

## **APPENDIX A**

### **RESOURCE AGENCY(IES) ENDORSEMENT**

Pursuant to the Sikes Act Improvement Act (Public Law 105-85, Div. B Title XXIX, November 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 2017-2019, 2020-2033), this Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan must reflect the mutual agreement of the Department of Defense the Department of Interior, acting through the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the state fish and wildlife agency concerning “conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife resources.” Following is a letter received from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The California Department of Fish and Game letter is currently being drafted and will be attached upon receipt.

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## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

California/Nevada Operations Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2606  
Sacramento, California 95825-1846



NOV 17 2006

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS-MCASC-2317.5

Colonel J. B. Seaton  
Commanding Officer  
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton  
P.O. Box 555008  
Camp Pendleton, California 92055-5008

Subject: Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, Marine Corps Base Camp  
Pendleton, San Diego County, California

Dear Colonel Seaton:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the draft Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (Base), San Diego County, California. The draft INRMP, dated August 2006, was received at our Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office (CFWO) on September 28, 2006. The draft INRMP was prepared and submitted pursuant to the Sikes Act, as amended, including the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997. According to the Sikes Act, an INRMP must provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations consistent with the use of those installations to ensure military preparedness. Additionally, the Sikes Act requires military installations to prepare an INRMP in cooperation with the State fish and wildlife agency and the Service and that the resulting plan reflects the mutual agreement of these parties. This letter conveys the Service's concurrence of mutual agreement with the Base's draft INRMP.

The Base's first INRMP was finalized in November 2001. Since August 2004, the Service has been working with the Base and the California Department of Fish and Game (Department) to revise the Base's 2001 INRMP to meet review requirements. Additionally, the Base proposed that all parties continue to regularly work together to review and, when appropriate, revise the INRMP. In a letter dated July 14, 2005 (FWS-MCBCP-2317.3), the Service agreed with that approach. The implementation of this ongoing, collaborative process with regular updates to the INRMP satisfies the 5-year review requirement of the Sikes Act. The Service appreciates the Marine Corps' advanced approach in addressing the Base's INRMP, its updates, and its implementation. Using this highly successful cooperative approach, the Base has restructured and revised its 2001 INRMP. This process, including regular meetings and responding to the Service's and Department's comments on preliminary drafts, has largely addressed the concerns the Service raised in its 2001 concurrence letter. The current version of the INRMP now more



Colonel J.B. Seaton

clearly articulates the Base's ongoing Environmental Security practices and better addresses the requirements of the Sikes Act. Additionally, this ongoing, cooperative review will allow the Base's INRMP to become a "living document," facilitating adaptive management of the Base's natural resources and also provide a mechanism to address, in a timely manner, potential concerns regarding the INRMP or its implementation.

The current draft INRMP explicitly addresses the 18 federally listed species found on Base. This listed species focus reflects the Marine Corps' obligations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. In particular, the Base addresses impacts to listed species from its ongoing training and other regular operations through two programmatic consultations. The completed Riparian and Estuarine/Beach Programmatic Biological Opinion (1-6-95-F-02) has been incorporated into the INRMP; the consultation for activities in upland areas (Uplands Consultation) is nearing completion and will be incorporated into the INRMP once that consultation is finalized. Future impacts to listed species and/or critical habitat that are not addressed programmatically will be addressed through separate consultations. Therefore, we concur that formal consultation on the INRMP is not required.

In addition to the federally listed species, the INRMP specifically addresses two Federal candidate species and five State-listed species that occur on Base. Also, the INRMP recognizes 39 and 55 sensitive plant and wildlife species, respectively. Additionally, the INRMP includes measures to address birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The Base's management programs generally focus on federally listed species; non-listed species are being addressed largely through the Base's programmatic ecosystem-based management. The Service commends the Marine Corps for specifically addressing these non-federally listed species.

In conclusion, the Service concurs that the August 2006 draft INRMP addresses the conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife resources as required by the Sikes Act. Thank you very much for coordinating with us. The Service looks forward to working with the Marine Corps and the Base's Environmental Security staff during future reviews of the INRMP and as part of the metrics reporting process. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact Field Supervisor, Jim Bartel, at the CFWO at (760) 431-9440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Thompson  
California-Nevada Operations Manager

Colonel J.B. Seaton

cc:

Lupe Armas, AC/S, ES Camp Pendleton

James Omans, U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters, Natural Resources Section

Larry Eng, California Department of Fish and Game, San Diego

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