



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE
SPACE LAUNCH DELTA 30**

16 September 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PUBLIC OFFICIALS,
ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUAL PARTIES

FROM: 30 CES/CEI
1028 Iceland Avenue
Vandenberg SFB, CA 93437-6010

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the
Falcon 9 Launch Cadence Increase at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.

1. Attached as public and agency notification, to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the President's Council on Environmental Quality's implementing regulations, Space Launch Delta 30 (SLD 30) prepared the Draft EA/FONSI for Falcon 9 Cadence Increase at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.
2. The Proposed Action is to increase Falcon 9 annual launch cadence from 36 to 50 launches per year at Space Launch Complex 4 (SLC-4) on VSFB, increase Falcon 9 first stage and fairing recovery activities, and expand the recovery area in the Pacific Ocean. Up to 12 boosters per year would continue to land at SLC-4. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide greater mission capability to the Department of Defense (DOD), National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and commercial customers by increasing Falcon 9's flight opportunities. This is in furtherance of United States policy to ensure capabilities necessary to launch and insert necessary national security payloads into space. The current launch capacity is insufficient to meet critical DOD and key commercial launch missions. Resources and matters analyzed in the Draft EA include air quality, climate, sound (airborne), biological resources, water resources, cultural resources, coastal zone resources, Department of Transportation Act Section 4(f) properties, utilities, socioeconomics, transportation, human health and safety, hazardous materials and waste management, and solid waste management. The Draft EA/FONSI concludes there will be no significant environmental impacts resulting from the Proposed Action.
3. The public comment period for this Draft EA/FONSI will be from 17 September 2024 through 17 October 2024. This Draft EA/FONSI is available at: the Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Santa Barbara Public Libraries, and the VSFB Library, Ojai Public Library, Avenue Library (Ventura), E.P. Foster Library (Ventura), and South Oxnard Branch Library and electronically on the Vandenberg SFB website at <https://www.vandenberg.spaceforce.mil/About-Us/Environmental/EAS/>. During this time, comments may be sent to Space Launch Delta 30, Installation Management Flight Environmental Assets, Building 11146, Vandenberg SFB, California 93437, attention of Ms. Tiffany Whitsitt-Odell, e-mailed to tiffany.whitsitt-odell@spaceforce.mil, or faxed to (805) 606-6137. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Tiffany Whitsitt-Odell at (805) 606-4198.

 Recoverable Signature

X Beatrice L Kephart

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Signed by: KEPHART.BEATRICE.LINDA.1166122291

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Chief, Installation Management Flight

Attachment:

Draft EA/FONSI for Falcon 9 Cadence Increase at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB), California.
Available at: <https://www.vandenberg.spaceforce.mil/About-Us/Environmental/EAS/>