DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

2012 MAY 11 PM 12: 14

CITY MANAGER &
CITY CLERK OFFICES

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5090
Ser N01CE1/0615
3 May 12

Dear Sir or Madam:

Subject: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS/OEIS) FOR NAVY'S HAWAII-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRAINING AND TESTING (HSTT) ACTIVITIES

This letter is to inform you that the Department of the Navy has prepared a Draft EIS/OEIS for United States Navy training and testing activities conducted within the HSTT Study Area. The Navy is requesting and welcomes your comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The HSTT Study Area is comprised of established operating and warning areas across the north-central Pacific Ocean, from Southern California west to Hawaii and the International Date Line. The Study Area combines the at-sea portions of the Hawaii Range Complex; the Southern California Range Complex; the Silver Strand Training Complex; a transit corridor on the high seas that is not part of the range complexes, where training and sonar testing may occur during vessel transit between the range complexes; and Navy pierside locations, where sonar maintenance and testing activities occur, in San Diego Bay and Pearl Harbor (see Enclosure 1).

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to conduct training and testing activities to ensure the Navy accomplishes its mission to maintain, train and equip combat-ready military forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas. The Navy proposes to conduct training and testing activities primarily within existing range complexes and operating areas located in the waters around the Hawaiian Islands and off the coast of Southern California, Navy pierside locations in both areas and a transit corridor connecting the Hawaii and Southern California range complexes. The Proposed Action includes the use of active sonar and explosives. Many of these training and testing activities have historically occurred in the Study Area and have been subject to previous analysis pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and Executive Order 12114, *Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions*.

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In compliance with NEPA, the Navy is holding open house informational public meetings to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the Proposed Action, alternatives under consideration, and the adequacy and accuracy of the analysis in the Draft EIS/OEIS. All comments (oral or written) submitted during the 60-day public review period (May 11, 2012, to July 10, 2012) will become part of the public record on the Draft EIS/OEIS and will be responded to in the Final EIS/OEIS.

The public meetings will be conducted in an open house format and members of the public may arrive at any time during the advertised times. There will be no formal presentation; however, Navy representatives will be available to provide information and answer questions about the Proposed Action and Draft EIS/OEIS.

The open house public meetings will be held from **5 to 8 p.m.** at the following locations:

In Hawaii:

Tuesday, June 12, 2012
Wilcox Elementary School Cafeteria
4319 Hardy St., Lihue

Wednesday, June 13, 2012
Maui Waena Intermediate School Cafeteria
795 Onehee Ave., Kahului

Thursday, June 14, 2012
East Hawaii Cultural Center
141 Kalakaua St., Hilo

Friday, June 15, 2012
McKinley High School Cafeteria
1039 S. King St., Honolulu

In California:

Wednesday, June 20, 2012
Marina Village Conference Center Starboard Room
1936 Quivira Way, San Diego

The Draft EIS/OEIS and additional information are available on the project website at **www.HSTTEIS.com**. A CD-ROM of the Draft EIS/OEIS can also be sent to you upon request.

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Regardless of whether you are able to participate in the open house public meetings, you may send written comments to:

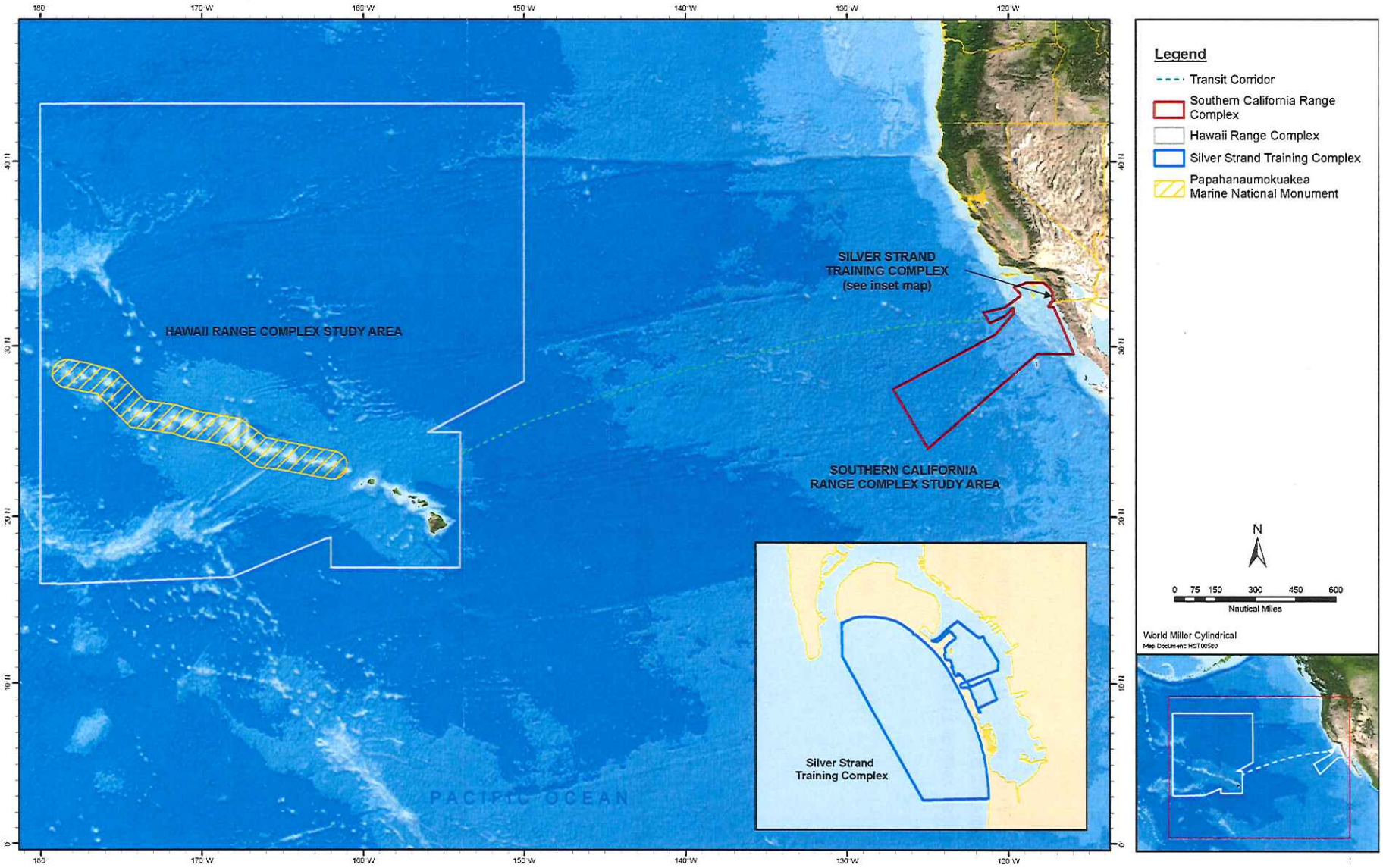
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest
Attention: HSTT EIS/OEIS Project Manager - EV21.CS
1220 Pacific Highway, Building 1, Floor 3
San Diego, CA 92132-5190

You may also submit comments online at www.HSTTEIS.com. All comments must be postmarked or received online by **July 10, 2012**, to be considered in the Final EIS/OEIS.

Sincerely,

Larry M. Foster

L. M. FOSTER
Director, Environmental Readiness
By direction

Enclosure: 1. HSTT Study Area

Enclosure 1: Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing Study Area