

6. Consultation and Coordination

This chapter contains information on the agency and public consultations and coordination activities performed as part of this SDEIS. Public participation opportunities, government agency consultations, Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations, Native American consultation and a list of locations that will receive a copy of the SDEIS to facilitate the public review process.

In accordance with NEPA, all interested parties will have an opportunity to review and comment on the SDEIS. The supplemental draft document will be made available on the land expansion web-site (www.fortirwinlandexpansion.com); through distribution to local libraries, at designated agency locations; and through direct mailing to those who request a copy. A Notice of Availability will be published, as required.

6.1 Public Participation Opportunities

This SDEIS process began with a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a SDEIS. It was published in the *Federal Register* on October 16, 2001 (Vol. 66, No. 200). The NOI announced public scoping meetings on November 29, 2001 from 2:00–5:00 p.m. and 6:00–9:00 p.m. in the Barstow, California City Hall Council Chambers. As a result of public comments and interest, three additional scoping meetings were held. Two were held on January 17, 2002 from 2:00–5:00 p.m. and 6:00–9:00 p.m. in the Riverside, California Convention Center. The last scoping meeting was held on January 19, 2002 from 1:00–4:00 p.m. in the Pasadena, California Convention Center.

The Army and its representatives have participated in a variety of open house and public forums to discuss the land expansion project and the need for additional training land. Media day events are held regularly at Fort Irwin. The agenda for these events always includes briefings and tours for the media, related to the land expansion project.

6.2 Government Agency Participation

The Army held a kick-off Cooperating Agency meeting on December 5, 2001 from 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. in the Leaders Club at Fort Irwin, California. Representatives from the following government agencies attended: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA), the Naval Air Weapons Center (China Lake NAS), the Air Force Flight Test Center (Edwards AFB), and the Air Force Air Warfare Center (Nellis AFB).

The Army has maintained coordination throughout the development of this document, with the Bureau of Land Management. Efforts have been coordinated regarding the developing draft West Mojave Plan EIS, proposed DWMA designations, and other issues impacting the management of natural and cultural resources in the west Mojave. All pertinent information retained by the BLM from the previous land expansion effort, including public participation and comments, has also been shared between agencies to ensure that a comprehensive and thorough history of issues, concerns, and alternatives have been considered in this current effort.

6.3 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation

The Army has initiated ESA Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning threatened and endangered species as required. A series of informal and formal consultations have occurred throughout the project. A biological assessment was completed in June 2003. The biological assessment project timeline parallels that of the supplemental draft EIS and, as such, will be included in the public draft of this document. The biological opinion and final mitigation language will be presented in the final EIS.

6.4 Native American Consultation

The Army hosted a Native American Tribal Meeting on September 3-5, 2002 in the Leaders Club at Fort Irwin, California. The meeting included a full day of briefings and discussions and a day for cultural site visits.

6.5 List of Repositories

The following list of libraries will receive a copy of the Fort Irwin Land Expansion Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for public review. Individuals, interest groups, and agencies that request a copy of the SDEIS will also receive a copy (either CD version or hard copy) for review. In addition, a copy of the SDEIS will be available for review on the Fort Irwin Land Expansion website at <http://fortirwinlandexpansion.com>. The Fort Irwin Land Expansion SDEIS is a public document.

Library of Congress
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20540

San Bernardino County Library
9565 7th Street
Hesperia, CA 92345

Riverside Main Library
3581 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

San Bernardino County Library
104 W. 4th Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415

San Bernardino County Library
15001 Wakita Blvd.
Apple Valley, CA 92307

San Bernardino County Library
82805 Mountain View
Trona, CA 93562

San Bernardino County Library
304 E. Buena Vista
Barstow, CA 92311

San Bernardino County Library
15011 Circle Drive
Victorville, CA 92392