issues or concerns expressed during the scoping period. The Navy welcomes, values, and appreciates public, stakeholder, and tribal participation in this important process.

Table 4: Summary of Scoping Comments

Resource Area/Topic	Issue/Concern
Proposed Action and Alternatives	- Clarification needed on the geographic scope, types, quantity, intensity, and frequency (hours of use, seasonality) of proposed training and testing activities to be conducted on San Clemente Island. - More detail is needed on the types of amphibious landing operations. - Indicate whether other federal consistency review(s) cover sea-side portions of amphibious landings. - Describe management plans for military expended materials, such as parachutes, buoys, munitions fragments, and miscellaneous accessories, to be implemented where amphibious training and testing activities would occur. - Map and define any ranges where munitions would be used or deposited; identify pathways for public exposure to munitions and munitions constituents; and identify, as applicable, a framework to protect human health. - Provide a comparison of the proposed Wildland Fire Management Plan with the existing plan, including any fire/vegetation management that may adversely affect sensitive coastal species and their habitats, environmentally sensitive habitat areas, or other coastal resources. - The EIS should describe the specific timing of prescribed burns, necessary access to be maintained, and flame retardants used for fire suppression and prevention. - Provide the Department of War sources and guidance used to develop the Wildland Fire Management Plan. - Clarification is needed on the changes to training and testing activities conducted at San Clemente Island since previous analyses. - Describe new technologies or operations to be analyzed.
Biological Resources (Birds, Mammals, Reptiles, Vegetation, Habitats, and Other Protected Species)	- Information needed about how the San Clemente Island Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan has changed over time. - Questions about coastal biological resource impacts. - The EIS should address: - Potential effects on sensitive coastal zone species and their habitats (e.g., western snowy plovers, California least terns, sensitive bird and bat species, and pinnipeds). - Potential effects on areas of special biological significance, such as pinniped haul-outs, nesting areas, and intertidal habitats.

Resource Area/Topic	Issue/Concern
Geological and Water Resources (Erosion and Runoff)	• Greater details are needed on the new lightweight water purification system, including the intake of seawater and creation of brine discharge, disposal solutions, or water quality permits that may be required. • Consider physical debris (e.g., bullet casings), explosives fragments, chemical constituents (e.g., perchlorates from explosives), and potential fire hazards (e.g., white phosphorus from tracer rounds and smoke canisters), when identifying potential best management practices to reduce impacts from munitions and munitions constituents. • The EIS should clarify plans for regular range maintenance to prevent accumulation of munitions constituents, such as bullet casings, expended targets, and explosives fragments, in the live-fire ranges. • Consult Environmental Protection Agency Munitions Policy and Guidance (2026).
Mitigation Measures	• The EIS should describe the existing Range Sustainability Environmental Program Assessment for the project area and standard best management practices to address potential off-range migration of munitions constituents. • Questions about the differences between standard operating procedures and mitigation measures to be proposed in the EIS compared to previous analyses. • Describe how avoidance, minimization, mitigation and monitoring measures, and reporting commitments incorporated into previous Navy projects would be reflected or integrated into the SCITT EIS. • Mitigation measures proposed should include any geographic areas with specific restrictions related to species. • Specific mitigations and containment plan for potential marine debris should be provided in the EIS. • Describe seasonal limits on proposed amphibious vehicle operations in the surf-zone to protect nesting birds and pinniped haul-outs. • Describe mitigation measures proposed to avoid impacts on nearshore surf-zone marine habitats or beach/shoreline habitats.
National Environmental Policy Act and Other Regulations	• Request for the EIS, once available, for review and comment. • Reasonably foreseeable effects on California coastal resources would trigger the federal consistency review requirements of Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act. • More information is needed on the type of federal consistency review submittal the Navy proposes to prepare, and requests for early communication for regulators. • Inform and coordinate with all Native American tribes listed by the California Native American Heritage Commission and track all coordination and consultations in the Coastal Zone Management Act submittal.
Other	• Concerns about military readiness activities conducted in the waters around San Clemente Island and about the impacts training schedules may have on commercial sportfishing vessels, and requests to work directly with those effected to minimize impacts. • Consider long-term effects of underwater destruction on marine vegetation, marine animals, and fish within a 1 to 2-mile radius of San Clemente Island from military readiness activities.

Notes: EIS = Environmental Impact Statement, SCITT = San Clemente Island Training and Testing