



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

October 31, 2011

William F. Broglie
NOAA Chief Administrative Officer
c/o Robb Gries, P.E.
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700
Seattle, WA 98115

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for Replacement of NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) – Demolition, Soil Stabilization and Seismic Improvements, La Jolla, California [CEQ# 20110319]

Dear Mr. Broglie,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The DSEIS evaluates newly proposed demolition, excavation, construction and structural upgrade activities not previously analyzed in the Draft or Final Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS and FEIS). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's preferred alternative would result in the implementation of these expanded activities, while the No Action alternative would result in the implementation of the Proposed Action as analyzed in the FEIS.

EPA reviewed the DEIS and FEIS and submitted comments to NOAA on January 12, 2009 and June 29, 2009, respectively. We rated the DEIS as Environmental Concerns-Insufficient Information (EC-2) and expressed concerns regarding impacts to air quality from construction emissions. In response to the FEIS, we commended NOAA for its proposed air quality mitigation measures, and recommended that NOAA include commitments to identified air quality mitigation in the Record of Decision. In addition, we suggested that NOAA provide advanced notice of construction to residents along the truck haul route to be used during construction. This notification would serve to inform residents of the potential health risks and possible exposure avoidance measures they should consider, such as closing their windows while diesel-powered equipment and vehicles are operating near their homes.

We have rated the DSEIS as Lack of Objections (LO) (see enclosed “Summary of Rating Definitions”). EPA commends NOAA for its continued commitment to reducing the impacts of construction-related emissions of dust and other air pollutants. That said, we have not found, in the Record of Decision nor the DSEIS, a response to our previous recommendation that NOAA provide advanced notice of construction to residents along the truck haul route. We continue to suggest that NOAA implement this action in order help to mitigate potential impacts to residential receptors.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review this DSEIS. When the Final SEIS is released for public review, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3521, or contact Carter Jessop, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-972-3815 or jessop.carter@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kathleen Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office
Communities and Ecosystems Division

Enclosure: Summary of EPA Rating Definition