

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

FINAL

06 March 2018

Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing **Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Final Public Involvement Summary Report**

This report summarizes the public involvement and outreach activities conducted by the U.S. Navy (Navy) and the main issues heard from the public during the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT) Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) Public Review and Comment Period, which ran from Oct. 13, 2017, to Dec. 12, 2017. The purpose of public involvement and outreach was 1) to notify and inform stakeholders and the public about the Proposed Action and release of the Draft EIS/OEIS, and 2) to provide the opportunity for the public and stakeholders to comment on the Draft EIS/OEIS. Involvement and outreach efforts were conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Navy guidance.

Summary of Activities

A. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The Navy prepared materials to notify the public of the release of the Draft EIS/OEIS and provide information about the Proposed Action, the public meetings, and the opportunity for the public to submit comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS. Public notices can be found on the Public Notices page.

Federal Register Notices

A Notice of Public Meetings was published in the Federal Register on Oct. 13, 2017. A Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS was published in the Federal Register on Oct. 17, 2017. A Marine Mammal Protection Act Notice of Receipt was published in the Federal Register on Oct. 20, 2017.

Newspaper Advertisements

Display advertisements were published in local and regional newspapers for a total of four times, beginning on Oct. 13, 2017, through Nov. 13, 2017. Publication dates were dependent on the newspaper's publication frequency, e.g., daily, semi-weekly, weekly.

Advertisements were published in the following newspapers on the corresponding publication dates.

Table 1: Newspapers and Publication Dates

Newspaper	Newspaper Coverage	Publication Dates
Hawaii Tribune-Herald	Hawaii Island, HI	Friday, Oct. 13, 2017 Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017 Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017 Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017
Honolulu Star Advertiser	Oahu, HI	Friday, Oct. 13, 2017 Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017 Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017 Monday, Nov. 6, 2017

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Maui News	Maui, HI	Friday, Oct. 13, 2017 Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017 Monday, Nov. 6, 2017 Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017
The Garden Island	Kauai, HI	Friday, Oct. 13, 2017 Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017 Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017 Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017
The San Diego Union- Tribune	San Diego, CA	Friday, Oct. 13, 2017 Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017 Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017 Monday, Nov. 13, 2017

Postcard Mailer

A postcard was mailed first-class to 865 individuals; community and business groups; private companies; researchers and universities; fishing, aviation, and recreational groups; public libraries; and nongovernmental organizations on Oct. 12, 2017.

Tribal and Stakeholder Notification Letters

Tribal letters were mailed on Oct. 13, 2017, to 22 tribal chairpersons or spokespersons of federally recognized tribes and tribal chairpersons, presidents, or council members of non-federally recognized tribes. Stakeholder letters were mailed on Oct. 13, 2017, to 552 federal, state, and local elected officials and government agencies.

News Releases, Public Service Announcements, and Media Outlets

Public Affairs Officer, Commander, Navy Region Southwest distributed a news release to local regional media outlets on Oct. 12, 2017. Public Affairs Officer, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii distributed a news release and Public Service Announcement (PSA) to local and regional media outlets on Oct. 13, 2017.

Subscriber Email Notifications

Email subscribers from scoping were carried forward into the Draft EIS/OEIS phase to start with 440 initial website subscribers. An email notification was sent to these 440 website subscribers on Oct. 13, 2017. As of Dec. 7, 2017, there are currently 463 website subscribers.

B. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Project Website

A project website was established and became available to the public on Oct. 12, 2017. The website provided the public with project information and public meeting and commenting information. The public notices, fact sheet booklet, posters, frequently asked questions, informational videos, and other public involvement information were posted on the website. The website was periodically updated with project announcements. The website address is **www.HSTTEIS.com**.

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Expanded Outreach

Navy personnel conducted expanded outreach with stakeholders between Feb. 2, 2017, and Dec. 6, 2017. Expanded outreach will continue throughout the development of the Final EIS/OEIS to ensure stakeholders are kept informed. Expanded outreach included phone calls, emails, face-to-face meetings and briefings, and distribution of outreach materials related to the project scope. Below is a summary of the outreach conducted through the end of the Draft EIS/OEIS public comment period.

Public Meetings

The Navy held five <u>public meetings</u> from Nov. 6, 2017, through Nov. 13, 2017, at the locations listed below. Each public meeting included informational poster stations staffed by Navy representatives, a brief presentation by the Navy, and a public oral comment session. Members of the public could arrive at any time during the event. Each meeting was four hours in duration, with the exception of the San Diego meeting, which was three hours in duration. Staff at the welcome station greeted guests and encouraged meeting attendees to sign in and be added to the project mailing list. A fact sheet booklet, comment form, public meeting survey, and speaker request cards were provided to attendees, along with verbal direction on the general flow of the poster stations and commenting methods. Other handouts made available included a Marine Species Monitoring Program: Protecting the Seas through Science brochure created for Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Stations were set up around the room offering visual poster displays, fact sheet booklets, and comment forms. Subject matter experts staffed each poster station to answer questions and provide project information.

A comment station with tables, chairs, pens, and comment forms was provided to facilitate the public completing and submitting written comments at the meeting. A certified court reporter also was available to record one-on-one oral comments and verbal comments provided during the public oral comment session. Individuals could submit completed comment forms at the meetings, by mail, or via the project website.

Information on the 2017 Draft EIS/OEIS public meetings can be found on the <u>Public Meetings page</u>.

Presentation

About 30 minutes after the start of the public meetings, an approximately 30-minute presentation was given by CAPT Vincent Johnson, Commanding Officer for Pacific Missile Range Facility (Hawaii public meetings); CAPT Donald Basden, U.S. Third Fleet (San Diego public meeting); and Mr. Alex Stone, EIS project manager for U.S. Pacific Fleet. A moderator opened and closed the presentation, reminding attendees about the various commenting methods and inviting attendees to resume viewing the poster stations when the presentation concluded. Chairs were set up to accommodate attendees during the presentation. The court reporter transcribed the presentation. The presentation can be found on the Public Informational Materials page.

Posters

Fifteen posters were developed and included the following topics:

- NEPA and Marine Mammal Protection Act Processes
- Participating U.S. Navy Commands (reused from the 2015 scoping meetings)
- Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing EIS/OEIS Study Area
- Proposed Action and Alternatives
- Importance of Training and Testing with Active Sonar and Explosives
- Environmental Impact Analysis

- Marine Resource Protection
- Navy Acoustic Effects Model (NAEMO)
- Environmental Stewardship Programs (Hawaii) (reused from the 2015 scoping meetings)
- Environmental Stewardship Programs (Southern California) (reused from the 2015 scoping meetings)
- Public Access and Safety (reused from the 2015 scoping meetings)
- Section 106 Process and Public Involvement (developed by the Navy)
- Potential Effects on Historic Properties (developed by the Navy)
- Cultural Resources Area of Potential Effects (developed by the Navy)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service)

The posters were on display during the public meetings and posted on the project website. The posters can be found on the Public Informational Materials page.

Fact Sheet Booklet

A 16-page fact sheet booklet was developed to provide project information to the public and included the following topics:

- Public meeting schedule and room layout
- Introduction to the Draft EIS/OEIS
- Importance of realistic training and testing
- Meeting future training and testing requirements
- Importance of training and testing with active sonar and explosives
- Summary of Draft EIS/OEIS impact analysis
- Marine resources protection
- The Navy's existing mitigation measures at sea
- Environmental stewardship programs
- Public access and safety
- NEPA process, public involvement, and timeline

The fact sheet booklet was distributed at briefings and public meetings, and posted on the project website. The fact sheet booklet can be found on the Public Informational Materials page.

Handouts

A comment form, public meeting survey, speaker request card, and Marine Species Monitoring Program: Protecting the Seas through Science brochure were distributed to public meeting attendees. The comment form allowed attendees to submit written comments at the meeting or return it via postal mail any time during the comment period. The public meeting survey asked participants a variety of questions about the public meeting locations, set-up, and format in order to help improve public meetings in the future. The speaker request card was available for any meeting attendee who wished to provide a verbal comment during the public oral comment session. The Marine Species Monitoring Program brochure provided information on the U.S. Pacific Fleet's marine species research and monitoring programs. A sign-in sheet was available at the welcome table for meeting attendees to signin and request to be added to the project mailing list. The Marine Species Monitoring Program brochure can be found on the Marine Species Research and Monitoring page.

Media Kits

Media kits were prepared to provide the media with project information in one convenient packet and included the fact sheet booklet, copy of a stakeholder letter, Notice of Public Meetings published in the

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Federal Register, news release, display advertisement, and postcard mailer. Persons identifying themselves as media at the public meetings received a media kit.

Project Video

Three videos were shown at the public meetings. The first was an approximately 4-minute video produced for the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing EIS/OEIS emphasizing the importance of training and testing with active sonar and explosives. The second was an approximately 8-minute video emphasizing the importance of Navy sonar and environmental stewardship conducted by the Navy. The third was an approximately 12-minute video profiling the U.S. Pacific Fleet's marine species research and monitoring program. Videos were shown on a laptop and were available with headphones. The videos were posted on the project website and can be found on the <u>Informational Videos page</u>.

Meeting Summary

Table 2 summarizes the public meetings held from Nov. 6, 2017, through Nov. 13, 2017, throughout Hawaii and in San Diego, Calif. In total, 243 people attended the five public meetings. In general, the meetings were well attended and discussions were productive. Topics informally discussed at the public meetings are intended to illustrate the main issues heard. It is not the intent to capture all aspects of the feedback or to serve as a legal record.

Table 2: Summary of Public Meetings

Site/Date	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Oahu Veterans Center,			
Fred Ballard Hall	21	4	1
Honolulu, HI	21	4	1
Monday, Nov. 6, 2017			

Media Attendance:

- KITV Channel 4 News
- Hawaii News Now
- Honolulu Civil Beat (live-streamed meeting)

Topics Discussed:

- Positive feedback provided on the No Action Alternative and geographic mitigation measures
- Concerns about the action alternatives and why the Navy did not carry forward all of the 2015 settlement restrictions.

Attendees:

- Councilmember Ernest Martin's Office
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (NOAA representative)
- State of Hawaii Office of Environmental Quality Control
- EarthJustice
- Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawaii
- 350.org
- Honolulu Navy League
- Fishermen
- Concerned individuals

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Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Maui High School,			
Cafeteria	17	2	0
Kahului, HI	17	2	U
Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017			

Media Attendance:

The Maui News

Topics Discussed:

- Concern about the illegal occupation and overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom
- Request that military activities not take place in ocean areas of Hawaii
- Concern about continued use of sonar and explosives
- Concern about impacts on oceans and marine resources

Attendees:

- U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard's Office
- Office of the Governor
- Turtle Island Restoration Network
- Dolphin Project
- Kanaka Maoli
- Concerned individuals

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Kauai Veterans Center,			
Main Ballroom	77	10	22
Lihue, HI	//	19	22
Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017			

Media Attendance:

- The Garden Island
- KKCR Kauai Community Radio
- Amarosa Creative (private individual who live-streamed presentation and comment session)

Topics Discussed:

- Concern about overall ocean health and cumulative impacts of military and non-military activities
- Impacts of sonar and explosives on marine species, including concern that the recent stranding incident was caused by naval activities
- Impacts of military activities on coral reefs
- Request to minimize training and testing until more studies are done
- Request for fishermen to access fishing areas, including Middle Banks and Kaula, and financial impacts of closed areas
 - Suggestion to establish email notification of military activities
- Concern about ocean pollution, including plastics
- Need for greater transparency by Navy
- Desire for ongoing communication and dialogue with community
 - Suggestion to establish a committee
- Focus should be on peace, not war
- Kingdom of Hawaii is under military occupation
- Frustration with process and perception that concerns are not being addressed by the Navy

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Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters

- Support for the Navy and the Pacific Missile Range Facility for environmental stewardship efforts and positive economic impacts by bringing good-paying jobs to Kauai
- Appreciation for NOAA representation at the meeting
- Request to advertise presentation start time
- Written comments provided by students expressed concern about:
 - Need to protect oceans
 - o Military activity in ocean, including sonar use and bombing
 - Impacts on marine species, including marine mammals, fish, coral reefs, and sea turtles
 - Ocean pollution
 - o Cultural and spiritual disrespect
 - o Impacts on residents
 - o Appreciation for military's role in protecting the country, but request to not bomb in Hawaiian waters
 - o Focus should be on peace, not war

Attendees:

- U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard's Office
- Councilmember Arthur Brun
- NOAA Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary
- State of Hawaii
- Kauai Chamber of Commerce Military **Affairs Council**
- Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawaii
- Pacific Islands Fisheries Group, Kauai
- Sierra Club
- Reef Guardians Hawaii

- Manu Kai
- Kohola Leo ("whale voice")
- Kanaka United
- Amarosa Creative
- **Hawaiian Water Movement**
- Kuluwai
- Kauai Island Utility Cooperative
- Gay & Robinson, Inc. (real estate management)
- Envisioneering, Inc.
- **Holo Charters**
- Kauai Police Department
- Concerned individuals

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Waiakea High School, Cafeteria Hilo, HI Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017	101	42	17

Media Attendance:

- West Hawaii Today
- **Big Island Video News**

Topics Discussed:

- Concern about the illegal occupation and overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom
 - Navy in violation of international human rights and laws of occupation
- Navy has a history of impacting and taking things from Native Hawaiians
- Request that military activities not take place in ocean areas of Hawaii
- Military presence puts Hawaii at risk
- Concern about continued use of sonar and explosives

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- Support for the No Action Alternative
- Concern about impacts on ocean and marine resources (coral reefs, marine mammals)
- Concern about cumulative impacts
- Request that in the EIS/OEIS, the Navy should specify how it complies with settlements and court decisions
- Military should clean up ordnance on Kahoolawe and other locations
- Navy is not a good steward of the environment
- Request for the Navy to plan exercises further away from islands and marine species migration paths
- Concern that the Navy is developing an underwater drone squadron using plasma energy, lasers, and high-voltage electronics
- Request for the Navy to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan
- Appreciation for the Navy holding public meetings
- Request that the Navy hold a meeting in Kona

Attendees:

- U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard's Office
- Senator Shepherd's Office
- Hawaii County Councilmember Dr. Eileen O'Hara
- Hawaii County Councilmember Aaron Chung's Office
- County of Hawaii
- Democratic Party
- West Hawaii Marine Mammal Response Network
- Sierra Club
- Ke Kai Ola (The Marine Mammal Center)
- Malu Aina Center for Non-violent **Education and Action**
- **Protect Puako**
- We Are Mauna Kea

- Ahaya 'Aina
- Stop Bombing Hawaii
- **Native Tenant Protection Council**
- Aha Kanaka Maku O'Keawe
- Na Kapuna Moku O'Keawe
- Malama O Puna
- Kai Palaoa/Hale O Lomo Uheheu
- Kumu Hula
- Aloha Aina
- The Universal Realm of the Lord Almighty
- **Domestic Harmony**
- Whale Watch Hilo
- University of Hawaii at Hilo (students)
- Magma Physics Project
- Sirius Institute
- Adventure X Boat Tours
- Concerned individuals

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Portuguese Hall, Main Hall			
San Diego, CA	27	0	0
Monday, Nov. 13, 2017			

Media Attendance:

KPBS TV San Diego

Topics Discussed:

- Concern about impacts on marine resources
- Request to contact Navy ships directly if impacts on marine mammals are observed
- Navy needs to modernize its simulation capabilities

Attendees:

San Diego Audubon Society

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Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Offshore Blue Adver-	ntures		
Earthkeeper Coalition			
Ahahui Kiwila Hawaii O San Diego			
Concerned individuals			

C. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

This section is intended to illustrate the main issues heard from the public during the public comment period; it is not meant to capture all aspects of the comments or to serve as a legal record.

The public comment period ran from Oct. 13, 2017, to Dec. 12, 2017. Throughout the public comment period, a total of 2,241 comment letters were received. Comment letters were submitted via the project website's electronic comment form (2,101), postal mail (33), and at the public meetings (written: 40; verbal: 67). Each comment letter was reviewed and categorized into specific resource areas or topics. One comment letter may include comments on multiple resource areas or topics.

Table 3 includes a summary of public comments to provide a brief overview of the general issues or concerns expressed by the public. All substantive issues and concerns provided in the comment letters will be considered during the development of the Final EIS/OEIS.

Table 3: Summary of Public Comments

Resource	Issue/Concern
Area/Topic	
Sediments and	Request for the Navy to study the effect on the ocean carbon cycle and
Water Quality	climate change as a result of oceanic top-down trophic cascades.
Vegetation	Concern for how Navy activities could result in invasive species
regetation	impacting local native environments.
Invertebrates	 Concern over training and testing activities harming the shellfish
Invertebrates	industry and quality of shellfish in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area.
	 Request for the Navy to reduce or remove harmful activities in
	important marine mammal habitats from Oahu and Kauai.
	Request for the Navy to include minimization and mitigation measures
	in areas recently proposed as critical habitat for the endangered
Habitats	insular false killer whale in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area.
Tiabitats	Request that the Navy not train and test in areas identified as critical
	habitat for the endangered insular false killer whale.
	Request to restrict harmful Navy activities in sensitive marine habitat.
	Request for the Navy to continue to protect critical areas like the
	'Alenuihāhā Channel between Maui and Hawaii Island.
Fishes	 Concern over training and testing activities harming the fishing
1131103	industry and quality of fish in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area.
	Request for the Navy to expand the EIS/OEIS to include the study of
Marine Mammals	potential impacts on oceanic top-down trophic cascades.
	Consider the impact that a single fatality may have on the entire pod
	or stock of endangered whale species.

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Resource	Issue/Concern
Resource Area/Topic	 Request for the Navy to reduce mid-frequency active sonar use and restrict dipping sonar to protect beaked whales and other marine mammal species in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area. Request for the Navy to improve impact analysis and modeling with new science and different criteria. Address permanent threshold shifts and potential individual- and population-level consequences within resident populations of odontocetes in Hawaii. Consider higher behavioral responses to helicopter-deployed mid-frequency active sonar and incorporate measures that may mitigate behavioral effects. Request the Navy place restrictions on the use of surface ship hull-mounted mid-frequency active sonar. Recommend adjustments to the use of areas that overlap biologically
	 important areas, modifications to the training and testing of certain acoustic and explosive weapons, and improvements on detection and navigational aids. Request clarification of the anticipated duration of minimum, average, and maximum durations of temporary threshold shifts specific to the activities the Navy has proposed in geo-referenced areas in order to correlate affected populations with the severity of the effects of temporary threshold shift.
	 Provide more information on how long a marine mammal may be restricted in its normal range of abilities to navigate, forage, and socialize as a result of sonar and explosives. Provide clarification on the average length of specific sonar applications (e.g. the length at which sonar will be initiated or sounded repeatedly) during training and testing activities, where these applications occur, and what types of events are conducted during those sonar applications.
	 Specify the assumptions made and the underlying data that were used for the at-sea correction factors for Guadalupe and northern fur seals. Recommend that for all future EISs, the Navy consult with experts in academia and at the National Marine Fisheries Service Science Centers to develop more refined pinniped density estimates that account for pinniped movements, distribution, at-sea correction factors, and density gradients associated with proximity to haul-out sites or rookeries. Suggest the Navy use its spatially and temporally dynamic simulation models (e.g., randomly-generated munition trajectories
	and animat simulations) rather than probability calculations to estimate strike probabilities and numbers of takes from expended munitions and non-explosive materials.

Resource Area/Topic	Issue/Concern		
	 Refrain from using cut-off distances in conjunction with the Bayesian Behavioral Response Functions because the use of cut-off distances could be perceived as an attempt to reduce the numbers of takes; re-estimate the numbers of marine mammal takes based solely on the Bayesian Behavioral Response Functions. Include behavioral takes on marine mammals during all explosive activities, including those that involve single detonation. Provide the total numbers of model-estimated Level A harassment (permanent threshold shift and slight lung and gastrointestinal injuries) and mortality takes rather than providing estimated take numbers based on the Navy's post-model analyses. Request the Navy include the model-estimated Level A harassment and mortality takes in its Letter of Authorization application to inform the National Marine Fisheries Service's negligible impact determination analyses. 		
Reptiles	 Concern over training and testing activities harming and reducing populations of sea turtles in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area. 		
Birds	 Concern for the additive impacts on bird populations in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area from training and testing activities, pollution, and overfishing. 		
Cultural Resources	 Concerns about training and testing activities disrupting and relocating cultural practices and activities. Concerns that training and testing may impact cultural resources, harming them, destroying them, or making them inaccessible. 		
Socioeconomics	 Concern that training and testing activities would negatively impact jobs and income in the tourism industry in the HSTT EIS/OEIS Study Area. Request for the Navy to consider potential effects the Proposed Action may have on long-term energy production beyond 2018. Request for more in-depth analysis on whether the Proposed Action would involve continued limitation and incompatibility between the Navy mission and offshore wind energy production. 		
Public Health and Safety	 Concern that training and testing activities would increase risk of harm to the public. 		
Other	 Request for the Navy to conduct a separate environmental analysis for Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) activities. General support for the No Action Alternative and opposition to any other alternative. Request for the Navy to hold consultations with the right 'āina. Request for more Navy transparency and species specificity on threshold models. Information presented in the EIS/OEIS needs to be more species specific. 		

Resource Area/Topic	Issue/Concern
	 Eliminate any ambiguities and specify the mechanism by which the Navy intends to comply with the Coastal Zone Management Act. Notify California Coastal Commission staff of any modifications or exceedances in training; if notification cannot occur in advance of the activity, notifications should occur in a more timely and proactive manner rather than through the publication of annual reports. Consider adding another mitigation measure to reduce impacts of the Proposed Action: Request for Navy aircrews to voluntarily cease flying over Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

D. MEDIA COVERAGE

The following news articles discussed the Draft EIS/OEIS public comment period.

Summary

Nineteen articles, social media posts, or announcements were published in various local and regional media outlets between Oct. 19, 2017, and Nov. 13, 2017. Articles published the dates of the public comment period and public meetings, and included the project website and commenting methods. The lengthier articles also included information similar to the HSTT EIS/OEIS news release, such as project background and the Proposed Action.

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