

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE SANTA MARGARITA CONJUNCTIVE USE PROJECT AT MARINE CORPS BASE, CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA AND FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508) implementing procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Marine Corps Order P5090.2A Change 3 and the California Environmental Quality Act, the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) and Fallbrook Public Utility District (FPUD) gives notice that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared for the Santa Margarita Conjunctive Use project at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Pendleton.

The Proposed Action would enhance groundwater recharge and recovery capacity within the Lower SMR Basin and develop a conjunctive use program that would increase the sustained basin yield of the Lower SMR Basin for the benefit of MCB Camp Pendleton and FPUD. SMR CUP would construct facilities within the Lower SMR Basin to capture additional surface runoff during high streamflow events that currently flows to the Pacific Ocean. This surface water would be recharged through existing groundwater recharge ponds and stored or “banked” in groundwater basins during wet years and used to augment water supplies during dry years. Specifically included are improvements to the diversion weir and increased capacity of the headgate and the O’Neill Ditch; improvements to seven existing recharge ponds; installation of new groundwater production wells and gallery wells; treatment of water at an existing, expanded, or new water treatment plant (WTP); and a bi-directional pipeline to deliver water to FPUD and provide MCB Camp Pendleton with an off-base (i.e., imported) water supply during drought or emergency situations. A groundwater Treatment Facility would be constructed at the FPUD Water Reclamation Plant Site and a Pipeline would be constructed between the Treatment Plant and Red Mountain Reservoir.

The Draft EIS/EIR describes the potential environmental consequences resulting from two action alternatives and the No-Action Alternative. The public is invited to participate in the NEPA/CEQA process by reviewing and commenting on the Draft EIS/EIR during the public comment period. The Draft EIS/EIR is available for review from May 9, 2014 to August 5, 2014 at the following libraries: City of San Clemente Public Library, 242 Avenida Del Mar, San Clemente, CA 92672; City of Oceanside Public Library, 330 North Coast Highway, Oceanside, CA 92054; and the Fallbrook Public Library, 124 South Mission Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028. The Draft EIS/EIR is also available online at the MCB Camp Pendleton [website: http://www.pendleton.marines.mil/StaffAgencies/EnvironmentalSecurity/EnvironmentalAssessmentsImpactStatements.aspx](http://www.pendleton.marines.mil/StaffAgencies/EnvironmentalSecurity/EnvironmentalAssessmentsImpactStatements.aspx) and the Fallbrook Public Utility District [website: http://www.fpud.com](http://www.fpud.com). Comments should be mailed to: Environmental Security, Box 555008 MCB Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5010, ATTN: Ms. Kristin Thomas, at any time during the 30-day public review period. All comments must be postmarked or electronically dated on or before August 5, 2014, to be sure they become part of the public record. All written comments submitted during the public review period will become part of the public record on the Draft EIS/EIR and will be responded to in the Final EIS/EIR. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Environmental Security, Ms. Kristin Thomas, (760) 725-9741.