

**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, California 95812-3044

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

**Project Title:** Emergency Permit for Treatment of Hazardous Waste, Naval Air Facility (NAF) Bombing Range, El Centro, California

**Project Location:** 1065 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Building 139, NAF El Centro, California 92273

**County:** Imperial

**Project Applicant:** Thomas Edmonds, Environmental Protection Specialist

**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# CA6170090017) to treat hazardous waste through open detonation. Specifically, four (4) MK-58 Marine Flares, seventy-seven (77) 9-millimeter balls, fifty (50) 0.50 caliber balls, nine (9) commercial flares, four (4) commercial smoke signals, and four (4) GTR-18A Smokey surface-to-air missiles (SAMs).

These items are considered hazardous waste items because they are not safe for transport. They are currently being stored at the Naval Base Coronado (EPA ID# CA7170090016) 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 safest location nearby, which has been determined to be at NAF El Centro's Bombing Range R-2510 (EPA ID# CA6170090017).

**Background:** The items contain explosive materials. When explosive materials degrade, such as within expired products, the explosives become increasingly unstable. Unstable explosives can unpredictably detonate when improperly managed, making expired explosive materials hazardous. Detonation is the recommended treatment for expired explosives.

State of California – California Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of Toxic Substances Control

Treatment will be performed at NAF El Centro on an active Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) bombing range area. The range is a secure and secluded military facility designed for this use. The range is 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 managing 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 deemed 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, CCR 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 September 16, 2024, and shall expire on December 9, 2024.

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

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Department of the Navy, NAF El Centro

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

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** This action is necessary to prevent an emergency and mitigate the impact of detonation. Stabilization of the explosives is necessary to prevent accidental fire and/or explosion during commercial transport.

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, California 95826

State of California – California Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of Toxic Substances Control

Approver Person	Approver Title	Approver's Phone Number
Parisa Khosraviani	Hazardous Substances Engineer	(916) 255-6559

Approver's Signature:

Date:

*Parisa Khosraviani*

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September 16, 2024

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TO BE COMPLETED BY OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS (OPR) ONLY

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Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: