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## CHAPTER 5 REFERENCES

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ance](https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/wildlife-conservation/benefits-natural#:~:text=Some%20of%20the%20benefits%20of,Surface%20water%20quality%20mainten ance) (accessed 15 November 2023).
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**APPENDIX A. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION, PUBLIC AND  
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 412<sup>th</sup> TEST WING  
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA**

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14 November 2023

Paul Souza  
Regional Director  
USFWS Region 8 (Pacific Southwest Region)  
2800 Cottage Way, Rm W-2606  
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Dear Mr. Souza

The United States Department of the Air Force (DAF) at Edwards Air Force Base (AFB), California, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to enter into a restrictive use easement (RUE) to prevent further residential, commercial, and industrial development in and adjacent to areas used by DAF. To account for possible environmental concerns, the DAF is engaging early with all potentially affected resource agencies as it formulates the undertaking. Accordingly, the DAF seeks consultation with your office.

**Proposed Action**

The EA will, as required by law and regulations, consider the potential impacts resulting from the DAF's proposed entrance into an RUE in perpetuity on and over approximately 20,000 acres of property within the Wind Wolves Preserve, a nature preserve located approximately 48 miles northwest of Edwards AFB (**Attachment 1**). The RUE would cover land associated with airspace that is currently used by Edwards AFB for testing and training. The RUE would include conservation restrictions that would prohibit multiple uses and actions on the land in question.

**Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to prevent further commercial, industrial, and residential development within existing flight corridors utilized by Edwards AFB. The area surrounding the Bell X-1 Supersonic Corridor, VR 1257, and VR 1262 is highly sought after for development. The establishment of a RUE between the DAF and private landowners in these areas would prevent land uses that are incompatible with the current DAF flying mission.

The Proposed Action is needed to preserve the military's present and future mission-critical use of the corridors. Maintaining the Wind Wolves Preserve and its grasslands as open space is critical to the Edwards AFB flight mission. Incompatible development within this area would be detrimental to the DAF flying mission and degrade Edwards AFB testing and training operations if corridor access was limited or no longer available.

## **Project Location**

Wind Wolves Preserve is owned and operated by the Wildlands Conservancy, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation. The Preserve consists of 93,000 acres in Kern County, approximately 35 miles southwest of the city of Bakersfield. The Wildlands Conservancy manages the land for its biodiversity, conservation value, free recreation, and outdoor education programs.

## **Environmental Assessment**

The EA will assess the potential environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative. Potential impacts identified during the initial planning stages include effects on air quality; water, geological, cultural, and biological resources; land use; noise; infrastructure, transportation, and utilities; hazardous materials and waste; socioeconomics; and environmental justice and protection of children. The EA will also examine the reasonably foreseeable future actions that, when combined with the Proposed Action, could result in potential adverse cumulative effects on a regional scale. In support of this process, we request your input in identifying general or specific issues or areas of concern you believe should be addressed in the EA.

We intend to notify your agency when the Draft EA is completed. Please inform us if someone else within your office other than you should receive this notification.

So that we remain on schedule to complete the environmental impact analysis process in a timely manner, please provide your response to my point of contact for this matter, as provided below, no later than 30 days from receipt of this correspondence. Please send your response via postal mail or email (preferred) to:

**ATTN: Ms. Reina Juarez**  
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Edwards Air Force Base, CA 93524-8600  
Email: [reina.juarez.1@us.af.mil](mailto:reina.juarez.1@us.af.mil)

The DAF appreciates your interest in and support of its military mission at Edwards AFB. We thank you in advance for your assistance and look forward to your response.

Sincerely

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Digitally signed by  
RADEMACHER.THOMAS.A.104  
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Date: 2023.11.06 15:03:59 -08'00'

THOMAS A. RADEMACHER  
Chief Environmental Management Division

Attachment:

1. Project Location Map



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 412<sup>th</sup> TEST WING  
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA**

THOMAS A. RADEMACHER  
Chief Environmental Management Office  
120 N. Rosamond Blvd, Building 3735 Suite A  
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14 November 2023

Octavio Escobedo  
Chairperson  
Tejon Indian Tribe  
P.O. Box 640  
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Dear Chairperson Escobedo

The United States Department of the Air Force (DAF) at Edwards Air Force Base (AFB), California, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to enter into a restrictive use easement (RUE) to prevent further residential, commercial, and industrial development in and adjacent to areas used by DAF. To account for possible environmental concerns, the DAF is engaging early with all potentially affected resource agencies as it formulates the undertaking. Accordingly, the DAF seeks consultation with the Tejon Indian Tribe.

**Proposed Action**

The EA will, as required by law and regulations, consider the potential impacts resulting from the DAF's proposed entrance into an RUE in perpetuity on and over approximately 20,000 acres of property within the Wind Wolves Preserve, a nature preserve located approximately 48 miles northwest of Edwards AFB (**Attachment 1**). The RUE would cover land associated with airspace that is currently used by Edwards AFB for testing and training. The RUE would include conservation restrictions that would prohibit multiple uses and actions on the land in question.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act* (NHPA), implementing regulations at Title 36 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 800, and Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4710.02, *DoD Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes*, we would like to initiate government-to-government consultation on the Proposed Action. Pursuant to 36 CFR §§ 800.4(a) and (b), we request your assistance in defining the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and information on any historic properties located therein that may be affected by the proposed undertaking. The DAF desires to discuss the proposal in detail with you so that we may understand and consider any comments, concerns, and suggestions you may have.

In particular, we invite you, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4), to provide information on any properties of historic, religious, or cultural significance that may be affected by our proposed undertaking. Regardless of whether you chooses to consult on this project, the DAF will comply with the *Native American Graves and Repatriation Act* by informing you of any inadvertent discovery of archaeological or human remains and consulting on their disposition. Being defined as a federal undertaking, we will be seeking input and inviting other potential consulting parties, such as the California State Historic Preservation Office.

### **Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to prevent further commercial, industrial, and residential development within existing flight corridors utilized by Edwards AFB. The area surrounding the Bell X-1 Supersonic Corridor, VR 1257, and VR 1262 is highly sought after for development. The establishment of a RUE between the DAF and private landowners in these areas would prevent land uses that are incompatible with the current DAF flying mission.

The Proposed Action is needed to preserve the military's present and future mission-critical use of the corridors. Maintaining the Wind Wolves Preserve and its grasslands as open space is critical to the Edwards AFB flight mission. Incompatible development within this area would be detrimental to the DAF flying mission and degrade Edwards AFB testing and training operations if corridor access was limited or no longer available.

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### **Environmental Assessment**

The EA will assess the potential environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative. Potential impacts identified during the initial planning stages include effects on air quality, infrastructure/utilities, biological and cultural resources, geological resources, and water resources. The EA will also examine the reasonably foreseeable future actions that, when combined with the Proposed Action, could result in potential adverse cumulative effects on a regional scale.

As a government-to-government consultation, we would appreciate any input you have to identify properties of cultural and religious significance that may be located within the APE for this action and regarding concerns of potential effects of the Proposed Action on significant cultural resources. We also intend to notify you when the Draft EA is completed and welcome comments and input at that time as well. Please inform us if someone else within your organization other than you should receive such notification.

So that we remain on schedule to complete the environmental impact analysis process in a timely manner, please provide your response to my point of contact for this matter, as provided below, no later than 30 days from receipt of this correspondence. Please send your response via postal mail or email (preferred) to:

**ATTN: Ms. Reina Juarez**  
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120 N. Rosamond Blvd, Building 3735  
Edwards Air Force Base, CA 93524-8600  
Email: [reina.juarez.1@us.af.mil](mailto:reina.juarez.1@us.af.mil)

The DAF appreciates your interest in and support of its military mission at Edwards AFB. We thank you in advance for your assistance and look forward to your response.

Sincerely  
RADEMACHER.THOMAS.A.10437051  
OMAS.A.10437051  
60  
THOMAS A. RADEMACHER  
Chief Environmental Management Division

Digitally signed by  
RADEMACHER.THOMAS.A.104  
3705160  
Date: 2023.11.07 10:40:16 -08'00'

Attachment:

1. Project Location Map



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 412<sup>th</sup> TEST WING  
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA**

THOMAS A. RADEMACHER  
Chief Environmental Management Office  
120 N. Rosamond Blvd, Building 3735 Suite A  
Edwards AFB, California, 93524-8600

14 November 2023

Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
California Office of Historic Preservation 1725  
23rd Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento CA 95816

Dear Ms. Polanco

The United States Department of the Air Force (DAF) at Edwards Air Force Base (AFB), California, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to enter into a restrictive use easement (RUE) to prevent further residential, commercial, and industrial development in and adjacent to areas used by DAF. To account for possible environmental concerns, the DAF is engaging early with all potentially affected resource agencies as it formulates the undertaking. Accordingly, the DAF seeks consultation with your office.

**Proposed Action**

The EA will, as required by law and regulations, consider the potential impacts resulting from the DAF's proposed entrance into an RUE in perpetuity on and over approximately 20,000 acres of property within the Wind Wolves Preserve, a nature preserve located approximately 48 miles northwest of Edwards AFB (**Attachment 1**). The RUE would cover land associated with airspace that is currently used by Edwards AFB for testing and training. The RUE would include conservation restrictions that would prohibit multiple uses and actions on the land in question.

**Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to prevent further commercial, industrial, and residential development within existing flight corridors utilized by Edwards AFB. The area surrounding the Bell X-1 Supersonic Corridor, VR 1257, and VR 1262 is highly sought after for development. The establishment of a RUE between the DAF and private landowners in these areas would prevent land uses that are incompatible with the current DAF flying mission.

The Proposed Action is needed to preserve the military's present and future mission-critical use of the corridors. Maintaining the Wind Wolves Preserve and its grasslands as open space is critical to the Edwards AFB flight mission. Incompatible development within this area would be detrimental to the DAF flying mission and degrade Edwards AFB testing and training operations if corridor access was limited or no longer available.



## **Project Location**

Wind Wolves Preserve is owned and operated by the Wildlands Conservancy, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation. The Preserve consists of 93,000 acres in Kern County, approximately 35 miles southwest of the city of Bakersfield. The Wildlands Conservancy manages the land for its biodiversity, conservation value, free recreation, and outdoor education programs.

## **Environmental Assessment**

The EA will assess the potential environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative. Potential impacts identified during the initial planning stages include effects on air quality, infrastructure/utilities, biological and cultural resources, geological resources, and water resources. The EA will also examine the reasonably foreseeable future actions that, when combined with the Proposed Action, could result in potential adverse cumulative effects on a regional scale. In support of this process, we request your input in identifying general or specific issues or areas of concern you believe should be addressed in the EA.

As a consultation, we would appreciate any input regarding concerns of potential effects of the Proposed Action on historic properties as well as assistance in defining the Area of Potential Effects for said action. We also intend to notify your agency when the Draft EA is completed and welcome comments and input at that time as well. Please inform us if someone else within your organization other than you should receive the notification.

So that we remain on schedule to complete the environmental impact analysis process in a timely manner, please provide your response to my point of contact for this matter, as provided below, no later than 30 days from receipt of this correspondence. Please send your response via postal mail or email (preferred) to:

**ATTN: Ms. Reina Juarez**  
412 CEG/CEVA  
120 N. Rosamond Blvd, Building 3735  
Edwards Air Force Base, CA 93524-8600  
Email: [reina.juarez.1@us.af.mil](mailto:reina.juarez.1@us.af.mil)

The DAF appreciates your interest in and support of its military mission at Edwards AFB. We thank you in advance for your assistance and look forward to your response.

Sincerely

RADEMACHER.TH  
OMAS.A.10437051  
60

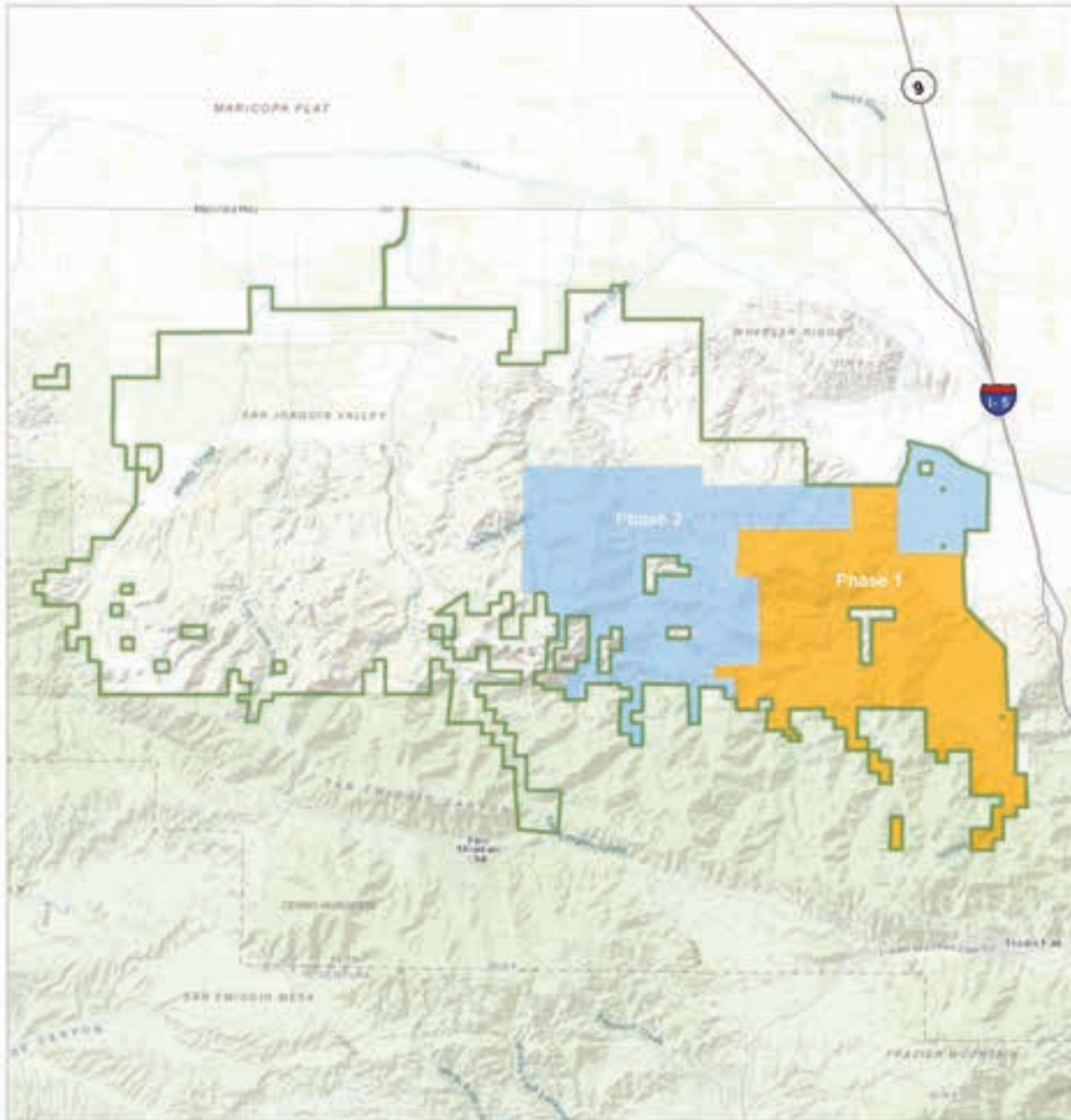
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3705160  
Date: 2023.11.07 13:05:04 -08'00'

THOMAS A. RADEMACHER  
Chief Environmental Management Division




Attachment:

1. Project Location Map

Attachment – Project Location Map



Edwards AFB Restrictive Use Easement (RUE)

-  Wind Wolves Preserve
-  Phase 1 RUE
-  Phase 2 RUE



Imagery: ESRI, 2023  
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 11N





# THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY

*Behold the Beauty*

ATTN: Ms. Reina Juarez  
412 CEG/CEVA  
120 N. Rosamond Blvd, Building 3735  
Edwards Air Force Base, CA 93524-8600  
[reina.juarez.l@us.af.mil](mailto:reina.juarez.l@us.af.mil)

November 28, 2023

Re: Receipt of letter dated November 14, 2023 | Draft Environmental Assessment to enter into a Restrictive Use Easement (RUE) on the Wind Wolves Preserve in Kern County, CA.

I, Melissa Dabulamanzi, have received your letter dated November 14, 2023, regarding the development of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Restrictive Use Easement on approximately 20,000 acres within the Wind Wolves Preserve, located approximately 48 miles northwest of Edwards AFB.

On behalf of The Wildlands Conservancy, which owns and operates the Wind Wolves Preserve, I am the correct contact to receive notification when the Draft EA is completed.

Sincerely,

Melissa Dabulamanzi  
Central Coast Ranges Regional Director  
The Wildlands Conservancy  
Wind Wolves Preserve  
16019 Maricopa Hwy  
Bakersfield, CA 93311  
[melissa.d@wildlandsconservancy.org](mailto:melissa.d@wildlandsconservancy.org)



Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director  
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100  
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323  
Phone: (661) 862-8600  
Fax: (661) 862-8601 TTY Relay 1-800-735-2929  
Email: [planning@kerncounty.com](mailto:planning@kerncounty.com)  
Web Address: <http://kernplanning.com/>



**PLANNING AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning  
Community Development  
Administrative Operations

November 21, 2023

Thomas A Rademacher  
Department of the Air Force, Headquarters 412<sup>th</sup> Test Wing  
Chief Environmental Management Division  
120 N. Rosamond Blvd, Building 3735, Suite A  
Edwards AFB, California, 93524-8600

**RE: Proposed Restrictive Use Easement (RUE) for Property – Wind Wolves Preserve**

Dear Mr. Rademacher,

This correspondence is in response to the letter dated November 14, 2023, regarding the proposed Environmental Assessment (EA) for a restrictive use easement (RUE) on property in unincorporated Kern County. The letter references a 20,000-acre portion of the Wind Wolves Preserves and provided a general map. We certainly are interested in assisting you in this matter, however, we require more information. Further, As noted in the attached Board of Supervisors Resolution 2002-241, we are requesting Cooperating Agency Status on this EA under NEPA.

Provided in this letter is a general GIS screenshot of the area which shows the property overlays a portion of the San Emidio New Town Specific Plan <https://psbweb.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/SPs/SanEmidioSP.pdf>. This plan is still in effect and provides for the implementation of commercial, industrial and residential uses on the property with the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District as a temporary use. In addition, there is oil and gas development on the site with mineral holders of record.

To provide better information for your use, we require a map that includes the APN numbers of the proposed 20,000 acres as well as a detailed map with Section, Township and, Range information. With this information we can more accurately map the portions of San Emidio New Town Specific Plan which will be affected by your RUE.

While the property owner has the right to enter into a restrictive easement with the Department of the Air Force, the property needs to be processed for appropriate land use designations for such restrictive uses for our regional planning purposes. As the property owner is part of this action by the DAF, this is the property owner's responsibility. The process would involve a General Plan Amendment to revoke their portion of the San Emidio New Town Specific Plan with appropriate applications and processing fees. An alternative process may be available through our General Plan 2024 update which is in process over the next two years. We will

evaluate the impacts of your recordation of the RUE and give your feedback over the next few weeks.

Please add Craig Murphy, [MurphyC@kerncounty.com](mailto:MurphyC@kerncounty.com) , Assistant Director as well as myself to the contact list for this matter. After reviewing the requested map, we will provide you further comments.

I am available at your convenience for discussion on this matter at [LoreleiO@kerncounty.com](mailto:LoreleiO@kerncounty.com) and we can set up a call. Kern County remains, as always, committed to supporting the Department of Defense missions and the Department of the Air Force Installation and Flight Test Corridors in Kern County are critical to our economy and the protection of the United States. We look forward to assisting you.

Sincerely,



Lorelei H.Oviatt AICP  
Director  
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources

cc: Supervisor Zack Scrivner -District 2



BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF KERN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2002-241

Reference No. \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE PLANNING DIRECTOR  
TO SEEK COOPERATING AGENCY STATUS ON  
APPROPRIATE CASES UNDER THE NATIONAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)  
WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES**

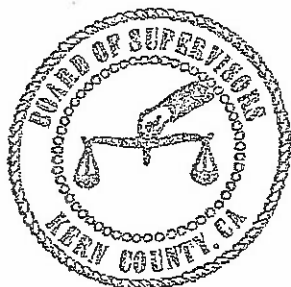
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I, DENISE PENNELL, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Kern, State of California, hereby certify that the following resolution, on motion of Supervisor Parra, seconded by Supervisor McQuiston, was duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Kern at an official meeting thereof on the 25th day of June, 2002, by the following vote and that a copy of the resolution has been delivered to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

AYES: McQuiston, Perez, Patrick, Vacant, Parra

NOES: None

ABSENT: None



**DENISE PENNELL**  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Kern, State of California

*Judy A. Perry*  
Deputy Clerk

---

**RESOLUTION**

Section 1. WHEREAS:

(a) The Board of Supervisors are concerned about the adverse impacts on the economy, private property rights, resources and land use within the County arising from plans, programs and decisions of Federal Agencies, including, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Park Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(b) The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 establishes an environmental policy for the nation, provides an interdisciplinary framework for environmental planning by federal agencies and contains action-forcing procedures to

ensure that federal agency decision makers take environmental factors into account (42.U.S.C 4321; 40 C.F.R. 1500.1); and

(c) The Council on Environmental Quality has established the following six fundamental objectives for NEPA: 1) supplemental legal authority, 2) procedural reform, 3) disclosure of environmental information, 4) resolution of environmental problems, 5) fostering of intergovernmental coordination and cooperation, 6) enhancing public participation in government planning and decision making; and

d) The Council on Environmental Quality has provided clear direction to federal agencies to actively consider granting local governments cooperating agency status;

Section 2 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Kern, State of California, as follows:

1. That all of the above facts are true and that this Board has jurisdiction over the subject mater of this Resolution.

2. This Board authorizes the Planning Director to send appropriate correspondence to federal agencies that have a proposal subject to review under NEPA, that involves issues and concerns consistent with the Home Rule Program, requesting the federal agency extend Kern County cooperating agency status for that project.

3. The Clerk of the Board shall also cause copies of this Resolution to be sent to the following:

- (a) County Administrative Office
- (b) County Counsel
- (c) Director Planning Department
- (d) Senator Barbara Boxer,  
U.S. Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0505
- (e) Senator Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0504
- (f) Congressman Calvin Dooley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1227 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0520

- (g) Congressman William Thomas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2208 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0521
- (h) Bureau of Land Management, California State Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1834  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1886
- (i) Bureau of Land Management, California District Office  
6221 Box Springs Blvd  
Riverside, CA 92507
- (j) Honorable Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior,  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240
- (k) Honorable Ann Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture  
14<sup>th</sup> & Independence Avenue SW  
Room 200A, Washington, D.C. 20250
- (l) Arthur L. Gaffrey, Forest Supervisors  
Sequoia National Forest  
900 West Grant Avenue  
Porterville, CA 93257

BD:WL  
#30101  
02.2750  
CC20022086

COPIES FURNISHED:
<i>See above</i>
<i>6-27-02 ja</i>









**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND  
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE OHIO**

MEMORANDUM FOR KERN COUNTY PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
ATTN: LORELEI H OVIATT, AICP DIRECTOR  
PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
2700 M STREET, SUITE 100  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301-2323

FROM: HQ AFMC/A4/A10/A4C  
4375 Chidlaw Road  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base OH 45433-5772

SUBJECT: Department of the Air Force (DAF) Acceptance of Cooperating Agency Request for Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) Environmental Assessment (EA) for Edwards Air Force Base

1. The DAF has received and accepts your request for formal participation in preparation of the REPI EA for placement of a Restrictive Use Easement over portions of the Wind Wolves Preserve as prescribed in the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations, 40 CFR§ 1501.8, *Cooperating Agencies*. Consistent with these regulations, participation of Kern County would generally include the following actions:

- a. Participating throughout the development of the EA to include the scoping process and supporting consultations;
- b. Assuming responsibility for developing information and preparing analyses on issues for which the Kern County has special expertise;
- c. Making staff support available to enhance interdisciplinary review capabilities;
- d. Consulting with the DAF in meeting the schedule and elevating issues that may affect this ability (40 C.F.R.§ 1501.7(i))

2. The DAF will act as the lead agency for purposes of compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 USC §1536); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC §470f.); and other similar regulatory consultation or coordination requirements.

3. The DAF requires the timely support of cooperating agencies to avoid unnecessary delays in the NEPA process. Should you or your staff have any further questions or concerns regarding this memo, our point of contact is Ms. Shari Fort, AFMC NEPA Liaison, AFIMSC Det 6, who can be reached at shari.fort@us.af.mil.

**ONDERKO.RO** Digitally signed by  
**NALD.J.12302** ONDERKO. RONALD.J.12  
**01826** 30201826  
Date: 2024.05.16  
11:07:06 -04'00'  
RONALD J. ONDERKO, P.E. NH-04, DAF  
Command Senior Civil Engineer  
Logistics, Civil Engineering, Force Protection  
and Nuclear Integration

cc:

AF/A4CP

AFIMSC Det 6

AF/JAOE-FSC (AFMC)

412 CEG/CC

412 CEG/CEVA

**From:** [JUAREZ, REINA C CIV USAF AFMC 412 CEG/CEVA](#)  
**To:** [Nicholas Sutton](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Wind Wolves Preserve EA  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 4:25:57 PM

---

Hi Nick,  
EPA Region 9 Response below.

Thank You

---

**From:** Vitulano, Karen <Vitulano.Karen@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:35 AM  
**To:** JUAREZ, REINA C CIV USAF AFMC 412 CEG/CEVA <reina.juarez.1@us.af.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Wind Wolves Preserve EA

Hi Reina – We received via hard copy a notice regarding this EA. While it was dated Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, I received it today. We are requesting that all future such notifications be sent electronically via email only, and DoD notices should be sent to me as the DoD NEPA reviewer in Region 9. This is necessary since we are transitioning to a fully electronic environment and also expedites receipt and in turn the whole NEPA process since it avoids delays from physical mail processing. Thank you and I would appreciate it if you could inform the necessary personnel regarding this request for electronic only notifications.

We will review the notice and if we have comments, will submit 30 days from receipt (today, so end of Dec).

Thanks!

\*~\*

Ms. Karen Vitulano  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
Environmental Review Branch, Tribal, Intergovernmental and Policy Division  
San Francisco, California | Ancestral land of the Ohlone people  
No snail mail please – we are [transitioning to a fully electronic environment](#)  
PHONE 415-947-4178

**“Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you.” -- Wendell Berry**



*Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians*  
*Tribal Elders' Council*

P.O. Box 517 ♦ Santa Ynez ♦ CA ♦ 93460

Phone: (805)688-7997 ♦ Fax: (805)688-9578 ♦

December 26, 2023

412 CEG/CEV  
120 N. Rosamond Blvd, Building 3735  
Edwards Air Force Base, CA 93524-8600

Att.: Reina Juarez

Re: Edwards AFB Restrictive Use Easement (RUE)

Dear Ms. Juarez:

Thank you for contacting the Tribal Elders' Council for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

At this time, the Elders' Council requests no further consultation on this project; however, we understand that as part of NHPA Section 106, we must be notified of the project.

Thank you for remembering that at one time our ancestors walked this sacred land.

Sincerely Yours,

*Crystal Mendoza*

Crystal Mendoza  
Administrative Assistant | Cultural Resources  
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians | Tribal Hall  
(805) 325-5537  
cmendoza@chumash.gov

## **APPENDIX B. NOISE TECHNICAL REPORT**

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# Edwards AFB REPI/Wind Wolves EA Noise Modeling Data Validation Package (DVP) – V1- Draft

## **GENERAL:**

This Data Package is intended to gain approval from the U.S. Air Force, including various experts at Edwards AFB, for the contained data that will be used in support of the Environmental Assessment for Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

The focus of the EA is the proposed action to allow the USAF to purchase restrictive use easements (RUE), preventing development of incompatible uses of various land parcels in the proximity of the Edwards AFB training and testing airspace and ranges. This proposal will not change the frequency or qualities of any training/testing flight operations in the vicinity, so the noise environment will not change with the proposed action. By extension, there will be no environmental impacts in the noise environment due to the proposed action.

This document's intent is to list the types of aviation activities that are typically considered in a NEPA action involving airfields and airspace, document that each was considered, and ask by confirmation from USAF that the conclusion that there will be no impacts is agreed to.

## **AVIATION ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL NOISE IMPACTS**

### Airfield Operations

In the vicinity of an airfield, the activities of aircraft taking off and landing (with associated variations) can cause environmental impact due to noise. Impacts are normally evaluated by modeling the environs for the existing conditions, and comparing it to the expected conditions under a proposed action. Military aircraft are generally modeled with NoiseMap (NMap) or the Advanced Acoustic Model (AAM), depending on aircraft type. Civil aircraft are generally modeled with the Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT). All the expected activities in a year are put into a model, and the results are added together (if multiple programs are used) to arrive at a combined noise footprint at the airfield. This is also done for the expected future case (or cases) that would result from a proposed Federal action, allowing the results to be compared to determine the impacts of a proposed action. In this case, the proposed action (purchase of RUE under the REPI program) is for an area outside of the affected environment surrounding Edwards AFB. In addition, there are no

proposed changes to the airfield operations. So, there will be no noise impacts to the ROI due to the proposed action based on the Edwards AFB airfield operations.

### Special Use Airspace:

There is a large complex of published Special Use Airspace (SUA), including Military Operations Areas (MOAs) and Restricted Areas, surrounding Edwards AFB, that is primarily used by aircraft from Edwards AFB and Naval Air Station China Lake for testing and training activities. There are also other users, primarily from operational Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps units who use the airspace for training when it is available to them.

### Subsonic SUA Operations.

Similarly to analysis for airfields, the noise environment is normally evaluated by modeling the environs for the existing conditions and comparing it to the expected conditions under a proposed action. The noise model of choice for subsonic activity in military airspace is the MRNMap program, which accounts for the types of aircraft, and the supporting data including altitudes, power settings, and airspeeds.

Under this proposed action, the geographic area of interest is outside this SUA complex, and the activities of subsonic aircraft in it would not have any effects. Additionally, the proposed action does not include any change of operations, in either quantity or qualities.

### Supersonic SUA Operations.

Technical analysis for noise caused by supersonic flight (sonic booms at the surface) is normally modeled with the software packages BooMap and/or PCBoom. BooMap is for estimating the general cumulative effects of supersonic training, and PCBoom is geared toward predicting single event effects (like the magnitude of single sonic boom noise and overpressure). Much like the operational areas discussed above, the methodology would be to compare an existing level of activity to a projected/proposed level of activity. In this case, the proposed action does not involve any changes to supersonic flight activity in the special use airspace surrounding the area of interest.

### Military Training Routes.

There are a number of military training routes (MTRs) in the vicinity of Edwards AFB. These are designated, published routes that allow military aircraft to fly faster than they would otherwise be able to in areas below 10,000' above mean sea level (MSL). Two of these routes (designated VR-1257 and VR-1262) are close to the area of interest in this proposed action. Evaluation of noise impacts due to training activities on MTRs is accomplished with the MRNMAP software package. Data including the numbers and types of aircraft, along with altitude, speed, and power profiles are used to calculate the noise produced to an observer on the ground. Comparison of the existing to the proposed action allows for analysis of the potential impacts. In this case, there are no predicted changes in usage (quantity or qualities) of the MTR traffic on these two MTRs, nor are there any changes on any other regionally proximate MTRs. This results in there being no noise impacts due to use of the MTRs.

### Edwards AFB “Bell X-1 Supersonic Corridor”

There is an existing testing corridor, which is not officially considered SUA existing in the region. Interviews indicate that it is rarely used, but does still exist and must be considered. The method of evaluation noise resulting from use of this corridor would be the same as outlined above for supersonic operation in SUA. This corridor is not published as SUA, and is shown in purple shading in this figure:



The western edge of the supersonic corridor is overlapping the eastern edge of the Wind Wolves area, which is the subject of the proposed RUEs. This corridor is rarely used. When it is, it is for West-to-East flight, and was designed to allow for acceleration as an aircraft approaches and enters the SUA/range space from the West. Because of this geometry, there would be no production of a sonic boom that could affect the

ROI (Wind Wolves development area). Additionally, there are no proposed changes to the use of the corridor under the proposed action.

Any sonic booms produced in the supersonic corridor would fall on the ground to the east of the ROI for this proposed action, and there are no proposed changes to the activities in the corridor. Therefore, there is no noise impact due to the proposed action.

## SUMMARY

The intent of this DVP is to allow USAF Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) confirm the information contained herein.

The proposed action for the Environmental Assessment for Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program at Edwards Air Force Base, California does not involve any operational changes in terms of airfield operations, SUA use (either subsonic or supersonic), MTR use, or “Supersonic Corridor” use that would drive any environmental noise impacts in the ROI being considered.

Confirmation of this information will assist the project team in moving forward with the EA that must be completed before the proposed action can be completed.

Please forward questions to:

Mr. Nick Sutton  
[nsutton@easbio.com](mailto:nsutton@easbio.com)

or

Geoff Olander  
[Geoffrey.olander@stantecgs.com](mailto:Geoffrey.olander@stantecgs.com)

