

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Permitting Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Project Title: Emergency Permit for Level II Emergency Response Disposal Treatment by Detonation Naval Air Facility (NAF) Bombing Range, El Centro, California

Project Location: 1065 3rd Street, Building 139, NAF El Centro, California

County: Imperial

Project Applicant: Christina Graulau, Supervising Physical Scientist, Department of the Navy, Region Southwest

Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC: Emergency Permit

Statutory Authority: California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.5

Project Description: The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), pursuant to authority granted under California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 20, Section 66270.61, has issued an Emergency Permit to Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro (EPA ID# CA7170090016) to treat hazardous waste by open detonation. Specifically, one expired RIM-24C surface-to-air missile, and one expired RIM-2-BW01 surface-to-air missile. No alternative treatment to detonation is available.

The hazardous waste items are currently being stored at the Naval Air Station North Island (EPA ID CA7070090016) in San Diego, California. DTSC has determined as a safety precaution to prevent an accident or severe injury, an Emergency Permit should be issued to treat the hazardous waste at the nearest safe location, which has been determined to be a NAF El Centro's Bombing Range.

Background: The M18 smoke grenade contains explosive materials. When explosive materials degrade, such as within expired products, the explosive become increasingly unstable. The unstable explosive can unpredictably detonate when improperly handled, making expired explosive materials hazardous. Detonation is the recommended treatment for expired explosive.

Treatment will be performed at the NAF El Centro on an active Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training range area. The range is a secure and secluded military facility designed for this use. The range is located in a remote area and the nearest residential community is eight miles away. NAF El Centro is a secured government installation and no unauthorized personnel are allowed on the Base property. During operations, the range facility is secure, and any surrounding activities are monitored.

Project Activities: The treatment of the hazardous waste involves the addition of other explosives to trigger detonation of the waste explosives. Only EOD trained specialists will be handling the material. Movement, preparation, and treatment of the items will be in accordance with established military procedures. The area shall be inspected after treatment to ensure there is no release of hazardous waste from the area. Any untreated waste will be immediately re-treated by repeated detonation, as necessary.

Within 10 business days of the expiration of this permit, NAF El Centro will submit a final report, signed in accordance with Title 22, California Code of Regulations section 66270.11(d). The report shall include certification that the treatment area has been cleared of all residual hazardous waste generated from this emergency treatment and all generated waste has been properly managed.

The Emergency Permit is effective beginning February 16, 2021 and shall expire on May 17, 2021.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Department of the Navy, Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro.

Exempt Status: Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); 14 CCR, Sec.15269(c)]

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: This action is necessary to prevent an emergency and mitigate the impact of detonation.

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
File Room
Permitting Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Contact Person Matthew Mullinax	Contact Title Hazardous Substances Engineer	Phone Number 213-793-5396
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Approver's Signature:

Date:

Matthew Mullinax

March 5, 2021

Approver's Name Matthew Mullinax	Approver's Title Hazardous Substances Engineer	Approver's Phone Number 213-793-5396
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