

## NOTICE OF 30-DAY PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Starting in May 2021 and ending in June 2021.

The U.S. Air Force has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts that could result from implementing the 2021 March Air Reserve Base Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP).

The EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact, along with the draft INRMP, are available for 30 days of public review and comment.

Comments should be sent by mail to March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Chris Wagner, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518, or by email at [christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil).

# **Draft Finding of No Significant Impact**

## **Proposed Implementation of the 2021 INRMP**

### **U.S. Air Force Reserve Command**

### **March Air Reserve Base, Riverside County, California**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), *Code of Federal Regulations* Title 40, Parts 1500 through 1508, and 42 *United States Code* (U.S.C.) Sections 4321 et seq., the U.S. Air Force Reserve Command performed an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate the impacts of implementing the 2021 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March Air Reserve Base (March ARB) in Riverside County, California. The EA is incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

#### **Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to implement the revised INRMP to guide the operation and maintenance of an effective natural resources management program. The INRMP would guide the management of natural resources and facilitate compliance with applicable federal and state laws, such as those associated with environmental documentation, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and wildlife management.

The preparation and implementation of an INRMP is required by the Sikes Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. Sections 670a et seq.); Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4715.03, *Natural Resources Conservation Program*; and Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 32-7003, *Environmental Conservation*. In accordance with the Sikes Act, DoDI 4715.03, and AFMAN 32-7003, the INRMP is required to be reviewed on a regular basis, but not less than every 5 years. Updates and revisions should be made as necessary so that the INRMP remains current as to operation and effect.

#### **Description of the Proposed Action**

March ARB proposes to fully implement the 2021 INRMP as written and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and March ARB Command, which is incorporated by reference. To support the efficient management of natural resources at March ARB, the revised 2021 INRMP would include updates to the following:

- Conditions and operations at March ARB
- Base acreage and property holdings
- Information on referenced plans
- Figures displaying installation property boundaries and locations of natural resources
- Special-status species
- Plant and wildlife inventories for the Base

The Proposed Action would allow March ARB to continue several management programs currently in place, implement modified management strategies determined necessary to manage natural resources effectively, and carry out the set of resource-specific projects/actions developed in the INRMP to meet the identified natural resource management goals and objectives. The Proposed Action would enable U.S. Air Force (USAF) personnel to effectively manage the use and condition of natural resources on March ARB. Implementation of the Proposed Action would support the USAF's continuing responsibility to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission while practicing sound resource stewardship and complying with environmental policies and regulations. The Proposed Action supports an ecosystem

approach and includes natural resources goals, objectives, and projects/actions to be undertaken at March ARB. [Note: The 2021 INRMP is in draft form and will be available for public and agency review along with the draft EA.]

The Proposed Action focuses on a 5-year implementation period. This period will become effective upon the date of the last signatory and shall continue in full force for a period of 5 years. Additional environmental analysis might be required as new management strategies are developed during annual reviews of the INRMP and over the long term (that is, beyond 5 years). The INRMP will be reviewed and updated annually and will be revised and updated, as necessary, at the end of the 5-year implementation period.

### **No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, natural resources would continue to be managed under the 2012 INRMP and new information on special-status species and their management would not be incorporated into March ARB's 5-year planning and management process. There would also be no updates to conditions and operations at March ARB, referenced plans, figures displaying installation property boundaries and locations of natural resources, and flora and fauna inventories for the Base. Monitoring and management activities would fail to fully meet the described purpose and need for the Proposed Action and would not be in compliance with federal laws and regulations. Under the No Action Alternative, March ARB would also remain in non-compliance status of the Sikes Act, DoDI 4715.03, and AFMAN 32-7003. The No Action Alternative serves as a benchmark against which federal actions can be evaluated. Inclusion of a No Action Alternative is prescribed by CEQ regulations; therefore, the No Action Alternative has been analyzed in the EA.

### **Potential Environmental Impacts**

The EA prepared for March ARB contains a comprehensive evaluation of the existing conditions and environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative, as required by NEPA. Based on the findings of the EA, there would be no significant impact on any environmental resources resulting from the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative. The following Proposed Action measures to avoid or minimize impacts would be implemented under the Preferred Alternative:

- To reduce impacts from pesticide use, all pesticides would be applied in accordance with label directions and the March ARB Integrated Pest Management Plan; avoidance buffers would be implemented around wetlands/drainages/vernal pools; if found, special-status plants would be flagged for avoidance prior to herbicide application; licensed applicators would prevent and immediately clean up any spills of chemicals; proper personal protective equipment would be worn by applicators; and treated areas would be identified using signs.

### **Public Review and Comment**

The draft final EA and draft final FONSI were available to the public for review and comment for a period of 30 days. The public notice was published in the *Press Enterprise* and *Valley Chronicle* newspapers. Copies of the draft final EA and the draft final FONSI were placed at the Moreno Valley Public Library, 25480 Alessandro Boulevard, Moreno Valley, California 92553. The draft final EA and draft final FONSI are also available online at <https://www.march.afrc.af.mil/>. Public and agency comments will be reviewed and incorporated into the final EA and/or FONSI, as appropriate.

## NEPA Determination

Based on the findings of the EA, there would be no significant impacts resulting from the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative. This FONSI was prepared to accompany the EA, which concludes that preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required for this Proposed Action.

Approved by:

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MELISSA A. COBURN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 452d Air Mobility Wing

Date

# Implementation of the 2021 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan March Air Reserve Base, California

Environmental Assessment

April 2021

Prepared for:  
March Air Reserve Base



# Executive Summary

## ES.1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes the potential environmental consequences resulting from implementation of the March Air Reserve Base (ARB) 2021 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP; March ARB, 2021a). The March ARB INRMP is the principal tool for managing military installation natural resources and is regularly updated to reflect current conditions and mission requirements. The INRMP provides specific goals, objectives, and projects/actions to be implemented upon agreement of the signatories of the INRMP and defines the responsible organizations for implementation of these projects/actions. This EA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and implementing regulations specified in *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Title 40, Parts 1500 through 1508, and 32 CFR Part 989.

## ES.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to implement the revised INRMP to guide operation and maintenance of an effective natural resources management program. The INRMP would guide the management of natural resources and facilitate compliance with applicable federal and state laws, such as those associated with environmental documentation, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and wildlife management.

Preparation and implementation of an INRMP is required by the Sikes Act, as amended (16 *United States Code* [U.S.C.] Sections 670a et seq.); Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4715.03, "Natural Resources Conservation Program," and Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 32-7003, "Environmental Conservation." In accordance with the Sikes Act, DoDI 4715.03, and AFMAN 32-7003, the INRMP is required to be reviewed on a regular basis, but not less than every 5 years. Updates and revisions should be made as necessary so that the INRMP remains current as to operation and effect.

## ES.3 Proposed Action and Alternatives

Two alternatives were selected for detailed and equal analysis: the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

### ES.3.1 Proposed Action

March ARB proposes to fully implement the 2021 INRMP as written and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and March ARB Command, which is incorporated by reference. To support the efficient management of natural resources at March ARB, the revised 2021 INRMP would include updates to the following: conditions and operations at March ARB: Base acreage and property holdings, information on referenced plans, figures displaying installation property boundaries and locations of natural resources, special-status species, and plant and wildlife inventories for the Base. The Proposed Action would allow March ARB to continue several management programs currently in place, implement modified management strategies determined necessary to manage natural resources effectively, and carry out the set of resource-specific projects/actions developed in the INRMP to meet the identified natural resource management goals and objectives. The Proposed Action would enable U.S. Air Force (USAF) personnel to effectively manage the use and condition of natural resources on March ARB. Implementation of the Proposed Action would support the USAF's continuing responsibility to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission while practicing sound resource stewardship and complying with environmental policies and regulations. The Proposed Action supports an ecosystem approach and includes natural resources goals, objectives, and projects/actions to be undertaken at March ARB.

The Proposed Action focuses on a 5-year implementation period. This period will become effective upon the date of the last signatory and shall continue in full force for a period of 5 years. Additional environmental analysis might be required as new management strategies are developed during annual reviews of the INRMP and over the long term (that is, beyond 5 years). The INRMP will be reviewed and

updated annually and will be revised and updated, as necessary, at the end of the 5-year implementation period.

The projects/actions proposed for implementation in the 2021 INRMP are provided in Appendix A, and the 2021 INRMP is in Appendix D.

### ES.3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, natural resources would continue to be managed under the 2012 INRMP (March ARB, 2012), and new information on special-status species and their management would not be incorporated into March ARB's 5-year planning and management process. There would also be no updates to conditions and operations at March ARB, referenced plans, figures displaying installation property boundaries and locations of natural resources, and flora and fauna inventories for the Base. Monitoring and management activities would fail to fully meet the described purpose and need for the Proposed Action and would not be in compliance with federal laws and regulations. Under the No Action Alternative, March ARB would also remain in non-compliance status of the Sikes Act, DoDI 4715.03, and AFMAN 32-7003. The No Action Alternative serves as a benchmark against which federal actions can be evaluated. Inclusion of a No Action Alternative is prescribed by Council on Environmental Quality regulations; therefore, the No Action Alternative has been analyzed in the EA.

## ES.4 Summary of Environmental Consequences

The impacts on environmental and socioeconomic resources resulting from implementation of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative are summarized in Table ES-1.

Geology, floodplains, noise, air quality, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, environmental justice and protection of children, traffic and transportation, recreation, hazardous materials, utilities, aesthetics and visual resources, and airspace are not discussed in Table ES-1 because there is no potential for impacts on these resources.

**Table ES-1. Summary of Potential Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences**  
*Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Resource	Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences	
	No Action	Proposed Action
<b>Land Use</b>	No long-term beneficial impacts to military land use from opening the approximately 320-acre SKR Open Space, as defined in the USFWS 1991 Biological Opinion (USFWS, 1991), for other uses. No beneficial impacts from the more efficient management of natural resources from not updating Base acreage and property holdings in the INRMP.	Potential long-term beneficial impacts to military land use if approximately 320-acre Open Space, as defined in the USFWS 1991 Biological Opinion (USFWS, 1991), set aside for SKR on March ARB is removed and the land is opened for other uses.
<b>Soils</b>	No long-term beneficial impacts from the more efficient management of soils from not updating outdated plans and management strategies on erosion and sedimentation control in INRMP.	Long-term beneficial impacts from the more efficient management of soil resources from updating referenced plans and management strategies on erosion and sedimentation in the INRMP; revegetation of bare areas; performance of airfield vegetation maintenance; and development of a vegetation plan for March ARB. Potential short-term minor adverse impacts to soils from pesticide use. BMPs would be implemented to minimize harmful effects of pesticides.

**Table ES-1. Summary of Potential Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences**  
*Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Resource	Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences	
	No Action	Proposed Action
<b>Water Resources</b>	No long-term beneficial impacts from the more efficient management of water resources from not updating outdated plans, management strategies, and figures in INRMP.	<p>Long-term beneficial impacts from the more efficient management of water resources from updating referenced plans, management strategies, and figures in the INRMP; continued compliance with wetlands regulations; monitoring and inspections; and removal of trash in drainages.</p> <p>Long-term beneficial impacts to surface water quality from a reduction of erosion and sedimentation potential from the revegetation of bare areas and development of a vegetation plan.</p> <p>Long-term beneficial impacts to vernal pools from implementation of protection measures for vernal pools and development of a vernal pool management plan.</p> <p>Potential short-term, minor, adverse impacts to surface waters, water quality, and groundwater from pesticide use. BMPs would be implemented to avoid or reduce harmful effects of pesticides.</p>
<b>Biological Resources</b>	No long-term beneficial impacts from the more efficient management of biological resources from not updating outdated plans, management strategies, figures, and plant and wildlife inventories in INRMP.	
<i>Vegetation</i>		<p>Long-term beneficial impacts from increasing the use of native plants; development of an EDRR Program; development of vegetation and landscape management plans; and the more efficient management of vegetation resources from updating referenced plans, management strategies, figures, and the plant inventory in the INRMP.</p> <p>Short-term negligible impacts to native vegetation from herbicide use.</p>
<i>Wildlife</i>		<p>Long-term beneficial impacts to wildlife from surveying/monitoring wildlife; habitat enhancements; control of non-native wildlife; and the more efficient management of wildlife resources from updating referenced plans, management strategies, figures, and the wildlife inventory in the INRMP.</p> <p>Long-term beneficial impacts to wildlife habitat value from the development of a vegetation plan that would increase native vegetation and reduce non-native vegetation on March ARB.</p> <p>Long-term, negligible adverse impacts to wildlife from reduction in population/prey numbers from depredation of nuisance species.</p> <p>Long-term, minor, adverse impacts to predators and scavengers from secondary poisoning through ingestion of ground squirrels that consumed rodenticide.</p> <p>Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to pollinators and birds from insecticide use. BMPs would be implemented to avoid or reduce harmful effects of pesticides.</p>



**Table ES-1. Summary of Potential Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences**  
*Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Resource	Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences	
	No Action	Proposed Action
<i>Special-status Species</i>		<p>Long-term beneficial effects on special-status species from surveying/monitoring; implementation of projects/actions to sustain and protect special-status species and their habitats; and the more efficient management of special-status resources from updating referenced plans, management strategies, figures, and the special-status species inventory in the INRMP.</p> <p>Long-term beneficial impacts to special-status wildlife habitat value from the development of a vegetation plan that would increase native vegetation and reduce non-native vegetation on March ARB.</p> <p>Long-term, minor, adverse impacts to burrowing owl from ground squirrel control activities that could result in secondary poisoning of owls.</p> <p>Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to special-status pollinators and birds from pesticide use. BMPs would be implemented to avoid or reduce harmful effects of pesticides.</p>
<b>Safety and Occupational Health</b>	No impacts.	No impacts.

BASH = bird/wildlife aircraft strike hazard  
 BMP = best management practice  
 EDRR = Early Detection Rapid Response  
 SKR = Stephens' kangaroo rat  
 USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## ES.5 Summary of Proposed Action Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts

None of the impacts from the Proposed Action were determined to be significant. March ARB would implement these measures to ensure that adverse environmental impacts from the Proposed Action would be avoided or minimized. A summary of project design measures is presented in Table ES-2.

**Table ES-2. Proposed Action Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts**  
*Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Resource Area	Proposed Action Measures to Avoid/Minimize Impacts
Soils	Pesticides would be screened by the March ARB NRM/IPMC prior to use. The use of environmentally sensitive chemicals and chemicals with shorter environmental persistence would be encouraged. Pesticides would be applied in accordance with label directions and the March ARB IPMP. Licensed applicators would prevent and immediately clean up any spills of chemicals.
Water Resources	Pesticides would be screened by the March ARB NRM/IPMC prior to use. The use of environmentally sensitive chemicals and chemicals with shorter environmental persistence would be encouraged. Pesticides would be applied in accordance with label directions and the March ARB IPMP, Spill Plan, and SWPPP. Licensed applicators would prevent and immediately clean up any spills of chemicals.
Vegetation	Pesticides would be screened by the March ARB NRM/IPMC prior to use. The use of environmentally sensitive chemicals and chemicals with shorter environmental persistence would be encouraged. Pesticides would be applied in accordance with label directions and the March ARB IPMP. Licensed applicators would prevent and immediately clean up any spills of chemicals to avoid affecting nearby non-target vegetation.
Wildlife/Special-Status Species	The March ARB NRM/IPMC would screen pesticides and only select those that optimize efficacy and safety for non-target organisms. Pesticides would be applied in accordance with label directions and the March ARB IPMP. If found, special-status plants would be flagged for avoidance prior to pesticide application. Licensed applicators would prevent and immediately clean up any spills of chemicals. All pesticide use would be restricted within 50 feet or more of vernal pools (depending on label directions) to avoid impacts to fairy shrimp.

**Table ES-2. Proposed Action Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts**

*Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Resource Area	Proposed Action Measures to Avoid/Minimize Impacts
Safety	Licensed pesticide applicators would be properly trained for the safe application of pesticides to help ensure resource protection and the safety of occupational and personnel receptors. All applicators would wear appropriate PPE per pesticide label requirements. Treated areas would be identified to allow other personnel to avoid those areas until safe to reenter.

Sources: March ARB, 2015, 2019b

IPMP = Integrated Pest Management Plan

NRM/IPMC = Natural Resources Manager/Installation Pest Management Coordinator

PPE = personal protective equipment

SWPPP = stormwater pollution prevention plan

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# Contents

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>ES-1</b>
<b>Acronyms and Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1 Background .....	1-1
1.2 Purpose and Need .....	1-1
1.3 Relevant Plans, Laws, and Regulations .....	1-2
1.4 Summary of Key Environmental Compliance Requirements.....	1-2
1.4.1 National Environmental Policy Act.....	1-2
1.4.2 Integration of Other Environmental Statutes and Regulations .....	1-2
1.4.3 Interagency Coordination and Public Involvement .....	1-4
<b>2. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives.....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1 Proposed Action.....	2-1
2.2 No Action Alternative.....	2-1
<b>3. Affected Environment and Consequences .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1 Resources Eliminated from Detailed Analysis .....	3-1
3.1.1 Geology.....	3-1
3.1.2 Floodplains.....	3-1
3.1.3 Air Quality.....	3-1
3.1.4 Noise .....	3-2
3.1.5 Cultural Resources .....	3-2
3.1.6 Socioeconomic Resources .....	3-2
3.1.7 Environmental Justice and Protection of Children .....	3-2
3.1.8 Traffic and Transportation.....	3-2
3.1.9 Recreation.....	3-2
3.1.10 Hazardous Materials .....	3-3
3.1.11 Utilities.....	3-3
3.1.12 Aesthetics and Visual Resources .....	3-3
3.1.13 Airspace .....	3-3
3.2 Resources Considered in Detail .....	3-3
3.2.1 Land Use.....	3-3
3.2.2 Soils .....	3-4
3.2.3 Water Resources .....	3-5
3.2.4 Biological Resources .....	3-7
3.2.5 Safety and Occupational Health .....	3-15
<b>4. Cumulative Impacts .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions.....	4-1
4.2 Land Use.....	4-3
4.2.1 Proposed Action.....	4-3
4.2.2 No Action Alternative .....	4-3
4.3 Soils .....	4-3
4.3.1 Proposed Action.....	4-3
4.3.2 No Action Alternative .....	4-3
4.4 Water Resources .....	4-4
4.4.1 Proposed Action.....	4-4
4.4.2 No Action Alternative .....	4-4
4.5 Biological Resources .....	4-4

## Environmental Assessment

4.5.1	Proposed Action.....	4-4
4.5.2	No Action Alternative .....	4-4
4.6	Safety and Occupational Health .....	4-4
4.6.1	Proposed Action.....	4-4
4.6.2	No Action Alternative .....	4-4
<b>5.</b>	<b>Findings and Conclusions .....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.1	Findings.....	5-1
5.1.1	Consequences of the Proposed Action .....	5-1
5.1.2	Consequences of the No Action Alternative .....	5-1
5.2	Conclusions.....	5-4
<b>6.</b>	<b>References.....</b>	<b>6-1</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>List of Preparers.....</b>	<b>7-1</b>

## Appendixes

A	2021 INRMP Projects/Actions
B	Coordination Letters and Responses
C	Notice of Availability
D	2021 INRMP

## Tables

ES-1	Summary of Potential Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences.....	ES-2
ES-2	Proposed Action Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts.....	ES-4
3-1	Special-status Plants with Potential to Occur on March ARB.....	3-8
4-1	Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions .....	4-1
5-1	Summary of Potential Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences.....	5-1
5-2	Proposed Action Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts.....	5-3
7-1	List of Preparers and Contributors .....	7-1

## Figures

1-1	Regional Vicinity Map
1-2	Location Map

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

452 AMW	452nd Air Mobility Wing
AFI	Air Force Instruction
AFMAN	Air Force Manual
AFRC	Air Force Reserve Command
ARB	Air Reserve Base
BASH	bird/wildlife aircraft strike hazard
BCC	Bird of Conservation Concern
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
BO	biological opinion
CAA	Clean Air Act
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	<i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CWA	Clean Water Act
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDI	Department of Defense Instruction
EA	environmental assessment
EDRR	Early Detection Rapid Response
EIAP	environmental impact analysis process
EIS	environmental impact statement
EO	executive order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FE	federal endangered
FONPA	finding of no practicable alternative
FONSI	finding of no significant impact
FP	fully protected
FT	federal threatened
ft	foot/feet
I-215	Interstate 215
INRMP	integrated natural resources management plan

## Environmental Assessment

IPMC	installation pest management coordinator
IPMP	integrated pest management plan
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
N/A	not applicable
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRM	natural resources manager
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
OSHA	Occupational Health and Safety Administration
PPE	personal protective equipment
SC	state candidate
SCC	species of special concern
SE	state endangered
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SKR	Stephens' kangaroo rat
ST	state threatened
SWPPP	stormwater pollution prevention plan
U.S.C.	<i>United States Code</i>
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAF	U.S. Air Force
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WL	watch list

# 1. Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was developed to evaluate the impacts of implementing the 2021 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March Air Reserve Base (ARB) in Riverside County, California. The INRMP is the principal tool for managing military installation natural resources and is regularly updated to reflect current conditions and mission requirements. The INRMP summarizes the natural resources present on March ARB, presents descriptions of the physical and biotic environments, and provides an assessment of the impacts to natural resources as a result of mission activities. Furthermore, the INRMP provides specific goals, objectives, and projects/actions to be implemented upon agreement of the signatories of the INRMP and defines the responsible organizations for implementation of these projects. These goals, objectives, and projects/actions are based upon federal, state, and local standards and designed to mitigate negative impacts and enhance the positive effects of the Base's mission on local ecosystems (March ARB, 2021a). The goals, objectives, and projects/actions described in the INRMP constitute the Proposed Action addressed in this EA.

This EA was prepared to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives in accordance with the provisions of *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Title 32, Part 989, and 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508, which are the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations.

## 1.1 Background

March ARB comprises approximately 2,162 acres of U.S. Government-owned land in western Riverside County, California, as shown on Figures 1-1 and 1-2 (Wagner, pers. comm., 2019). The Commander, 452nd Air Mobility Wing (452 AMW), Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) is the installation Commander and is responsible for the Air Force Real Property of March ARB. In addition to the 452 AMW, March ARB also has tenant units assigned from the Air Force National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Operations Support Center, Marine Corps, Department of Homeland Security, Defense Media Center, Defense Commissary Agency, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, and the Veterans Administration. The primary mission of the 452 AMW is to provide airlift support for the U.S. Air Force (USAF) and train in tactical airlift and airdrop of personnel and supplies in combat, air refueling, and aeromedical evacuation (March ARB, 2021a).

The Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 requires the Secretaries of the Military Departments to prepare INRMPs in cooperation with the other two parties, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the state wildlife agency, and requires the plans to reflect "mutual agreement of the parties concerning the conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife resources."

## 1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to implement the revised INRMP to guide operation and maintenance of an effective natural resources management program. The INRMP would guide the management of natural resources and facilitate compliance with applicable federal and state laws, such as those associated with environmental documentation, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and wildlife management.

Preparation and implementation of an INRMP is required by the Sikes Act, as amended (16 *United States Code* [U.S.C.] Sections 670a et seq.); Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction (DoDI) 4715.03, "Natural Resources Conservation Program;" and Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 32-7003, "Environmental Conservation." In accordance with DoDI 4715.03 and AFMAN 32-7003, the INRMP is required to be reviewed on a regular basis, but not less than every 5 years. Updates and revisions should be made as necessary so that the INRMP remains current as to operation and effect.



### 1.3 Relevant Plans, Laws, and Regulations

A decision on whether to proceed with the Proposed Action depends on numerous factors, including mission requirements, regulatory requirements, and environmental considerations. In addressing environmental considerations, March ARB is guided by relevant statutes, along with the corresponding regulations for implementation, and Executive Orders (EOs) that establish standards and provide guidance on environmental and natural resources management and planning.

### 1.4 Summary of Key Environmental Compliance Requirements

#### 1.4.1 National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA (42 U.S.C. Sections 4321 through 4347) is a federal statute requiring the identification and analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with proposed federal actions before those actions are taken. The intent of NEPA is to help decision makers make well-informed decisions based on understanding the potential environmental consequences and take actions to protect, restore, and enhance the environment. NEPA established the CEQ, which was charged with developing and implementing regulations and ensuring federal agency compliance with NEPA. The CEQ regulations mandate that all federal agencies use a prescribed structured approach to environmental impact analyses. This approach requires federal agencies to use an interdisciplinary and systematic approach in their decision-making processes. The approach evaluates potential environmental consequences associated with a proposed action and considers alternative courses of action.

The process for implementing NEPA is codified in 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508, “Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.” The CEQ was established to implement and oversee federal policy in this process. The CEQ regulations specify that an EA must be prepared to provide evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) or an environmental impact statement (EIS). The EA can aid in an agency’s compliance with NEPA when an EIS is unnecessary and facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is required.

Air Force Policy Directive 32-70, “Environmental Quality,” states that the USAF will comply with applicable federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations, including NEPA. USAF’s implementing regulation for NEPA is its Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP), 32 CFR Part 989, as amended.

#### 1.4.2 Integration of Other Environmental Statutes and Regulations

To comply with NEPA, the planning and decision-making process for actions proposed by federal agencies involves a study of other relevant environmental statutes and regulations. The NEPA process, however, does not replace procedural or substantive requirements of other environmental statutes and regulations. It addresses them collectively in the form of an EA or EIS, which enables the decision maker to have a comprehensive view of major environmental issues and requirements associated with a proposed action. According to CEQ regulations, the requirements of NEPA can be integrated “with other planning and environmental review procedures required by law or by agency practice so that all such procedures run concurrently rather than consecutively” (40 CFR Section 1500.2(c)).

Applicable federal statutes include the following:

- Clean Water Act of 1977 (CWA) (33 U.S.C. Section 1344)
- Clean Air Act (CAA) (42 U.S.C. Section 7401)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 (16 U.S.C. Sections 661 et seq.)
- Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. Section 1531)
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. Sections 302101–302108)
- Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. Sections 300f et seq.)

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. Section 6901)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. Sections 701 et seq.)
- Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. Sections 715-715d, 715e, 715f-715r)

The NEPA analysis also considers compliance with EOs related to the protection of wetlands, environmental justice, and management of floodplains and invasive species.

The CAA establishes federal policy to protect and enhance the quality of air resources to protect human health and the environment. The CAA requires that adequate steps be implemented to control the release of air pollutants and prevent significant deterioration of air quality. The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) has authority for compliance with the CAA.

The CWA and the Water Quality Act of 1987 (33 U.S.C. Section 1251, as amended) establish federal policy to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters and, where attainable, to achieve a level of water quality that provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, wildlife, and recreation in and on the water. CalEPA has authority for compliance with the CWA. CalEPA regulations require that nonpoint source stormwater discharges related to the Proposed Action or alternatives comply with the requirements of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, including a stormwater pollution prevention plan detailing site-specific best management practices (BMPs). Section 404 of the CWA requires specific permitting for dredging and/or filling of wetlands regulated under the Act and other waters of the United States. This portion of the Act is administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversight. Section 401 of the CWA requires certification of water quality for Section 404 discharges. CalEPA administers the Section 401 program. However, a USACE CWA Section 404 permit for dredge and fill activities within waters of the United States is not anticipated for the Proposed Action. In addition to CWA requirements, USAF actions must comply with EO 11990, "Protection of Wetlands," and EO 11988, "Floodplain Management." When one or both of these EOs apply, a finding of no practicable alternative (FONPA) must be completed prior to implementing an activity if it has been determined that there is no practicable alternative to implementing an action that would impact the wetland or floodplain. The FONPA finding is based on the NEPA analysis and documented in the NEPA decision document.

The ESA requires that federal agencies, in consultation with the USFWS, use their authority to assist in carrying out federal programs for the conservation of threatened or endangered species. These agencies also ensure that any project that is funded, authorized, or constructed by the federal government is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of such threatened or endangered species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their habitat. Animals with a state designation of endangered, threatened, candidate, or of special concern are granted legal protection by the State of California (California Fish and Game Code Sections 2050 through 2115.5). USFWS was consulted regarding the potential for the Proposed Action to affect protected species or their habitats. Section 1.4.3 provides details on the coordination.

Actions that could affect cultural resources are regulated under Section 106 of the NHPA and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regulations for compliance with Section 106, codified as 36 CFR Part 800. These regulations require that the effects of federal actions on cultural resources be considered and minimized. The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) regulates the preservation of cultural resources in California and was consulted regarding potential cultural resources that could be affected by the Proposed Action. Additionally, 11 federally recognized tribes and 1 non-federally recognized tribe (Agua Caliente Cupeño Tribe) that have ancestral ties to lands in southern California were consulted, in accordance with California OHP's recommendation, under Section 106. These tribes include Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Agua Caliente Cupeño Tribe, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Cahuilla Band of Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Pala Band of Mission Indians, Pechanga Temecula Band of Luiseño Mission Indians, Ramona Band of Cahuilla, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. Section 1.4.3 provides details on the coordination.

### 1.4.3 Interagency Coordination and Public Involvement

NEPA ensures that environmental information is made available to the public during the decision-making process and prior to actions being taken. The premise of NEPA is that the quality of federal decisions will be enhanced if proponents provide information on their actions to state and local governments and the public and involve these entities in the planning process. The Intergovernmental Coordination Act and EO 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," require federal agencies to cooperate with, and consider state and local views in implementing a federal proposal.

The California OHP, USFWS, CalEPA, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 11 federally recognized tribes, 1 non-federally recognized tribe, and other agencies were contacted during the development of this EA to identify any issues relevant to the Proposed Action. Information that they provide will be incorporated into the EA. Copies of coordination and consultation letters and responses received are presented in Appendix B.

The California OHP was notified in September 2020 and again in March 2021 of the proposed action/undertaking to implement the 2021 INRMP and responded with no comments, as the SHPO does not review INRMPs.

The USFWS and CDFW completed their initial review of the Draft INRMP Revision and provided comments in February 2021. Those comments were considered and revisions were made to the INRMP Revision and this EA, as applicable.

The Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians responded and had no comments. The Cahuilla Band of Indians confirmed receipt of the letter and conducted their review. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians responded that the project is located outside Serrano ancestral territory and they will not be requesting consultation under Section 106.

The Pechanga Temecula Band of Luiseño Mission Indians requested formal consultation and additional information. March ARB contacted the Tribal representative and discussed the undertaking; the Tribe will be notified when the INRMP and the EA are available on the March ARB website for the public and agency comment period.

A notice of the availability of the draft final EA and draft final FONSI will be published to initiate the 30-day public review period for the draft final EA and draft final FONSI. A copy of the notice of availability is presented in Appendix C. A hard copy of the draft final EA and draft final FONSI will be available at the Moreno Valley Public Library, if the library is open to the public at the time of the review period. In consideration of the impacts of the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the usual methods of accessing information and communicating, such as the closure of local public libraries and the increased consumer demand on mobile and broadband Internet networks, the USAF encourages members of the public and all interested stakeholders to contact them directly by email or telephone to discuss and resolve issues involving access to the draft final EA and draft final FONSI or the ability to comment.

Public and agency comments received during the 30-day review period will be considered in developing the final EA.

## 2. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

The development of management strategies for the INRMP includes a screening analysis of resource-specific alternatives. The screening analysis involves the use of accepted criteria, standards, and guidelines, when available, and the best professional judgment to identify management practices for achieving USAF natural resources management objectives. The outcome of the screening analysis will lead to the development of the Proposed Action, which is described in this section. Consistent with the intent of NEPA, this screening process focuses on identifying a range of reasonable resource-specific management alternatives and then developing a plan that could be implemented, as a whole, in the foreseeable future. Management alternatives deemed to be infeasible will not be analyzed further. As a result of the screening process, the EA will formally address two alternatives: the Proposed Action (that is, implementation of the INRMP) and the No Action Alternative.

### 2.1 Proposed Action

March ARB proposes to fully implement the 2021 INRMP as written and approved by the USFWS, CDFW, and March ARB Command, which is incorporated by reference. To support the efficient management of natural resources at March ARB, the revised 2021 INRMP would include updates to the following: conditions and operations at March ARB, Base acreage and property holdings, information on referenced plans, figures displaying installation property boundaries and locations of natural resources, special-status species, and plant and wildlife inventories for the Base. The Proposed Action would allow March ARB to continue several management programs currently in place, implement modified management strategies determined necessary to manage natural resources effectively, and carry out the set of resource-specific projects/actions developed in the INRMP to meet the identified natural resource management goals and objectives. The Proposed Action would enable USAF personnel to effectively manage the use and condition of natural resources on March ARB. Implementation of the Proposed Action would support the USAF's continuing responsibility to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission while practicing sound resource stewardship and complying with environmental policies and regulations. The Proposed Action supports an ecosystem approach and includes natural resources goals, objectives, and projects/actions to be undertaken at March ARB. (Note: The 2021 INRMP is in draft form and will be available for public and agency review along with the draft final EA.)

The Proposed Action focuses on a 5-year implementation period. This period will become effective upon the date of the last signatory and shall continue in full force for a period of 5 years. Additional environmental analysis might be required as new management strategies are developed during annual reviews of the INRMP and over the long term (that is, beyond 5 years). The INRMP will be reviewed and updated annually and will be revised and updated, as necessary, at the end of the 5-year implementation period.

The projects/actions proposed for implementation in the 2021 INRMP are presented in Appendix A. The 2021 INRMP is located in Appendix D.

### 2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, natural resources would continue to be managed under the 2012 INRMP (March ARB, 2012) and new information on special-status species and their management would not be incorporated into March ARB's 5-year planning and management process. There would also be no updates to conditions and operations at March ARB, referenced plans, figures displaying installation property boundaries and locations of natural resources, and flora and fauna inventories for the Base. Monitoring and management activities would fail to fully meet the described purpose and need for the Proposed Action and would not be in compliance with federal laws and regulations. Under the No Action Alternative, March ARB would also remain in non-compliance status of the Sikes Act, DoDI 4715.03, and AFMAN 32-7003. The No Action Alternative serves as a benchmark against which federal actions can be evaluated. Inclusion of a No Action Alternative is prescribed by CEQ regulations; therefore, the No Action Alternative has been analyzed in the EA.

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### 3. Affected Environment and Consequences

This section describes the existing environmental and socioeconomic conditions at March ARB that could be affected by implementation of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative. These include land use, soils, water resources, noise, biological resources, safety and occupational health, and hazardous materials.

This analysis considers both the duration and the magnitude of impacts. Duration is described either as short-term (effects that would occur only with respect to a particular activity for a finite period, a year or less, or only during the time required for construction or installation activities), or long-term (effects that are more likely to be persistent and chronic). The magnitude of an impact refers to its severity and takes into account beneficial and adverse impacts. The magnitude factors in the level of community concern associated with potential impacts on human health; whether the action establishes a precedent for further actions with significant effects; the level of uncertainty about projected impacts; and the extent to which the impact may violate federal, state, or local environmental protection laws or constrain future activities. The thresholds of change for the magnitude of impacts are defined as follows:

- **No Impact:** The action does not cause a change.
- **Negligible:** The impact is at the lowest level of detection and is discountable or hardly noticeable.
- **Minor:** The impact is slight but detectable.
- **Moderate:** The impact is readily apparent.
- **Major:** The impact is severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial.

Impacts ranging from negligible to moderate would be less than significant, while major impacts would be significant. Potential beneficial impacts are discussed separately from potential adverse impacts. Measures that would be implemented to avoid or minimize potential impacts to the environment, including those that would otherwise be significant, are presented.

#### 3.1 Resources Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

The following resource areas have been eliminated from analysis in the EA because there is no potential for significant impacts from the Proposed Action. These resource areas will not be discussed further in the EA.

##### 3.1.1 Geology

Geology is described in Section 2.2.3 of the 2021 INRMP (Appendix D). The Proposed Action would have no impact on geologic resources; therefore, this resource does not warrant further consideration and is excluded from further discussion.

##### 3.1.2 Floodplains

Floodplains are described in Section 2.2.4.6 of the 2021 INRMP (Appendix D). The Proposed Action would have no adverse impact on floodplains at March ARB. Therefore, this resource does not warrant further consideration and is excluded from further discussion. Beneficial impacts to floodplains could result from the protection and maintenance of wetlands and drainages on March ARB.

##### 3.1.3 Air Quality

The Proposed Action does not include any new or additional sources of criteria pollutant emissions; therefore, there would be no changes in criteria pollutant emissions; exceedance of National Ambient Air Quality Standards or other federal, state, and local limits; or impacts to existing air permits. Qualitative analysis indicates that emissions would be below the *de minimis* thresholds under EPA's General Conformity Rules. Therefore, this resource does not warrant further consideration and is excluded from further discussion.

#### **3.1.4 Noise**

The Proposed Action would not result in increases in sound levels or exceedances of acceptable land use compatibility guidelines. To reduce the risk of bird/wildlife aircraft strike hazard (BASH) at March ARB, the Proposed Action includes the continuation of the existing avian pyrotechnic or frightening device program to deter wildlife from occupying the airfield. Audible bird scaring devices are used intermittently on an as needed basis and the use of these devices is a long-standing practice at March ARB. The Proposed Action would not exceed existing daily noise levels, and there would be no change in the noise environment at March ARB from the Proposed Action. Therefore, this resource does not warrant further consideration and is excluded from further discussion.

#### **3.1.5 Cultural Resources**

There are no known traditional cultural properties, sacred sites, or sites of religious or cultural importance at March ARB, and no National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed, -eligible, or potentially eligible archaeological resources have been identified within the current boundaries of the installation. There is one NRHP-listed architectural resource at March ARB, the March Field Historic District (March ARB, 2021b), and one individual NRHP-eligible architectural resource, Building 413. The Proposed Action is not expected to affect significant cultural resources at March ARB; therefore, the March Field Historic District and Building 413 do not warrant further consideration and are excluded from further discussion. If changes to the landscaped areas within the Historic District are proposed as part of the new Landscape Management Plan (Project 2.7.1) or vegetation plan (Project 2.5.2), March ARB would conduct the necessary NHPA Section 106 review of the proposed changes prior to implementation. If any unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources or “cultural items” subject to the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act are identified or encountered during natural resource management activities, work would be temporarily halted at the discovery site, the March ARB Installation Cultural Resource Manager would be contacted, and all appropriate measures would be implemented to avoid disturbance, as detailed in the Base’s Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (March ARB, 2021b).

#### **3.1.6 Socioeconomic Resources**

The Proposed Action would not affect the existing conditions of economic development, public services, or housing at March ARB. Therefore, this resource does not warrant further consideration and is excluded from further discussion.

#### **3.1.7 Environmental Justice and Protection of Children**

March ARB does not have a disproportionately high population of economically disadvantaged persons or concentrations of minority groups. Natural resource management activities are not expected to pose significant health and safety risks and would not be conducted in the vicinity of housing or schools. No disproportionate effects on environmental justice, low-income populations, or the environmental health and safety of children would result from the Proposed Action and these resources are excluded from further discussion.

#### **3.1.8 Traffic and Transportation**

Within March ARB there are approximately 19.25 miles of roadway allowing vehicles access throughout the Base, and roadway congestion is generally not a major issue (March ARB, 2019a). The Proposed Action would have no impact on traffic or transportation at March ARB; therefore, this resource does not warrant further consideration and is excluded from further discussion.

#### **3.1.9 Recreation**

Outdoor recreation facilities are limited to a baseball field, tennis courts, and sand volleyball court. Public access is restricted to the picnic area near the Base Exchange and to tour groups that visit the airfield

facilities (March ARB, 2021a). The Proposed Action would have no impact on recreation at March ARB; therefore, this resource does not warrant further consideration and is excluded from further discussion.

### **3.1.10 Hazardous Materials**

Common activities conducted at March ARB that generate hazardous waste include aircraft maintenance, vehicle maintenance, and architectural and coating operations. The Base has one 90-day Hazardous Waste Accumulation Facility at Building 2333 for storing and staging hazardous waste for offsite shipment and several aboveground storage units (portable/stationary/tanks/containers) for the storage of hazardous waste for 90 days or less. March ARB wastes are disposed of through the Defense Logistics Agency Services at Camp Pendleton, California (March ARB, 2021a). Implementation of the INRMP would not generate hazardous wastes. The use of hazardous materials would be limited to pesticides. Pesticides would be applied in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and labeling and no adverse effects would be expected. Pesticides are not stored on March ARB. Therefore, this resource does not warrant further consideration and is excluded from further discussion.

### **3.1.11 Utilities**

The Proposed Action would have no impact on utilities at March ARB, including potable water, the wastewater system, stormwater, energy sources, and solid waste. Therefore, this resource does not warrant further consideration and is excluded from further discussion.

### **3.1.12 Aesthetics and Visual Resources**

Most of March ARB is developed with limited aesthetic or visual resources. The Proposed Action would not result in any obvious modifications to the existing aesthetic and visual landscape at March ARB; therefore, this resource does not warrant further consideration and is excluded from further discussion.

### **3.1.13 Airspace**

Implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in additional aircraft, aircraft operations, or requirements for changes in airspace use. As a result, there would be no effects to airspace and this resource is excluded from further discussion.

## **3.2 Resources Considered in Detail**

### **3.2.1 Land Use**

#### **3.2.1.1 Affected Environment**

Land use at March ARB is described in Section 2.4.2 of the 2021 INRMP (Appendix D).

#### **3.2.1.2 Environmental Consequences**

Potential impacts to land use were evaluated for the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. A significant impact to land use would occur if there were one or more of the following:

- Substantial change to, or conflict with, existing land use or land cover at March ARB.
- Change in land use that limits the ability of tenants of March ARB to carry out their assigned mission and associated training.

### **Proposed Action**

Projects/actions in the INRMP with the potential to impact land use at March ARB include the following:

- Removal of the Open Space set aside for Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) on the main Base (Project 3.3.1).



The only remaining land on March ARB with SKR protections is the Open Space that is defined in the USFWS 1991 Biological Opinion (BO) (USFWS 1991) as “the area west of the extended airfield runway centerline, extending to the Base boundary.” The results of past and recent SKR surveys strongly suggest that SKR do not currently inhabit the main March ARB property east of Interstate 215 (I-215) or the lands surrounding March ARB east of I-215. The potential for any future unassisted colonization of the main March ARB property by SKR residing in adjacent lands is very unlikely due to isolation resulting from development in the surrounding areas (ECORP, 2020). Because SKR are presumed absent from the main March ARB property and surrounding areas, there is no longer a need to manage the designated Open Space for preservation, protection, and enhancement of the SKR and its habitat on the main Base. Removal of the Open Space designation, as it is defined in the 1991 BO (USFWS, 1991), on approximately 320 acres of land would be evaluated under Project 3.3.1 in the 2021 INRMP. Opening this land for other uses would allow the military improved flexibility in land use decisions moving forward and, therefore, result in long-term beneficial impacts to military land use at March ARB.

Under the Proposed Action, March ARB would benefit from the more efficient management of natural resources from updating land use information, such as Base acreage and property holdings, in the INRMP.

### **No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, natural resources would continue to be managed under the 2012 INRMP (March ARB, 2012). The INRMP would not be revised to reflect changes in Base acreage and property holdings, and March ARB would fail to benefit from the more efficient management of natural resources by not updating this information. There would also be no benefits to military land use associated with opening the 320-acre Open Space, as it is defined in the 1991 BO (USFWS, 1991), for other uses.

### **3.2.2 Soils**

#### **3.2.2.1 Affected Environment**

Soils at March ARB are described in Section 2.2.3 of the 2021 INRMP (Appendix D).

#### **3.2.2.2 Environmental Consequences**

Potential impacts to soils were evaluated for the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. A significant impact to soils would occur if there were one or more of the following:

- Substantial degradation of soil structure, productivity, or quality.
- Erosion and sedimentation that results in a violation of applicable federal or state water quality laws.

### **Proposed Action**

Projects/actions in the INRMP with the potential to impact soils at March ARB include the following:

- Ensuring airfield vegetative cover is maintained (Action 6.1.1).
- Eliminating bare areas on the airfield (Action 6.1.10).
- Developing a long-term vegetation plan that increases native vegetation and reduces non-native vegetation (Project 2.5.2).
- Controlling mass infestations of insects with insecticides, if necessary (Project 6.1.4)
- Clearing vegetation from runways and taxiways through manual removal and, if needed, post-emergent herbicide (Action 6.1.6).

Under the Proposed Action, March ARB would benefit from the more efficient management of soil resources by updating referenced plans and management strategies on erosion and sedimentation in the INRMP. There would also be long-term beneficial impacts to soils from revegetation of bare areas and

performance of airfield vegetation maintenance. Maintaining a uniform cover of vegetation on the airfield would increase soil stabilization and reduce the potential for wind and/or water erosion. Once the vegetation plan for March ARB is developed, it is expected to help reduce erosion through better vegetation management.

Pesticide (i.e., post-emergent herbicide and insecticide) applications can result in contact with soils through direct application, spills, overspray, spray drift, or being washed off treated plants during precipitation. Pesticide treatments have the potential to degrade soils and damage the community of organisms living in them. Some pesticides are more toxic to soil organisms than others, and some pesticides break down quickly in soils while others persist for longer periods (NPIC, 2016). Pesticides would be screened prior to use by the Natural Resources Manager (NRM)/Installation Pest Management Coordinator (IPMC). The use of environmentally sensitive chemicals and chemicals with shorter environmental persistence would be encouraged. Only chemicals approved for use by the DoD, March ARB NRM/IPMC, and in the State of California would be used. To minimize adverse effects to soils, all pesticides would be applied in accordance with label directions and the March ARB Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP), which includes BMPs for pesticide application. Applicators would be trained to prevent and immediately clean up any spills of chemicals. With implementation of chemical screening and BMPs for pesticide application, short-term, minor, adverse impacts to soils from pesticide treatments would be expected.

Under the Proposed Action, no significant degradation of soil structure, productivity, or quality or erosion and sedimentation would occur. Therefore, no significant impacts to soils would be expected.

### **No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, soil resources would continue to be managed per the 2012 INRMP (March ARB, 2012). The 2012 INRMP references outdated plans and management strategies on erosion and sedimentation control and March ARB would fail to benefit from the more efficient management of soil resources by not updating this information. No significant impacts to soils would be expected under the No Action Alternative.

### **3.2.3 Water Resources**

#### **3.2.3.1 Affected Environment**

Water resources at March ARB are described in the following sections of the 2021 INRMP (Appendix D):

- Groundwater is described in Section 2.2.4.1.
- Surface water is described in Section 2.2.4.3.
- Wetlands are described in Section 2.2.4.4 and Section 2.3.5.1.
- Stormwater is described in Section 2.2.4.5.
- Water quality is described in Section 2.4.3.3.

#### **Vernal Pools**

Vernal pools are seasonal wetland depressions that fill with water during the spring rainy season and dry out after the rains stop in the spring or early summer. Vernal pools are a rare/sensitive type of habitat that supports many endemic and rare native plant and wildlife species. A total of 76 vernal pools were identified on March ARB during 2019 wet season fairy shrimp surveys (CH2M, 2020).

#### **3.2.3.2 Environmental Consequences**

Potential impacts to water resources were evaluated for the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. A significant impact on water resources would occur if there is one or more of the following:

- Significant change in water quantity or quality in seasonal wetlands/vernal pools.

- Significant change in the quantity or quality of groundwater.
- Unmitigated net loss of regulated wetlands within installation boundaries.
- Violation of applicable federal or state water quality laws or discharge permits.

### Proposed Action

Projects/actions in the INRMP with the potential to impact water resources at March ARB include the following:

- Complying with applicable wetlands regulations (Action 4.1.2).
- Protecting jurisdictional waters (Project 4.1.1 and Actions 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, and 4.1.6).
- Developing a vernal pool management plan and protecting vernal pools from development/disturbance and pesticide use (Projects 3.6.4 and 4.3.5 and Actions 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, and 4.3.4).
- Monitoring/inspecting construction and Environmental Restoration Project sites (Actions 4.7.1, 4.7.2, and 4.7.3).
- Assessing sites of spills, releases, or accidents for impacts to natural resources (Action 4.9.1).
- Cleaning drainages of trash (Action 4.4.1).
- Eliminating bare areas on the airfield through reseeding (Action 6.1.10).
- Ensuring airfield vegetative cover is maintained (Action 6.1.1).
- Developing a long-term vegetation plan that increases native vegetation and reduces non-native vegetation (Project 2.5.2).
- Controlling mass infestations of insects with insecticides, if necessary (Project 6.1.4)
- Clearing vegetation from runways and taxiways through manual removal and, if needed, post-emergent herbicide (Action 6.1.6).
- Screening pesticides and selecting environmentally sensitive alternatives (Action 4.7.1).

Under the Proposed Action, March ARB would benefit from the more efficient management of water resources from updated referenced plans, avoidance buffers around wetlands and drainages, figures and vernal pool mapping in the INRMP. There would be long-term beneficial impacts to water resources at March ARB from continued compliance with USACE wetlands regulations, Regional Water Quality Control regulations, the Porter-Cologne Act, Section 401 of the CWA, and all other applicable wetlands regulations; implementation of protection measures for vernal pools and jurisdictional waters on Base; development of a vernal pool management plan; monitoring/inspection of construction, Environmental Restoration Program sites, and spill sites; and from keeping the drainages clean of trash. There would also be long-term beneficial impacts to water quality from revegetation of bare areas, performance of airfield vegetation maintenance, and development of a vegetation plan for March ARB. These activities would increase soil stabilization and reduce the potential for adverse impacts to surface water quality from sedimentation.

If it's determined necessary to control unwanted vegetation and/or insects using pesticides, there could be potential short-term, minor adverse impacts to surface waters, water quality, and/or groundwater on March ARB. Pesticides can enter and contaminate surface waters via runoff. Because of the well-drained soils and high groundwater table at March ARB, there is also potential for pesticides to reach and contaminate groundwater. Pesticides would be screened prior to use by the NRM/IPMC. The use of environmentally sensitive chemicals and chemicals with shorter environmental persistence would be encouraged to avoid nutrient-loading of adjacent water bodies. Only chemicals approved for use by the DoD, March ARB NRM/IPMC, and in the State of California would be used. BMPs to avoid or reduce impacts to water resources included in the IPMP, *March ARB Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan* (Spill Plan; March ARB, 2015), *March ARB U.S. Air Force Storm Water*

*Pollution Prevention Plan* (SWPPP; March ARB, 2019b), and 2021 INRMP, such as wetland and drainage buffers, would be implemented, and all pesticides would be applied in accordance with label requirements. Grounds maintenance contractors at March ARB are trained on spill prevention and stormwater pollution prevention to prevent contamination of stormwater runoff from pesticide application areas.

Under the Proposed Action, no substantial changes in water quantity or quality in seasonal wetlands/vernal pools; changes in water quantity or quality in groundwater; unmitigated net loss of regulated wetlands within installation boundaries; or violation of applicable federal or state water quality laws or discharge permits would occur. Therefore, no significant impacts to water resources would be expected.

### **No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, water resources would continue to be managed per the 2012 INRMP (March ARB, 2012). The 2012 INRMP references outdated plans, management strategies, and figures on water resources and March ARB would fail to benefit from the more efficient management of water resources by not updating this information. Water resources at March ARB would also fail to benefit from updated protection measures, such as defined avoidance buffers.

### **3.2.4 Biological Resources**

#### **3.2.4.1 Regulatory Considerations**

##### **Endangered Species Act of 1973**

The ESA (16 U.S.C. Sections 1531 et seq.) was established to protect and allow for recovery of species in danger of extinction and their associated habitat. Under the ESA, species may be listed as endangered or threatened. Endangered species include those in danger of extinction throughout all or a part of its range. The Threatened category includes species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. The ESA also protects habitat considered critical to the existence and recovery of listed species. Section 7 of the ESA specifies that any agency that proposes a federal action that could jeopardize a listed species or result in destruction or adverse modification of its habitat must participate in an interagency cooperation and consultation process with USFWS or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (EPA, 2019).

##### **California Endangered Species Act**

The purpose of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) is to ensure all native species of flora and fauna, including their associated habitats, threatened by extinction, and/or significantly declining populations that could lead to a threatened or endangered designation, are protected. The CESA delegates the responsibility of maintaining a list of state threatened and endangered species to the CDFW. The CESA encourages consultation with CDFW if a proposed action may affect a state-listed species.

##### **Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

The purpose of the MBTA (16 U.S.C. Section 703 et seq.) is to allow for protection of bird species that migrate between the United States and other countries. The MBTA states that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, wound, or kill a migratory bird by any means, including any part, egg, or nest unless otherwise authorized, such as within legal hunting seasons. The list of bird species protected by the MBTA is included in 50 CFR Section 10.13.

##### **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act**

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. Section 668a; 50 CFR Part 22) prohibits the take, possession, sale, purchase, barter, offer to sell, transport, or import of the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus*

*leucocephalus*) or the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), including any part, nest, or egg, unless allowed by permit.

### 3.2.4.2 Affected Environment

#### Flora

Vegetation on March ARB is described in Section 2.3.2 of the 2021 INRMP (Appendix D). The dominant plant community within the main cantonment area of March ARB is open non-native grasslands.

#### Special-status Flora

Special-status flora species of interest include the following:

- Species listed by the USFWS as threatened, endangered, or candidate species or have critical habitat designated under the federal ESA (USFWS, 2020).
- Species listed under the CESA as endangered, threatened, or candidate species or those species currently under review to be listed (CDFW, 2020a).
- Species designated by USFWS as Species of Concern, representing those species formerly designated as candidates for listing as endangered or threatened, but for which information is insufficient to make a determination.
- Designated by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) in its Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS, 2020) as having a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 1B (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere) or 2 (rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere).

Special-status plant species on March ARB are described in Section 2.3.4.2 of the 2021 INRMP (Appendix D). No threatened and endangered or special-status plant species have been documented on March ARB. Table 3-1 includes special-status plants determined to have potential to occur on March ARB.

**Table 3-1. Special-status Plants with Potential to Occur on March ARB**

*Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Potential to Occur
San Diego ambrosia	<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>	FE	CRPR: 1B.1	Low
San Jacinto Valley crowscale	<i>Atriplex coronata</i> var. <i>notatior</i>	FE	CRPR: 1B.1	Low
Parish's brittlescale	<i>Atriplex parishii</i>	-	CRPR: 1B.1	Low
Davidson's saltscale	<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i>davidsonii</i>	-	CRPR: 1B.2	Low
Smooth tarplant	<i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i>	-	CRPR: 1B.1	Low
Parry's spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	-	CRPR: 1B.1	Low
Campbell's liverwort	<i>Geothallus tuberosus</i>	-	CRPR: 1B.1	Low
Coulter's goldfields	<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i>	-	CRPR: 1B.1	Low
Spreading navarretia	<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	FT	CRPR: 1B.1	High
California Orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	FE	SE; CRPR: 1B.1	Low
Chaparral ragwort	<i>Senecio aphanactis</i>	-	CRPR: 2B.2	Low
Bottle liverwort	<i>Sphaerocarpos drewei</i>	-	CRPR: 1B.1	Low
San Bernardino aster	<i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i>	-	CRPR: 1B.2	Low

**Table 3-1. Special-status Plants with Potential to Occur on March ARB***Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Potential to Occur
California screw-moss	<i>Tortula californica</i>	-	CRPR: 1B.2	Moderate
Wright's trichocoronis	<i>Trichocoronis wrightii</i> var. <i>wrightii</i>	-	CRPR: 2B.1	Low

Source: March ARB, 2021

Status Codes:

Federal

FE = Federal Endangered

State of California

SE = State Endangered

California Native Plant Society California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) Classifications

1B = Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

2B = Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere

0.1 = Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)

0.2 = Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

**Wildlife**

Wildlife on March ARB is described in Section 2.3.3 of the INRMP (Appendix D).

**Special-status Wildlife**

The following special-status faunal species were considered:

- Species listed by the USFWS as threatened, endangered, or candidate species or have critical habitat designated under the federal ESA (USFWS, 2020).
- Species listed under the California ESA as endangered, threatened, or candidate species or those species currently under review to be listed (CDFW, 2020b).
- Species designated by USFWS as Species of Concern, representing those species formerly designated as candidates for listing as endangered or threatened, but for which information is insufficient to make a determination.
- Species designated by USFWS as Birds of Conservation Concern, representing migratory and non-migratory bird species (beyond those already designated as federally threatened or endangered) that represent highest conservation priorities (USFWS, 2008a).
- Species designated by CDFW as Species of Special Concern (CDFW, 2020b).

Special-status wildlife species on March ARB are described in Section 2.3.4.1 of the 2021 INRMP (Appendix D). Table 3-2 includes special-status wildlife that occur, or with determined potential to occur, on March ARB.

**Table 3-2. Special-status Wildlife Known to Occur or with Determined Potential to Occur on March ARB***Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Common Name	Scientific name	Federal Status	State Status	Other Status	Potential to Occur
<b>Invertebrates</b>					
Crotch bumble bee	<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	-	SC	-	Moderate
Riverside fairy shrimp	<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	FE	-	-	Low
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	FT	-	-	May be present
Quino checkerspot butterfly	<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	FE	-	-	Low
<b>Amphibians</b>					
Western spadefoot toad	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	-	SSC	-	Moderate
<b>Reptiles</b>					
California glossy snake	<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i>	-	SCC	-	Low
Coastal whiptail	<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	-	SSC	-	Occurs
<b>Birds</b>					
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	-	SE, FP	BCC	Occurs
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	-	SSC	BCC	Occurs
California brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>	Delisted	Delisted	-	Occurs
California horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	-	WL	-	Occurs
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	-	WL	-	Occurs
Ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	-	WL	BCC	Occurs
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	-	FP	BCC	Occurs
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	FE	SE	-	Low
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	-	SSC	BCC	Occurs
Mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	-	SSC	BCC	Occurs
Northern harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	-	SSC	-	Occurs
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	-	SE, FP	BCC	Occurs
Prairie falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	-	WL	BCC	Occurs
Tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	-	ST	BCC	Occurs
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	-	FP	-	Occurs
<b>Mammals</b>					
Dulzura pocket mouse	<i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i>	-	SSC	-	Low
Los Angeles pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>	-	SSC	-	Low
Pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	-	SSC	-	Low
San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>	-	SSC	-	Occurs
Southern grasshopper mouse	<i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i>	-	SSC	-	Low

**Table 3-2. Special-status Wildlife Known to Occur or with Determined Potential to Occur on March ARB***Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Common Name	Scientific name	Federal Status	State Status	Other Status	Potential to Occur
Stephens' kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	FE	ST	-	Occurs
Western mastiff bat	<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	-	SSC	-	Low

Source: March ARB, 2021a

Status Codes:

Federal (Fed)

FE = Federal Endangered

FT = Federal Threatened

State of California

SE = State Endangered

ST = State Threatened

SC = State Candidate

SSC = Species of Special Concern

WL = Watch List

FP = Fully Protected

Other

BCC = USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern

### 3.2.4.3 Environmental Consequences

Potential impacts to biological resources were evaluated for the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

A significant impact on biological resources would occur if there is one or more of the following:

- Any unmitigated loss of individuals or populations of a federally listed or proposed listed threatened or endangered species or its habitat.
- Any unmitigated loss of wildlife habitat that is sensitive or rare, such as vernal pools.
- Substantial loss of populations or habitat of a special-status species that could jeopardize the continued existence of that species in the region.
- Substantial loss of native plant or animal species or community diversity.

### Proposed Action

#### ***Vegetation***

Projects/actions included in the INRMP with potential to impact vegetation at March ARB include the following:

- Promoting the use of native plant species (Projects 2.1.1 and 2.2.1).
- Developing an Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) program for non-native, invasive, and noxious plant species and educate Base personnel on emerging threat invasive species (Projects 2.4.1 and 2.4.2).
- Developing a long-term vegetation plan that increases native vegetation and reduces non-native vegetation (Project 2.5.2).
- Developing a landscape management plan (Project 2.7.1).
- Monitoring rare or declining vernal pool/seasonal wetland plant species and developing procedures for their reintroduction, if needed (Project 4.3.6 and Actions 4.5.1, 4.5.2, and 4.5.3)
- Maintaining existing vegetation, including drainage ditch vegetation, urban trees, airfield vegetation, and perch attractants (Actions 2.9.1, 2.10.1, 2.10.2, 2.10.3, 6.1.1, and 6.4.2).
- Evaluating potential effects of climate change on natural resources on March ARB and, as needed, revising management strategies (Project 7.1.1).



- Updating vegetation community classification and mapping on March ARB (Project 2.5.1 and Action 2.5.3).
- Maintaining and updating the natural resources GIS data layers and March ARB plant inventory (Action 8.1.2).
- Clearing vegetation from runways and taxiways through manual removal and, if needed, post-emergent herbicide (Action 6.1.6).

Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term, beneficial impacts to vegetation on March ARB. Increasing the use of native plants and developing an EDRR program to manage non-native, invasive, and noxious weeds would be beneficial to species composition and species diversity, which are equally important contributors to ecosystem function (BLM, 2007). Development of a vegetation plan and a landscape management plan would allow for the more effective and sustainable management of vegetation on March ARB. Rare or declining vernal pool/seasonal wetland plant species would be monitored at March ARB and reintroduced if intervention is needed to restore species diversity of vernal pools/seasonal wetlands on Base. March ARB would also benefit from the more efficient management of vegetation resources from updating referenced plans, management strategies, figures, and the plant inventory in the INRMP.

When applying foliar, post-emergent herbicide, there is the potential for short-term adverse impacts to native vegetation from direct application, spray drift, or overspray. However, all herbicides would be applied in accordance with label requirements and the March ARB IPMP, which includes BMPs to prevent spray drift. Applicators would be trained to prevent and immediately clean up any spills of chemicals to avoid affecting nearby non-target vegetation. Only chemicals with low environmental impacts that are approved for use by the DoD, March ARB NRM/IPMC and in the State of California would be used. Therefore, only negligible impacts to native vegetation would be expected from herbicide use.

Under the Proposed Action, no substantial loss of native plant or community diversity would occur. Therefore, no significant impacts to vegetation on March ARB would be expected.

### **Wildlife**

Projects/actions included in the INRMP with potential to impact wildlife at March ARB include the following:

- Monitoring and surveying bird populations on March ARB (Action 1.2.1).
- Monitoring and surveying non-native, invasive, and nuisance wildlife species (Action 1.4.1).
- Protecting and enhancing habitats used by pollinators, where feasible (Project 4.6.1 and Actions 4.6.2 and 4.6.3).
- Sustaining and protecting vernal pool habitat (Projects 3.6.3, 3.6.4, and 4.3.5 and Actions 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.4, and 4.4.1).
- Evaluating the potential effects of climate change on natural resources and, as needed, revising management strategies (Project 7.1.1).
- Maintaining and updating the natural resources GIS data layers and March ARB wildlife inventory (Action 8.1.2).
- Developing an EDRR program for non-native, invasive, and noxious plant species and educating Base personnel on emerging threat invasive species (Projects 2.4.1 and 2.4.2).
- Developing a long-term vegetation plan that increases native vegetation and reduces non-native vegetation (Project 2.5.2).
- Controlling non-native, invasive, nuisance, and pest species (Actions 5.1.4, 5.1.8, 5.1.12, and 5.1.13).
- Monitoring the removal of animal carcasses to avoid attracting scavengers (Action 6.1.3).

- Clearing vegetation from runways and taxiways through manual removal and, if needed, post-emergent herbicide (Action 6.1.6).
- Controlling mass infestations of insects with insecticides, if necessary (Project 6.1.4).

Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts to wildlife on March ARB. Wildlife resources on March ARB would be periodically monitored/surveyed and quantified to help better guide and adapt management strategies. Habitats for wildlife species would be sustained and, where feasible, enhanced. Native wildlife would benefit from the control of non-native wildlife. March ARB would also benefit from the more efficient management of wildlife resources from updating referenced plans, management strategies, figures, and the wildlife inventory in the INRMP.

Once the vegetation plan and EDRR program are developed, it is expected that they would reduce non-native vegetation and increase native vegetation on March ARB. Boosting the cover and diversity of native plants would increase overall habitat value for wildlife, resulting in long-term beneficial impacts to wildlife.

Depredation through lethal control of nuisance species that pose a BASH risk, damage infrastructure/equipment, and/or act as disease vectors could result in long-term adverse impacts to wildlife. At March ARB, depredation through lethal control of wildlife is used judiciously to reinforce non-lethal dispersal efforts or as a last line of defense if all previous actions fail. Depredation could reduce local population numbers of targeted species and prey availability. However, common nuisance species at March ARB, such as pigeons, starlings, sparrows, and California ground squirrels, are regionally abundant and any reduction of these species on Base would not have more than a negligible impact on local population numbers and prey availability. Depredation would be conducted in accordance with the March ARB IPMP and all applicable depredation permits held by March ARB.

The ground squirrel control program at March ARB includes the use of bait stations containing 0.005% diphacinone treated bait. Diphacinone is a first-generation anticoagulant that requires multiple feedings over a short period of time (days) to be effective (Hosea, 2000). The modified T-shaped bait stations used on March ARB have been designed such that the entrances to the station are 6 inches above ground level. This excludes non-target, smaller rodents, such as mice, from ingesting rodenticide. The use of rodenticide at March ARB could result in secondary poisoning of predators and scavengers that eat dead or dying ground squirrels that have consumed diphacinone bait. For first generation anti-coagulants, unless several exposed prey were captured by the same predator in very quick succession, the probability of a lethal dose through secondary exposure is considered very low (Hosea, 2000). At March ARB, animal carcasses are promptly removed and properly disposed of to avoid attracting scavengers to the airfield. Therefore, only minor adverse impacts to predatory birds and mammals from secondary poisoning with rodenticides would be expected.

Pesticides could enter and contaminate inundated vernal pools via runoff. Versatile fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lindahl*) occur in the vernal pools on March ARB. Commercial glyphosate products, such as Roundup®, that are not approved for aquatic application have been shown to pose a risk to San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*) and, thus, are likely to pose a threat to other fairy shrimp species as well. The magnitude of this threat is unknown (USFWS, 2008b). Adverse effects from pesticides to fairy shrimp would be reduced by the proper application in accordance with label requirements and the implementation of avoidance buffers around inundated vernal pools and drainages to vernal pools that are specified in Action 4.3.3. With proper application and implementation of avoidance buffers, no adverse impacts to fairy shrimp from the use of pesticides would be expected.

The use of insecticides at March ARB could result in short-term, minor, adverse impacts to pollinators and birds. Pollinators can be exposed to pesticides through direct contact, residue contact on treated plants, ingestion of contaminated pollen and nectar, and exposure to contaminated nesting sites or materials (Xerces, 2020). Pesticides can harm pollinators by killing them, delaying development, reducing reproduction, and affecting the ability to forage and navigate (USFWS, 2017). During pesticide treatments at March ARB, BMPs in the *U.S. Air Force Pollinator Conservation Reference Guide* (USFWS, 2017) would be implemented to minimize harm to pollinators. There is also the potential for birds to experience secondary poisoning through the ingestion of insects that were poisoned by insecticides. March ARB

would investigate potential insecticides and only select ones that optimize efficacy and safety for non-target organisms. Only chemicals approved for use by the DoD, March ARB NRM/IPMC, and in the State of California would be used.

Under the Proposed Action, no loss of sensitive and/or rare wildlife habitat would occur and there would be no substantial loss of native wildlife. Therefore, no significant impacts to wildlife habitat on March ARB would be expected from implementation of the 2021 INRMP.

### ***Special-status Species***

Projects/actions included in the INRMP with potential to impact special-status species at March ARB include the following:

- Conducting surveys for special-status pollinators (Projects 1.3.1 and 1.3.2), burrowing owl (Action 3.2.2), and fairy shrimp (Projects 3.6.1 and 3.6.2).
- Sustaining and protecting burrowing owl (Project 3.2.1 and Actions 3.2.3 through 3.2.8).
- Sustaining and protecting SKR and maintaining SKR occupied habitat (Projects 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 and Actions 3.4.3, 3.4.4, 3.4.5, and 3.5.1).
- Sustaining and protecting listed fairy shrimp vernal pool habitat (Projects 3.6.3, 3.6.4, and 4.3.5 and Actions 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.4, and 4.4.1).
- Ensuring Base plans and operations avoid impacts to threatened and endangered and special-status species (Actions 2.8.2, 2.8.3, 3.1.1, 4.2.1, 5.1.5, and 6.1.11).
- Maintaining and updating the March ARB natural resources GIS data layers and species inventories (Action 8.1.2).
- Developing an EDRR program for non-native, invasive, and noxious plant species and educating Base personnel on emerging threat invasive species (Projects 2.4.1 and 2.4.2).
- Developing a long-term vegetation plan that increases native vegetation and reduces non-native vegetation (Project 2.5.2).
- Implementing California ground squirrel control (Actions 5.1.12 and 5.1.13).
- Monitoring the removal of animal carcasses (Action 6.1.3).
- Clearing vegetation from runways and taxiways through manual removal and, if needed, post-emergent herbicide (Action 6.1.6).
- Controlling mass infestations of insects with insecticides, if necessary (Project 6.1.4).

Long-term beneficial impacts to special-status wildlife on March ARB would result from surveying and monitoring species and implementation of projects in the 2021 INRMP to sustain and protect special-status species and their habitats, as feasible, on March ARB. As part of the 2021 INRMP, the March ARB NRM would regularly evaluate Base plans and operations to ensure impacts to special-status species are avoided, to the extent practicable. March ARB would also benefit from the more efficient management of special-status resources from updating referenced plans, management strategies, figures, and species inventories in the INRMP.

Once the vegetation plan and EDRR program are developed, it is expected that they would reduce non-native vegetation and increase native vegetation on March ARB. Boosting the cover and diversity of native plants would increase overall habitat value for special-status wildlife, resulting in long-term beneficial impacts to special-status wildlife.

The ground squirrel control program at March ARB currently includes the use of bait stations containing 0.005% diphacinone treated bait. Given that burrowing owls eat small rodents and are known to scavenge dead animals, there is potential for burrowing owls to experience secondary poisoning from the ingestion of dead or dying ground squirrels that have consumed diphacinone bait. The bait stations used on March ARB have entrances that are 6 inches above ground level to exclude non-target, smaller

rodents from ingesting rodenticide. The secondary poisoning risk associated with a single day exposure to diphacinone is considered low for hawks and owls because diphacinone is rapidly eliminated by the rodent (Hadler and Buckle, 1992) and is rapidly cleared from liver, and presumably other tissues of birds (Rattner et al., 2011). Additionally, animal carcasses are promptly removed and properly disposed of on March ARB, which reduces the probability of burrowing owl consuming poisoned ground squirrels. Given that burrowing owl eat a varied diet and do not feed exclusively on ground squirrels, that non-target rodents do not ingest rodenticide, and that carcasses found on March ARB are promptly disposed of, long-term minor adverse impacts to burrowing owl from secondary poisoning would be expected if the use of poisoned bait stations continues at March ARB.

The reduction of ground squirrels on March ARB from implementation of the ground squirrel control program could result in fewer suitable burrows that are required by burrowing owls for nesting, protection from predators, and shelter (CDFG, 2012). Complete eradication of ground squirrels on March ARB is not possible. To sustain available burrowing owl habitat, March ARB maintains a Burrowing Owl Relocation Area with artificial constructed burrows that are used year-round by burrowing owls. Therefore, no adverse impacts to burrowing owl from the reduction of ground squirrels on March ARB would be expected.

Pesticides used at March ARB could enter and contaminate inundated vernal pools via runoff. There is potential for Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*; federally listed as Endangered) and vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) to occur in the vernal pools on March ARB. Commercial glyphosate products, such as Roundup®, that are not approved for aquatic application have been shown to pose a risk to San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*) and, thus, are likely to pose a threat to Riverside and vernal pool fairy shrimp as well. The magnitude of this threat is unknown (USFWS, 2008b). Potential adverse effects to fairy shrimp from pesticides would be reduced by the proper application in accordance with label requirements and the implementation of avoidance buffers around inundated vernal pools and drainages to vernal pools that are specified in Action 4.3.3. With proper application and implementation of avoidance buffers, no adverse impacts to fairy shrimp from the use of pesticides would be expected.

Impacts to special-status pollinators and birds from insecticide use would be comparable to those previously discussed in the “Wildlife” section.

No special-status plants, including special-status vernal pool specialist plants, have been documented on March ARB to date (March ARB, 2021a); therefore, no impacts to special-status plants would be expected from implementation of the Proposed Action. If special-status plants are found on March ARB, they would be flagged for avoidance, as necessary, prior to any application of herbicide.

Under the Proposed Action, no substantial loss of listed and special-status species or their habitats would be expected. Therefore, no significant impacts to special-status species would be expected.

## **No Action Alternative**

The 2012 INRMP (March ARB, 2012) references outdated plans, management strategies, species inventories, and figures, on biological resources and March ARB would fail to benefit from the more efficient management of biological resources by not updating this information. Under the No Action Alternative, there would also be no beneficial impacts to pollinators on March ARB from enhancing pollinator habitat and surveying for special-status pollinators.

### **3.2.5 Safety and Occupational Health**

#### **3.2.5.1 Affected Environment**

At March ARB, federal and California guidelines, rules, and regulations are in place to protect area residents, March ARB employees, and construction-related personnel. Health and safety guidelines, rules, and regulations include Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and California/OSHA laws and regulations, as well as state and local building codes. March ARB also

operates a BASH program to minimize the hazard to aircraft and at March ARB and associated aircraft in their operating areas.

### **3.2.5.2 Environmental Consequences**

Potential impacts to safety and occupational health were evaluated for the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. A significant impact on safety and occupational health would occur if there is one or more of the following:

- Conducting activities that expose workers to unsafe or hazardous conditions.
- Conducting activities that create unsafe conditions for the long term with potential to adversely affect the public or personnel on March ARB.
- Conducting activities that limit the ability of tenants of March ARB to carry out their assigned mission and associated training.

### **Proposed Action**

Projects/actions included in the INRMP with potential to impact safety and occupational health at March ARB include the following:

- Clearing vegetation from runways and taxiways through manual removal and, if needed, post-emergent herbicide (Action 6.1.6).
- Controlling mass infestations of insects with insecticides, if necessary (Project 6.1.4).

The use of pesticides could involve risk to workers and military personnel engaging in activities in or near treatment areas. Pesticide applicators would be properly trained for the safe handling/application of pesticides to help ensure resource protection and the safety of occupational and personnel receptors. All applicators would wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with pesticide label requirements. Treated areas would be identified to allow other personnel to avoid those areas until safe to reenter. With proper handling/application in accordance with label directions and the March ARB IPMP, no impacts to workers and military personnel safety from pesticide use would be expected.

Under the Proposed Action, no significant impacts to safety and occupational health identified would occur.

### **No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts to safety or occupational health would be expected.

## 4. Cumulative Impacts

The most severe environmental degradation may not result from the direct effects of any particular action, but from the combination of effects of multiple, independent actions over time. As defined in 40 CFR Section 1508.7 (CEQ Regulations), a cumulative effect is the “impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions.”

Some authorities contend that most environmental effects can be seen as cumulative because almost all systems have already been modified. Principles of cumulative effects analysis are described in the CEQ guide *Considering Cumulative Effects under the National Environmental Policy Act*. CEQ guidance on cumulative impacts analysis states:

*For cumulative effects analysis to help the decision-maker and inform interested parties, it must be limited through scoping to effects that can be evaluated meaningfully. The boundaries for evaluating cumulative effects should be expanded to the point at which the resource is no longer affected significantly or the effects are no longer of interest to affected parties. (CEQ, 1997)*

This section addresses the potential for cumulative impacts resulting from interaction of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions occurring at March ARB and in the surrounding area. This NEPA analysis was initiated prior to 14 September 2020 and is being conducted following CEQ guidance and regulations in effect prior to that date.

### 4.1 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

A list of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions at March ARB and the surrounding area that could result in cumulative impacts with the implementation of the Proposed Action is presented in Table 4-1.

**Table 4-1. Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions**  
*Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Action No.	Project Name	Land Use	Density	Location	Status
1	Meridian Business Park (West Campus)	Industrial Park	2,278,852 ft <sup>2</sup>	West of March ARB and I-215	Approved
2	Meridian South Campus	Warehouse General Office Commercial Retail Fast Food w/ Drive Thru Gas Station	500,000 ft <sup>2</sup> 338,800 ft <sup>2</sup> 7,905 ft <sup>2</sup> 3,300 ft <sup>2</sup> 12,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	South of Van Buren Boulevard and west of Village West Drive	Under construction
3	Meridian South Parcel Delivery	Warehouse	1,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	South of Van Buren Boulevard and west of Village West Drive	Under review
4	Freeway Business Center	Warehouse	709,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	Southeast corner of Seaton Avenue and Cajalco Expressway	Under construction

**Table 4-1. Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions***Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Action No.	Project Name	Land Use	Density	Location	Status
5	Veteran's Industrial Plaza/VIP 215	High Cube Warehouse	2,000,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	East of the I-215 freeway off-ramp at Van Buren Boulevard; south of existing March Field Air Museum; west of an existing March ARB airport runway	Under review
6	Veteran's Plaza	Commercial	198,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	Northwest corner of 6 <sup>th</sup> Street and N Street	Approved
7	MS Van Buren I	Warehouse	176,396 ft <sup>2</sup>	Northeast corner of Meridian Parkway and Van Buren Boulevard	Approved
8	MS Van Buren II	Warehouse	162,041 ft <sup>2</sup>	21840 Van Buren Boulevard	Approved
9	MS Prime Six	Office Building	74,922 ft <sup>2</sup>	22180 Van Buren Boulevard	Approved
10	Meridian Distribution Center IV	Warehouse	90,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	21800 Opportunity Way	Completed
11	MS Alessandro	Industrial Park	157,512 ft <sup>2</sup>	Southeast corner of Alessandro Boulevard and Meridian Parkway	Under review
12	Meridian Business Park North	Industrial Park	3,706,148 ft <sup>2</sup>	West of I-215 and north of Van Buren Boulevard	Under review
13	Meridian Business Park South	Warehouse	2,510,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	20801 Krameria Avenue	Under review
14	March LifeCare Campus Specific Plan	Medical Office Commercial Retail Research & Education Hospital Institutional Residential	190,000 ft <sup>2</sup> 210,000 ft <sup>2</sup> 200,000 ft <sup>2</sup> 50,000 ft <sup>2</sup> 660,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	Northeastern corner of March ARB	Approved
15	Heacock Street Truck Terminal Facility	Industrial - Paved parking facility for trucks and trailers/containers, 260 parking spaces; a 450-ft <sup>2</sup> single-story prefabricated guard house	450 ft <sup>2</sup>	Northwest of the intersection of Heacock Street and San Michele Road	Approved, plan check review
16	K4 Warehouse Project	Warehouse	718,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	South side of Cactus Avenue and extends from where Veterans Way terminates at Cactus Avenue on the west to where Frederick Street terminates at Cactus Avenue on the east	Under construction
17	Building 1203 Renovation	Consolidated facility to support Civil Engineering and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (administrative)	34,134 ft <sup>2</sup>	Building 1203 is in the southwest quadrant of the intersection of Perimeter Road and Chanute Avenue within March ARB	Conceptual; not approved or funded
18	Building 452 Renovation	Unknown at this time, possibly an alternative location for alert facility operations	30,487 ft <sup>2</sup>	Building 452 is located on the northern portion of the flight line, adjacent to the KC-135 apron	Under review

**Table 4-1. Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions***Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Action No.	Project Name	Land Use	Density	Location	Status
19	Fire Training Facility	3-story fire training structure	2,500 ft <sup>2</sup>	West of 8th Street, on main Base	Under review
20	Alert Facility	Lodging for up to 60 flight crew personnel and parking for 16 vehicles	33,550 ft <sup>2</sup>	West of 8th Street, on main Base	Under review
21	Consolidated Medical Center	Medical facility	59,206 gross ft <sup>2</sup>	Intersection of Riverside Drive and Y Street, on main Base	Under review
22	Consolidated Civil Engineering Support	Support facility for Emergency Management and Explosive Ordnance Disposal	To Be Determined	Intersection of 2nd Street and Iris Avenue, on main Base	Under review
23	Munitions Storage Facility	Storage facility to support base munitions mission	4,500 gross ft <sup>2</sup>	Munitions Road, on main Base	Under review
24	Explosives Handling Loading Dock	Loading dock for explosive shipments	To Be Determined	Munitions Road, on main Base	Under review
25	Riverside National Cemetery Expansion Project	Cemetery	315 acres	Existing General Old Golf Course and undeveloped land to the southwest	First phase complete.

## 4.2 Land Use

### 4.2.1 Proposed Action

There would be no impacts to land use on March ARB from the implementation of Actions 1 through 16 and 25. Actions 17 through 24 would be constructed on Base in support of the military mission. Since the Proposed Action would be beneficial to military land use on March ARB, there would be no adverse cumulative impacts to land use from implementation of the Proposed Action.

### 4.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, existing conditions would continue. There would be no cumulative impacts to land use associated with Actions 1 through 23.

## 4.3 Soils

### 4.3.1 Proposed Action

Actions 1 through 16 and 19 through 25 involve ground-disturbing activities such as construction and have the potential to cumulatively impact soils. BMPs are typically implemented to mitigate potential impacts to soils during ground disturbance. Under the Proposed Action, adverse impacts to soils could result from pesticide use. With implementation of BMPs for pesticide application, no significant cumulative adverse impacts would be expected.

### 4.3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there is potential for adverse impacts to soils from pesticide use. With implementation of BMPs, no significant cumulative adverse impacts to soils would be expected.



## **4.4 Water Resources**

### **4.4.1 Proposed Action**

Ground-disturbing activities associated with construction of Actions 1 through 16 and 19 through 25 have the potential to cumulatively impact water resources. BMPs would be implemented to reduce potential impacts to water resources during ground disturbance. The addition of impervious surfaces through the construction of new buildings, roads, and parking lots would result in an increase in stormwater. Post-construction stormwater controls would be implemented to minimize or eliminate the impacts of increased runoff. Under the Proposed Action, water resources could be adversely impacted by pesticide use. With implementation of BMPs for pesticide application, no significant cumulative adverse impacts would be expected.

### **4.4.2 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, there is potential for minor adverse impacts to water resources from pesticide use. With implementation of BMPs, no significant cumulative adverse impacts would be expected.

## **4.5 Biological Resources**

### **4.5.1 Proposed Action**

Incidental wildlife mortalities, impacts to burrowing owl, and habitat loss could result from the construction of Actions 1 through 16 and 19 through 25 and cumulatively impact biological resources. Action 24 would result in a loss of SKR habitat around the March ARB small arms range west of I-215. Under the Proposed Action, potential adverse impacts to biological resources would include depredation through lethal control of nuisance or pest species; secondary poisoning of predators, scavengers, and birds including burrowing owls; and harm to pollinators from pesticide use. However, given the largely beneficial impacts of INRMP implementation on biological resources, no significant cumulative adverse impacts to biological resources would be expected.

### **4.5.2 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, adverse impacts to biological resources could result from pesticide use and depredation of nuisance wildlife. No significant cumulative adverse impacts would be expected.

## **4.6 Safety and Occupational Health**

### **4.6.1 Proposed Action**

Construction associated with Actions 1 through 16 and 19 through 25 has the potential to cumulatively impact safety. Appropriate safety plans and OSHA regulations are typically followed to limit the risk of accidents during construction activities. Since INRMP implementation would not be expected to result in any adverse impacts to safety, no cumulative adverse impacts to safety and occupational health would be expected.

### **4.6.2 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, no cumulative impacts to safety and occupational health would be expected.

## 5. Findings and Conclusions

### 5.1 Findings

No significant environmental or socioeconomic impacts have been identified from the Proposed Action. Table 5-1 summarizes the consequences of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. The following sections provide a summary of the anticipated impacts of each alternative.

#### 5.1.1 Consequences of the Proposed Action

Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in largely beneficial impacts on land use, soils, water resources, biological resources, and safety and occupational health. There is potential for adverse impacts to soils, water resources, biological resources, and safety and occupational health; however, all of these impacts would be reduced to less than significant. BMPs would be implemented to avoid or reduce any harmful effects of pesticide applications on soils, water resources, and vegetation (Table 5-2). The Proposed Action is required for compliance with the Sikes Act and applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

#### 5.1.2 Consequences of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, natural resources management would continue under the 2012 INRMP (March ARB, 2012) and the INRMP would not be revised to reflect current conditions and operations at March ARB. The 2012 INRMP references outdated plans and practices on natural resources management. Failure to update this information could result in long-term adverse impacts to natural resources management at March ARB and March ARB would remain in non-compliance with the Sikes Act.

**Table 5-1. Summary of Potential Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences**

*Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Resource	Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences	
	No Action	Proposed Action
<b>Land Use</b>	No long-term beneficial impacts to military land use from opening the approximately 320-acre SKR Open Space, as defined in the USFWS 1991 Biological Opinion (USFWS, 1991), for other uses. No beneficial impacts from the more efficient management of natural resources from not updating Base acreage and property holdings in the INRMP.	Potential long-term beneficial impacts to military land use if approximately 320-acre Open Space, as defined in the USFWS 1991 Biological Opinion (USFWS, 1991), set aside for SKR on March ARB is removed and the land is opened for other uses.
<b>Soils</b>	No long-term beneficial impacts from the more efficient management of soils from not updating outdated plans and management strategies on erosion and sedimentation control in INRMP.	Long-term beneficial impacts from the more efficient management of soil resources from updating referenced plans and management strategies on erosion and sedimentation in the INRMP; revegetation of bare areas; performance of airfield vegetation maintenance; and development of a vegetation plan for March ARB.  Potential short-term minor, adverse impacts to soils from pesticide use. BMPs would be implemented to minimize harmful effects of pesticides.

**Table 5-1. Summary of Potential Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences***Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Resource	Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences	
	No Action	Proposed Action
<b>Water Resources</b>	No long-term beneficial impacts from the more efficient management of water resources from not updating outdated plans, management strategies, and figures in INRMP.	<p>Long-term beneficial impacts from the more efficient management of water resources from updating referenced plans, management strategies, and figures in the INRMP; continued compliance with wetlands regulations; monitoring and inspections; and removal of trash in drainages.</p> <p>Long-term beneficial impacts to surface water quality from a reduction of erosion and sedimentation potential from the revegetation of bare areas and development of a vegetation plan..</p> <p>Long-term beneficial impacts to vernal pools from implementation of protection measures for vernal pools and development of a vernal pool management plan.</p> <p>Potential short-term, minor, adverse impacts to surface waters, water quality, and groundwater from pesticide use. BMPs would be implemented to avoid or reduce harmful effects of pesticides.</p>
<b>Biological Resources</b>	No long-term beneficial impacts from the more efficient management of biological resources from not updating outdated plans, management strategies, figures, and plant and wildlife inventories in INRMP.	
<i>Vegetation</i>		<p>Long-term beneficial impacts from increasing the use of native plants; development of an EDRR Program; development of vegetation and landscape management plans; and the more efficient management of vegetation resources from updating referenced plans, management strategies, figures, and the plant inventory in INRMP.</p> <p>Short-term negligible impacts to native vegetation from herbicide use.</p>
<i>Wildlife</i>		<p>Long-term beneficial impacts to wildlife from surveying/monitoring wildlife; habitat enhancements; control of non-native wildlife; and the more efficient management of wildlife resources from updating referenced plans, management strategies, figures, and the wildlife inventory in the INRMP.</p> <p>Long-term beneficial impacts to wildlife habitat value from the development of a vegetation plan that would increase native vegetation and reduce non-native vegetation on March ARB.</p> <p>Long-term, negligible adverse impacts to wildlife from reduction in population/prey numbers from depredation of nuisance species.</p> <p>Long-term, minor, adverse impacts to predators and scavengers from secondary poisoning through ingestion of ground squirrels that consumed rodenticide.</p> <p>Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to pollinators and birds from pesticide use. BMPs would be implemented to avoid or reduce harmful effects of pesticides.</p>

**Table 5-1. Summary of Potential Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences***Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Resource	Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences	
	No Action	Proposed Action
<i>Special-status Species</i>		<p>Long-term beneficial effects on special-status species from surveying/monitoring; implementation of projects/actions to sustain and protect special-status species and their habitats; and the more efficient management of special-status resources from updating referenced plans, management strategies, figures, and the special-status species inventory in the INRMP.</p> <p>Long-term beneficial impacts to special-status wildlife habitat value from the development of a vegetation plan that would increase native vegetation and reduce non-native vegetation on March ARB.</p> <p>Long-term, minor, adverse impacts to burrowing owl from ground squirrel control activities that could result in secondary poisoning of owls.</p> <p>Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to special-status pollinators and birds from pesticide use. BMPs would be implemented to avoid or reduce harmful effects of pesticides.</p>
<b>Safety and Occupational Health</b>	No impacts.	No impacts.

BASH = bird/wildlife aircraft strike hazard

BMP = best management practice

EDRR = Early Detection Rapid Response

SKR = Stephens' kangaroo rat

USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Table 5-2. Proposed Action Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts***Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Resource Area	Proposed Action Measures to Avoid/Minimize Impacts
Soils	<p>Pesticides would be screened by the March ARB NRM/IPMC prior to use. The use of environmentally sensitive chemicals and chemicals with shorter environmental persistence would be encouraged.</p> <p>Pesticides would be applied in accordance with label directions and the March ARB IPMP. Licensed applicators would prevent and immediately clean up any spills of chemicals.</p>
Water Resources	<p>Pesticides would be screened by the March ARB NRM/IPMC prior to use. The use of environmentally sensitive chemicals and chemicals with shorter environmental persistence would be encouraged.</p> <p>Pesticides would be applied in accordance with label directions and the March ARB IPMP, Spill Plan, and SWPPP. Licensed applicators would prevent and immediately clean up any spills of chemicals.</p>
Vegetation	<p>Pesticides would be screened by the March ARB NRM/IPMC prior to use. The use of environmentally sensitive chemicals and chemicals with shorter environmental persistence would be encouraged.</p> <p>Pesticides would be applied in accordance with label directions and the March ARB IPMP. Licensed applicators would prevent and immediately clean up any spills of chemicals to avoid affecting nearby non-target vegetation.</p>
Wildlife/Special-Status Species	<p>The March ARB NRM/IPMC would screen pesticides and only select those that optimize efficacy and safety for non-target organisms. Pesticides would be applied in accordance with label directions and the March ARB IPMP. If found, special-status plants would be flagged for avoidance prior to pesticide application. Licensed applicators would prevent and immediately clean up any spills of chemicals. All pesticide use would be restricted within 50 feet or more of vernal pools (depending on label directions) to avoid impacts to fairy shrimp.</p>

**Table 5-2. Proposed Action Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts**

*Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Resource Area	Proposed Action Measures to Avoid/Minimize Impacts
Safety	Licensed pesticide applicators would be properly trained for the safe application of pesticides to help ensure resource protection and the safety of occupational and personnel receptors. All applicators would wear appropriate PPE per pesticide label requirements. Treated areas would be identified to allow other personnel to avoid those areas until safe to reenter.

Sources: March ARB, 2015, 2019b

IPMP = Integrated Pest Management Plan

NRM/IPMC = Natural Resources Manager/Installation Pest Management Coordinator

PPE = personal protective equipment

SWPPP = stormwater pollution prevention plan

## 5.2 Conclusions

Based on the findings of this EA, we recommend that the Proposed Action, as it is written and proposed, be implemented and that a FONSI be issued for the Proposed Action.

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## 7. List of Preparers

**Table 7-1. List of Preparers and Contributors**

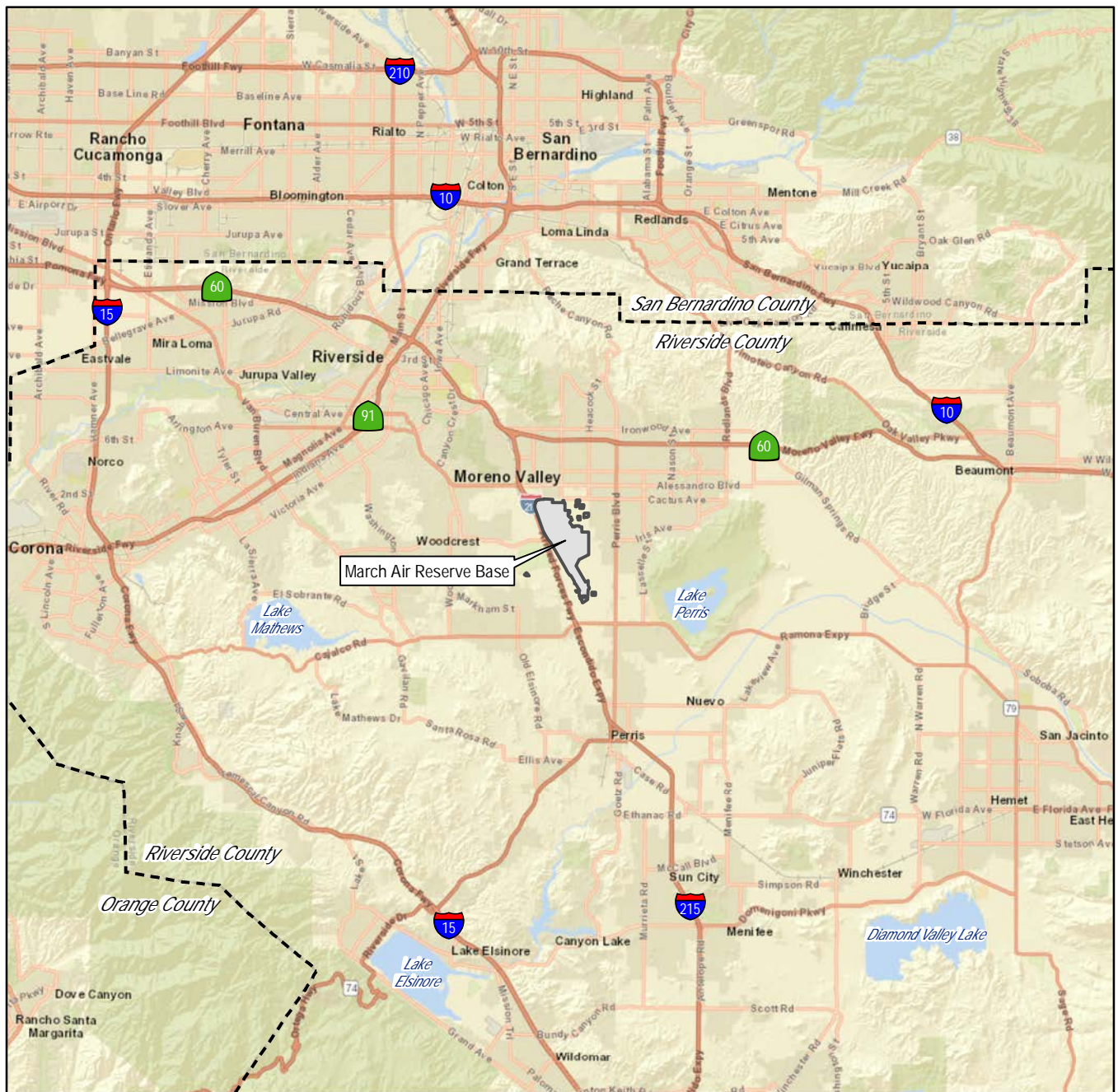
*Implementation of the 2021 INRMP EA, March ARB, California*

Name	Degree(s)	Years of Work Experience
Ursula Rogers	B.S., Biology	13
Rich Reaves	Ph.D., Wetland and Wildlife Ecology	25
Andrea Naccarato	B.S., Biology (minors in Chemistry and Geography-Environmental Studies)	20
Sara Jackson	B.S., Environmental Studies	20
Jeremy Hollins	M.A., Public History	17



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## Figures



#### Legend

 March Air Reserve Base

Source:

1) Esri World Street Map

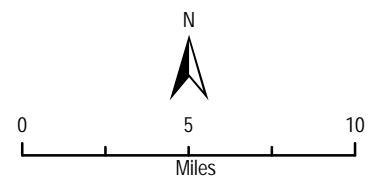


Figure 1-1  
Regional Vicinity Map  
March Air Reserve Base  
INRMP Environmental Assessment  
2021





Legend

- March Air Reserve Base
- SKR Open Space

Source:  
1) Google Earth Pro

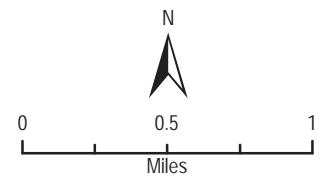


Figure 1-2  
Location Map  
March Air Reserve Base  
INRMP Environmental Assessment  
2021

## Appendix A

### 2021 INRMP Projects/Actions

## 2021 INRMP Projects

### GOAL 1: WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT – MONITOR AND MANAGE WILDLIFE SPECIES ON MARCH ARB WHILE MINIMIZING POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO THE MILITARY MISSION

- OBJECTIVE 1.1: Employ a systematic approach to managing wildlife resources, using a process that includes monitoring, management, assessment, and evaluation.
  - ACTION 1.1.1: NRM to follow current USFWS recommendations when conducting inventories.
  - ACTION 1.1.2: NRM to select management strategies proven to effectively minimize BASH risk.
  - ACTION 1.1.3: NRM to maintain and involve partnerships with agencies and groups involved in wildlife and habitat management.

#### *Migratory Birds*

- OBJECTIVE 1.2: Promote the conservation of migratory birds at March ARB in ways that do not conflict with or impede military training.
  - ACTION 1.2.1: NRM to inventory and monitor bird populations at March ARB to the extent feasible to determine the need for, and effectiveness of, conservation efforts.

#### *Pollinators*

- OBJECTIVE 1.3: Determine presence of special-status pollinators on March ARB.
  - PROJECT 1.3.1: NRM to conduct a discovery or reconnaissance survey for USFWS BCC that are pollinators and within range of March ARB, including the Allen's hummingbird, calliope hummingbird, Costa's hummingbird, and rufous hummingbird.
  - PROJECT 1.3.2: NRM to conduct a reconnaissance survey for applicable special-status insect pollinators listed in the U.S. Air Force Pollinator Conservation Reference Guide (USFWS 2017).
  - PROJECT 1.3.3: If a special-status pollinator or its habitat is documented on Air Force lands, NRM to work with regional USFWS Migratory Birds staff for BCCs and the Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office for special-status insects to identify conservation actions to build into a pollinator management plan.

#### *Invasive Wildlife*

- OBJECTIVE 1.4: Prevent infestations of non-native, invasive, and nuisance wildlife on March ARB.
  - ACTION 1.4.1: NRM/IPMC to conduct surveys and monitoring for non-native, invasive, and nuisance wildlife species.
  - ACTION 1.4.2: NRM/IPMC to review and update list of non-native, invasive, and nuisance wildlife on an annual basis.

### GOAL 2: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT – MANAGE VEGETATION ON MARCH ARB BY PROMOTING THE USE OF NATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PLANTS AND SEEDS, PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES, AND MINIMIZING ATTRACTANTS OF BASH THREAT SPECIES

#### *Native Vegetation*

- OBJECTIVE 2.1: Promote native plant species on March ARB.

- PROJECT 2.1.1: NRM to complete vegetation study to develop future plans that incorporate the use of more native plants, as appropriate, throughout the Base. These plans to include airfield vegetation, urban landscaping, and all areas of vegetation communities.
- OBJECTIVE 2.2: Use plants that are native to the local region, or those that are not known to be invasive, in landscaping, land restoration, and erosion control projects.
  - PROJECT 2.2.1: NRM to develop a list of acceptable plants and seeds for contractors performing landscaping and land restoration work on Base.
- OBJECTIVE 2.3: Develop sources of seeds of native plant species of vernal pools, wet-meadows (wetland prairies), and upland grasslands which March ARB can access without undue delays.
  - PROJECT 2.3.1: NRM to determine best, feasible method of acquiring local, native plant seeds.

#### ***Non-native, Invasive, Noxious Weed Species***

- OBJECTIVE 2.4: Prevent infestations of invasive plant species on March ARB.
  - PROJECT 2.4.1: NRM to develop an Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) program for March ARB that will meet DoD requirements for weed management and, to the maximum extent practicable, avoid potential direct and indirect impacts to resources regulated under the ESA, CWA, and Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
  - PROJECT 2.4.2: NRM to develop and provide brochures to educate Base maintenance and vegetation managers and Base firefighters to detect emerging threat invasive species.
  - ACTION 2.4.3: NRM to review and update the EDRR list of non-native, invasive, and noxious plant species on an annual basis.

#### ***Vegetation Communities***

- OBJECTIVE 2.5: Update vegetation classifications to better understand how to manage all vegetation communities.
  - PROJECT 2.5.1: NRM to conduct classification and mapping of plant communities and land cover types on March ARB, including the identification and mapping of seasonally dry wet-meadows (wetland prairie patches). Determine the types of communities. Evaluations of plants present on Base will be conducted seasonally.
  - PROJECT 2.5.2: NRM to complete study for and develop a long-term vegetation plan for all vegetation communities that increases native plant cover and reduces the percent cover of non-native plant species if feasible.
  - ACTION 2.5.3: NRM to update vegetation descriptions and mapping in INRMP during annual reviews as information is available.
  - PROJECT 2.5.4: NRM to collect herbaria specimen(s) of *Centromadia pungens* ssp. *pungens* on March ARB and re-identify. Submit specimen(s) to the UCR Herbarium for confirmation of subspecies.
- OBJECTIVE 2.6: Prevent vegetation from altering flows in drainage systems and minimize attractants for BASH threat species.
  - ACTION 2.6.1: NRM/IPMC to identify and control, as feasible, plant species that compromise the flow efficiency of manmade drainage ditches on Base or attract BASH threat species.



### ***Urban Landscape Vegetation***

- OBJECTIVE 2.7: Promote the implementation of sustainable landscape design practices at March ARB.
  - PROJECT 2.7.1: NRM to prepare a landscape management plan that includes a list of existing types of landscape on Base, what is suggested for the future<sup>1</sup>, and a classification of landscape plants. National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation with the California SHPO may be required if changes would impact the historic district (e.g., adding xeriscaping and removal of grassy areas in the historic district).

<sup>1</sup>Include native species of shrubs, wildflowers, and groundcover plants from chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and Southern California grasslands that appear to be compatible or useful for ornamental landscaping.

### ***Grounds Vegetation Maintenance***

- OBJECTIVE 2.8: Ensure that the grounds maintenance program complies with all applicable environmental rules, regulations, and requirements.
  - ACTION 2.8.1: NRM to coordinate with grounds maintenance manager annually to ensure that all grounds maintenance activities follow CEV procedures.
  - ACTION 2.8.2: NRM to coordinate with grounds maintenance manager to ensure the grounds maintenance plan incorporates T&E and special-status species management and BASH reduction strategies.
  - ACTION 2.8.3: NRM to continually assess grounds maintenance activities for any adverse effects on T&E and special-status species and/or attraction of BASH threat species and make modifications as needed.
  - ACTION 2.8.4: NRM to manage vegetation through grounds maintenance along runways and taxiways to deter bird activity.
  - ACTION 2.8.5: NRM/IPMC to manage all pesticides used through grounds maintenance on airfield to best manage deterrence of bird activity. Methods with the lowest risks and effects, such as manual methods, should be used first. Methods with higher risks, such as pesticides, should only be employed if hazards are deemed high and lower risk methods have proven unsuccessful.
- OBJECTIVE 2.9: Minimize pest attractants and breeding areas for pest species.
  - ACTION 2.9.1: NRM to ensure drainage ditch vegetation maintenance is performed routinely and in a manner that does not promote standing water on the airfield.
  - ACTION 2.9.2: NRM to ensure the removal of dead vegetation such as brush piles, grass piles, clippings, hay bales, etc.
  - ACTION 2.9.3: NRM to ensure there are no debris piles (e.g., concrete blocks, scraps, pallets, etc.) from construction or other work.
- OBJECTIVE 2.10: Manage urban trees in landscaped areas and other locations.
  - ACTION 2.10.1: NRM to coordinate with arborists to evaluate trees that may be affected by disease or other stressors and determine which need to be removed or managed to prevent them from becoming a safety hazard.
  - ACTION 2.10.2: NRM to ensure that all trees that may harbor wildlife that could pose a BASH issue are removed or pruned to reduce such risks.
  - ACTION 2.10.3: NRM to reduce available mast-producing hardwood stands near the airfield to reduce habitat preferred by species deemed a BASH threat.



**GOAL 3: SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT – MANAGE SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND POLICES**

- OBJECTIVE 3.1: Coordinate with USFWS and CDFW on management of special-status species found on Base.
  - ACTION 3.1.1: NRM to periodically review the management strategies suggested by CDFW and USFWS for special-status species and balance these strategies with the protocols established for the reduction of the BASH risk on the Base.

***Burrowing Owl***

- OBJECTIVE 3.2: Provide for continued protection and conservation of burrowing owls on March ARB, while maintaining the military mission.
  - PROJECT 3.2.1: NRM to prepare a burrowing owl management plan for March ARB.
  - ACTION 3.2.2: NRM to conduct annual or biannual burrowing owl surveys, as feasible. Surveys should be conducted during the breeding season (February 1 to August 31) at a minimum. Point-count surveys are recommended as an efficient method for monitoring population trends at March ARB, although transect surveys, motion cameras, and/or other methodology may be used. NRM to ensure that protocol-level surveys conducted by a qualified biologist in accordance with current CDFW protocol recommendations (the CDFW 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation) are conducted every 5 years.
  - ACTION 3.2.3: NRM to manage annual inspection and maintenance of artificial burrows during the non-breeding season (September 1 to January 31) to confirm the artificial burrows are in suitable condition for use by burrowing owls.
  - ACTION 3.2.4: NRM to post signs along the perimeter of burrowing owl-occupied areas that clearly identify the presence of the species and specify the area is off-limits for foot or vehicle traffic (unless specifically authorized by Natural Resources staff).
  - ACTION 3.2.5: If disturbance activities are planned in burrowing owl-supported areas, a survey of current burrowing owl activity should be conducted by the NRM biologist or an NRM-approved biologist prior to disturbing the area. If burrowing owls are present, appropriate actions should be taken to avoid impacts.
  - ACTION 3.2.6: NRM to manage areas currently supporting burrowing owls on Base to maintain habitat quality and minimize disturbance.
  - ACTION 3.2.7: NRM to ensure the continuation of regular mowing of the airfield, even during breeding season.
  - ACTION 3.2.8: NRM/IPMC to ensure the use of pesticides is in compliance with the IPMP for protection of burrowing owls.
  - ACTION 3.2.9: NRM to ensure burrowing owl are not increasing BASH risk. NRM to coordinate with the BASH program for BASH updates and observations related to hazards and modify burrowing owl deterrence and avoidance measures and consider modification of habitat or populations with consultation with USFWS, as needed.

***Stephens' Kangaroo Rat***

- OBJECTIVE 3.3: Evaluate whether land set aside for the protection of SKR on the main March ARB east of I-215 should be opened up for other uses due to no further use by the species.
  - PROJECT 3.3.1: NRM to work with the USFWS and CDFW to consider removal of the Open Space, as defined in the USFWS 1991 BO (1-6-91-F-33; USFWS 1991), set aside for SKR on the main Base and allow use for other purposes.

- OBJECTIVE 3.4: Implement measures to avoid impacts to ~~unauthorized take of~~ SKR in occupied habitat at the March ARB small arms range west of I-215.
  - PROJECT 3.4.1: NRM to develop a management plan for the protection of SKR at the March ARB small arms range west of I-215.
  - PROJECT 3.4.2: NRM to post signs at the March ARB small arms range to clearly identify the presence of a federally listed endangered species.
  - ACTION 3.4.3: NRM to ensure ground-disturbing grounds maintenance activities and new construction activities do not occur within SKR-occupied habitat at the March ARB small arms range to prevent adverse impacts to SKR. NRM to consult informally or formally, as needed, with USFWS should NRM conclude there could be adverse impacts (e.g., from habitat or ground disturbance) to SKR.
  - ACTION 3.4.4: NRM/IPMC to ensure pesticide use, including herbicides, is avoided in, or adjacent to, SKR-occupied habitat at the March ARB small arms range, unless chemicals are safe according to labels and approved for use by the NRM/IPMC.
  - ACTION 3.4.5: NRM/IPMC to manage the control of non-native predators at the March ARB small arms range to minimize predation of SKR using methods described in the IPMP.
- OBJECTIVE 3.5: Maintain the quality of SKR-occupied habitat and adjacent areas at the March ARB small arms range west of I-215.
  - ACTION 3.5.1: NRM to manage vegetation at small arms range to maintain habitat quality to support SKR. Shrub canopy to be removed in SKR-occupied scrub habitat and adjoining 20 ft by manually clipping aboveground portions of all shrubs at intervals to maintain suitable open conditions for SKR. As needed, SKR-occupied grassland habitat to be mowed annually following seed set of annual grasses/forbs. Re-evaluate in abnormally wet years to determine whether a second mowing is necessary. All thatch should be removed following mowing and not left on the ground.

#### ***Listed Fairy Shrimp***

- OBJECTIVE 3.6: Identify and protect vernal pools and seasonally ponded areas on March ARB that may support federally listed fairy shrimp species.
  - PROJECT 3.6.1: NRM to coordinate formal presence/absence surveys for federally listed fairy shrimp in accordance with current USFWS survey protocols every 5 years and prior to any disturbance of vernal pools on March ARB.
  - PROJECT 3.6.2: NRM to establish a protocol for conducting informal surveys and monitoring of fairy shrimp occupancy in vernal pools.
  - PROJECT 3.6.3: NRM to identify occupied vernal pools that should be protected because of the potential presence of federally listed vernal pool species.
  - PROJECT 3.6.4: NRM to coordinate with the USFWS to create a Vernal Pool Management Plan to guide protection efforts for the area and create goals for this habitat on March ARB consistent with the military mission.

**GOAL 4: HABITAT MANAGEMENT – MANAGE SPECIAL HABITATS, PROMOTE POLLINATORS, AND MINIMIZE HABITAT DEGRADATION WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE MILITARY MISSION**

***Wetlands and Drainages***

- OBJECTIVE 4.1: Minimize the operational impact of March ARB missions on seasonal wetlands and drainages.
  - PROJECT 4.1.1: NRM to develop an education plan and/or brochure for key Base personnel that are likely to perform activities that impact jurisdictional waters.
  - ACTION 4.1.2: NRM to ensure March ARB remains in compliance with USACE wetlands regulations, RWQCB regulations, the Porter-Cologne Act, Section 401 of the CWA, and all other applicable wetlands regulations.
  - ACTION 4.1.3: NRM to ensure that current activities on March ARB do not impact vernal pools and jurisdictional waters to the extent feasible and that proper permitting procedures (see Figure 7-5) are followed prior to any encroachment upon these resources.
  - ACTION 4.1.4: NRM to monitor contracted grounds activities with potential to impact vernal pools and jurisdictional waters.
  - ACTION 4.1.5: NRM to ensure vegetative maintenance is restricted within areas identified as vernal pools, wet-meadows, or jurisdictional wetlands during the wet season. If maintenance is required to reduce the BASH threat or maintain airfield drainage critical to infrastructure protection (i.e., airfield under-drains), NRM to ensure maintenance is conducted in accordance with applicable regulations.
  - ACTION 4.1.6: When feasible, NRM to ensure alternative sites or designs are selected for construction projects and training activities that would encroach upon vernal pools or jurisdictional waters to avoid and/or minimize impacts.

***Special-status Species Habitats***

- OBJECTIVE 4.2: Without decreasing readiness proficiency, schedule training requirements/areas in time and place to mitigate impacts to special-status species.
  - ACTION 4.2.1: If military exercises are increased to include bivouac, NRM to ensure the area of training activities is rotated for continual exercises to minimize the impacts to any one area and avoid special-status species and habitats.

***Vernal Pools***

- OBJECTIVE 4.3: Manage vernal pool habitats to support federally or state-listed species, within the constraints of the military mission.
  - ACTION 4.3.1: NRM to prohibit, to the extent practicable, new construction projects or development in habitat with potential to support listed fairy shrimp. A minimum 100-ft buffer between new development and pool watersheds and no ground disturbance on the associated vernal wetland are recommended.
  - ACTION 4.3.2: NRM to prohibit filling or intentional destruction of existing pools that may support federally or state-listed species, to the extent practicable, especially pools along existing roadways outside the airfield where vehicle travel is less restricted.
  - ACTION 4.3.3: NRM/IPMC to ensure all pesticide use is restricted within 50 ft or more of vernal pools (depending on label directions). Avoid applications in drainage ditches that drain to vernal pools, unless otherwise approved by the NRM.
  - ACTION 4.3.4: NRM/IPMC to ensure development or grounds maintenance that would alter hydrology of the vernal pool complex is limited to prevent the following: increased flow velocities

- that could generate scour, decreased flow that could shorten the ponding period, or increased sedimentation that could reach the vernal pools.
- PROJECT 4.3.5: Produce fine-scale maps depicting vernal pools, their associated watersheds, and the direction of water flow.
  - PROJECT 4.3.6: NRM to monitor the distribution and abundance of Parish's flatsedge (*Cyperus parishii*) and any other rare or declining wetland plant species detected on March ARB, collect seed of this species, and re-distribute seeds to similar but unoccupied habitats on the Base as a hedge against future development impacts on the Base or against future drought impacts on this species.
  - OBJECTIVE 4.4: Restore degraded vernal pools that may support federally or state-listed species to maintain habitat for fairy shrimp, as feasible and within the constraints of the military mission.
    - ACTION 4.4.1: NRM to coordinate with grounds maintenance contractor to ensure that trash buildup within drainages from storms is cleaned out by base operations contractor in order to ensure clean watersheds on March ARB.
  - OBJECTIVE 4.5: Maintain the plant species' diversity of March ARB vernal pools.
    - ACTION 4.5.1: NRM to monitor the floristic composition of each vernal pool and seasonally dry wetland feature over the long term to detect trends pointing to potential loss of species diversity within vernal pools and other seasonally dry wetlands.
    - ACTION 4.5.2: NRM to develop procedures for the reintroduction of vernal pool and seasonal wetland plant species using low-impact seeding practices that would be implemented if intervention is needed to restore the species diversity of vernal pools or other ephemeral wetland features on the Base.
    - ACTION 4.5.3: In support of ACTION 4.5.2, above, NRM to develop commercial, NGO-held, or in-house sources of seeds of native plant species of vernal pools, wetland meadows, and other seasonal wetlands from which March ARB can readily procure seeds to implement ACTION 4.5.2.

### **Pollinator Habitats**

- OBJECTIVE 4.6: Where feasible, create, maintain, and enhance habitats to promote use by pollinators.
  - PROJECT 4.6.1: NRM to identify pollinator habitat, such as nesting and overwintering sites, and protect, as feasible.
  - ACTION 4.6.2: NRM to coordinate the planting and maintenance of a diverse array of native flowering plants, with an emphasis on creating habitat for native bees and butterflies. Only plants with lower seed production should be considered for planting on the airfield to avoid attraction of avian species. Consider development of an educational pollinator garden.
  - ACTION 4.6.3: NRM to ensure wildflower blooms are encouraged by avoiding the mowing of active wildflower blooms, as practicable.

### **Habitat Degradation**

- OBJECTIVE 4.7: Reduce/control nutrient and sediment inputs that have the potential to degrade special habitats.
  - ACTION 4.7.1: NRM/IPMC to ensure alternatives to pesticides, such as cultural, physical, and mechanical methods, are used prior to resorting to pesticides. If pesticide use is necessary, the NRM will screen pesticides and select alternatives that are environmentally sensitive to

avoid nutrient loading of adjacent water bodies and impacts to special habitats. Comply with pesticide label directions and restrictions.

- ACTION 4.7.2: NRM to periodically inspect/monitor construction sites to ensure that natural resources are not being adversely affected by construction activities.
- ACTION 4.7.3: NRM to ensure that environmental requirements are in place to prevent impacts to natural resources from water quality or contamination issues.
- OBJECTIVE 4.8: Avoid/minimize impacts to natural resources from March JPA ERP site cleanup activities.
  - ACTION 4.8.1: NRM to ensure any contaminated run-off is managed to protect natural resources.
- OBJECTIVE 4.9: Avoid/minimize impacts to natural resources from releases, accidents, and spills.
  - ACTION 4.9.1: In the event of any releases, accidents, or spills, NRM to assess natural resources for damages/impacts and manage any necessary mitigation.

#### **GOAL 5: PEST MANAGEMENT – CONTROL INVASIVE, PEST, AND NUISANCE SPECIES INHABITING MARCH ARB**

- OBJECTIVE 5.1: Continue to evaluate the presence of nuisance species on the Base and adapt management strategies to effectively manage their populations and eliminate attraction sites.
  - PROJECT 5.1.1: NRM/IPMC to complete revision of the IPMP, which will establish procedures and protocols for the management of nuisance species and annual reports.
  - ACTION 5.1.2: NRM/IPMC to ensure compliance with all federal, state, and DoD requirements when any treatment of non-native, invasive, noxious, or nuisance species is proposed.
  - ACTION 5.1.3: When necessary, NRM/IPMC to conduct NEPA analysis for pesticides used on Base.
  - ACTION 5.1.4: NRM/IPMC to implement procedures established in the IPMP and this INRMP (Section 7.1.3) for the capture, removal, and depredation through lethal control of pest and nuisance species.
  - ACTION 5.1.5: Prior to implementation, NRM/IPMC to assess the control strategies for nuisance species to determine how to best accomplish the control while managing special-status species inhabiting the Base.
  - ACTION 5.1.6: NRM/IPMC to monitor for project-related materials that may temporarily pile up and that would attract nuisance or pest species. If observed, NRM/IPMC to notify appropriate contact to have the piles removed.
  - ACTION 5.1.7: NRM/IPMC to ensure a pest deterrent/control plan is in place to address situations such as perches, roosting areas, and established pest residence or pest traffic areas.

#### ***Birds***

- ACTION 5.1.8: NRM/IPMC to continue to evaluate the presence of birds nesting and/or roosting in aircraft hangers and implement management strategies as needed.
- ACTION 5.1.9: NRM/IPMC to review and revise control methods for bird species inhabiting aircraft hangars, warehouses, garages, and other large buildings in the March ARB IPMP.

**Grounds Maintenance**

- ACTION 5.1.10: If new vegetation associations begin to occur on the installation, NRM/IPMC to evaluate for specific foraging habitat requirements of nuisance species. If needed, implement plans for possible vegetation modification.

**California Ground Squirrels**

- ACTION 5.1.11: NRM/IPMC to continue to conduct routine surveys to determine the locations of California ground squirrel populations on Base and whether management practices are effective at controlling the populations on March ARB.
- ACTION 5.1.12: NRM/IPMC to implement controls and management strategies detailed in the IPMP and Section 7.1.3 of this INRMP to reduce California ground squirrel population densities, especially within the landscaped areas, airfield, and clear zones.
- ACTION 5.1.13: NRM/IPMC to continue to consult and contract with licensed lethal control administrators to perform on-Base California ground squirrel control.
- ACTION 5.1.14: NRM/IPMC to identify and clearly mark burrows occupied by burrowing owls for avoidance prior to implementation of pest control methods that will affect burrows, such as burrow collapse or filling.

**GOAL 6: BASH HAZARDS MANAGEMENT – MANAGE HAZARDS TO REDUCE BASH RISK**

- OBJECTIVE 6.1: Control wildlife and manage habitat to reduce BASH risk.
  - ACTION 6.1.1: NRM/IPMC to ensure vegetation on the airfield is maintained at a height between 7 and 14 inches to reduce attractiveness to wildlife. Vegetation height should be established prior to the breeding season and maintained at appropriate height throughout the breeding season to deter attractants for nuisance species.
  - ACTION 6.1.2: NRM/IPMC to identify and remove and/or modify potential roosting, refuge, and foraging sites to reduce the attraction of birds and other animal species.
  - ACTION 6.1.3: NRM/IPMC to oversee and monitor the removal of bird/animal carcasses from the airfields to avoid attracting vultures and other scavengers.
  - ACTION 6.1.4: NRM/IPMC to ensure any opportunities to control insects that attract hazardous wildlife will be evaluated and the safest measures for the environment will be used to control them if needed. Considerations would include all vectors such as vegetation modifications or possible treatments with insecticides to control mass infestations.
  - PROJECT 6.1.5: NRM/IPMC to monitor and evaluate mass insect infestations to determine long-term management solutions.
  - ACTION 6.1.6: NRM/IPMC to ensure vegetation is clear from runways and taxiways. Methods with the lowest risk and lowest effects will be implemented first. Vegetation should be manually removed from runways and taxiways several times a year and post-emergent herbicide may be applied in approved areas during the highest growing season for maximum efficiency.
  - ACTION 6.1.7: NRM/IPMC to oversee the BASH programs' implementation of the existing avian pyrotechnic or frightening device program to deter birds/wildlife from occupying the area.
  - ACTION 6.1.8: NRM to review, approve, monitor, track, and keep records of USFWS Depredation Permits or permit modifications to allow the take of birds that pose a hazard to human safety and equipment on or around the flight line.
  - ACTION 6.1.9: NRM/IPMC to oversee the existing bird spike implementation program to deter birds from occupying perching locations. This includes regular assessment, monitoring, and

- tracking of existing bird spikes located on the Base. NRM/IPMC to ensure that bird deterrents are maintained.
- ACTION 6.1.10: NRM to manage bare areas within the AMA. Bare areas should be seeded with native plants with the lowest seed production or non-native seed approved by NRM/IPMC within the existing associated vegetation that also has the lowest seed production.
  - ACTION 6.1.11: NRM/IPMC to regularly assess wildlife control strategies for their effect on special-status species inhabiting the Base.
  - ACTION 6.1.12: NRM to ensure that management strategies used by the BASH program are in compliance with laws, regulations, guidelines, and consultations and agreements with wildlife agencies.
- OBJECTIVE 6.2: Ensure that bird remains are shipped to the Smithsonian Institution as designated by USAF policy.
    - ACTION 6.2.1: NRM to oversee that the species of all bird remains discovered on March ARB or on 452 AMW aircraft as a result of aircraft strikes with birds are investigated and identified.
    - ACTION 6.2.2: In accordance with USAF policy (AFI 91-212), NRM to oversee and track that all bird remains encountered are sent to:

**Dr. Carla Dove  
Smithsonian Institution  
Feather Identification Lab  
E600, MRC 116  
P.O. Box 37012  
Washington, DC 20013-7012**

- OBJECTIVE 6.3: Prevent wildlife that pose a security concern to the flight mission from entering BASH threat areas.
  - ACTION 6.3.1: NRM/IPMC to oversee and encourage that the perimeter fence is up to date with security measures and height and that BASH features are installed to prevent large wildlife or grazing animals from entering the airfield and to help control all other ground pests.
  - ACTION 6.3.2: NRM/IPMC to coordinate on all perimeter pest vector locations related to pest deterrence, such as fencing and culvert access, to prevent wildlife from entering the base. All adequate exclusion measures should be considered and installed, as feasible, at all outfall points to prevent the entry of wildlife onto the Base without adversely affecting flow. Vector management should ensure animal access opportunities such as culverts are secure from allowing access onto the Base. These can be secured by such things as culvert grill doors and pest access holes. Perimeter pest vectors should be monitored on a regular basis.
  - ACTION 6.3.3: Coordination for all perimeter pest vector locations may include coordinating with base operating support (BOS) contract to ensure maintenance and repair of all damaged portions of the perimeter fence line to adequately exclude wildlife entry through outfall points.
- OBJECTIVE 6.4: Manage airfield wildlife and habitat to reduce BASH risk.
  - ACTION 6.4.1: NRM to ensure seasonal wetland/vernal pool habitat is managed and maintained without increasing threats to airfield operations.
  - ACTION 6.4.2: NRM to coordinate and manage perch and hide attractants, as feasible, for avian species. Such perch and hide attractants may include erect woody plants (caulescent shrubs and trees) and robust herbaceous vegetation or construction piles. All such perch and hide attractants should be removed/prevented around all vernal pools, drainages, and waterways in order to avoid encouragement of these wetland type habitats from becoming attractants.

- PROJECT 6.4.3: NRM to conduct annual surveys of seasonal wetlands/vernal pools to document active pools and wildlife use and determine the lowest risk and lowest effects way to prevent/minimize attractants.
- ACTION 6.4.4: NRM to monitor burrowing owls on the airfield regularly to determine strike risk and risk mitigation strategies.
- ACTION 6.4.5: NRM/IPMC to survey and evaluate mass insect infestations to determine long-term management solutions.

**GOAL 7: CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT – MINIMIZE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE TO NATURAL RESOURCES**

- OBJECTIVE 7.1: Research and develop management to address effects of climate change.
  - PROJECT 7.1.1: NRM to conduct a review of the potential effects of climate change on natural resources on Base every 5 years. Results of the 5-year review will be compiled into a report that will include any recommended changes to natural resources management strategies based on the findings of the report.

**GOAL 8: DATA MANAGEMENT – MANAGE NATURAL RESOURCE DATA REQUIRED FOR PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

- OBJECTIVE 8.1: Maintain current natural resource data.
  - ACTION 8.1.1: NRM to maintain and update natural resources GIS data layers.
  - ACTION 8.1.2: NRM to maintain and update species lists for March ARB, including flora/fauna inventories, EDRR weed list, and approved plant list for new projects or landscaping.
  - ACTION 8.1.3: NRM to maintain compliance calendar.
  - ACTION 8.1.4: NRM to update and maintain current applicable laws and regulations, including DoDIs, AFMANs, and AFIs. Updates to be incorporated into annual INRMP and IPMP reviews and updates.
  - ACTION 8.1.5: NRM to update and maintain the pest management, cultural resources management, natural resource management, and species and habitat folders that are used to guide the natural resources management program.
  - ACTION 8.1.6: NRM to ensure the BASH Plan is current and coordinated with the NRM/IPMC.
  - ACTION 8.1.7: NRM to annually review and update as necessary all plans related to natural resources.
- OBJECTIVE 8.2: Efficiently manage INRMP record keeping and reporting.
  - PROJECT 8.2.1: NRM to develop an INRMP records management system.



## Appendix B

### Coordination Letters and Responses

## General Scoping Letter



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

July 8, 2020

Douglas S. Waters, Jr., P.E.  
Chief Environmental Flight  
452 Mission Support Group  
March ARB, CA 92518

Dear Interested Party,

The March Air Reserve Base (ARB) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA will analyze the potential impacts and environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March ARB. The need for the Proposed Action is described in the attached final Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA) (Attachment 1).

This letter and the attached DOPAA are being sent as part of the scoping process for the 2020 INRMP EA. The intent of the EA is to address the potential environmental impacts of implementing the March ARB 2020 INRMP.

We are sending the DOPAA for your input, so that we can address and analyze the issues of concern in the EA. We respectfully request your review and comments in accordance with Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." Please provide written comments or information regarding the action at your earliest convenience, but no later than 30 days from the receipt of this memorandum. Also enclosed is a listing of the federal, state, and local agencies that have been contacted (Attachment 2). If there are any additional agencies you think should review and comment on the proposal, please provide us with the appropriate contact information so that we may include them in our scoping efforts.

Please let us know if your agency is interested in receiving a link to the draft EA, which is anticipated to be available for government and public comment in May 2020.

Written comments should be submitted to: March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Chris Wagner, Natural Resource Manager, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518; or by email at: [christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil). Thank you for your assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas S. Waters, Jr.", is positioned above the typed name and title.

DOUGLAS S WATERS, JR., PE  
Chief Engineering Flight/Deputy BCE

Two Attachments:

1. DOPAA
2. Distribution List

Attachment 1  
DOPAA

The DOPAA (Sections 1 and 2 of the Environmental Assessment) from March 2020 was provided to the stakeholders listed on the stakeholder list in Attachment 2 of this General Scoping Letter.

Attachment 2  
Distribution List

**The following stakeholders were notified of the Proposed Action and invited to comment:**

Mr. Mike Stoker, Regional Administrator  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** Southwest Office  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 947-8000

Mr. Stewart Mendel, Field Supervisor  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
(760) 431-9440

Ms. Nancy Ferguson, USFWS Sikes Act Coordinator  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
(760) 431-9440

Col. Aaron Barta, Commander  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
Los Angeles District  
915 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 980  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(213) 452-3333

Ms. Kate Gordon, OPR Director  
**State of California Clearinghouse Governor's Office**  
PO Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812  
(916) 445-5496

Ms. Julianne Polanco, **State Historic Preservation Officer**  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 445-7000

Mr. Charlton H. Bonham, Director  
**California Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
1416 9th Street, 12th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 445-0411

Mr. Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary for **Environmental Protection**  
**California Environmental Protection Agency**  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 323-2514

Ms. Hope A. Smythe, Executive Officer  
**Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board**  
3737 Main Street, Suite 500  
Riverside, CA 92501-3339  
(951) 782-4130

Mr. Derrick Alatorre, Deputy Executive Officer  
**South Coast Air Quality Management District**  
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
(909) 396-2000

Mr. Brad Poiriez Executive Director  
**Mojave Air Quality Management District**  
14306 Park Avenue  
Victorville, CA 92392  
(760) 245-1661

Mr. Rick Bishop, Executive Director **Western Riverside Council of Governments**  
4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor, MS1032  
Riverside, CA 92501-3609  
(951) 955-7985

Ms. Patty Nevins, Community Development Director  
**City of Moreno Valley Community Development Department**  
14177 Frederick Street  
Moreno Valley, CA 92552  
(951) 413-3214

Dr. Danielle Kelly, Executive Director  
**March Joint Powers Authority**  
23555 Meyer Drive  
Riverside, CA 92518  
(951) 656-7000

Mr. C. Eric Ray, Airport Director  
**Southern California Logistics Airport**  
18374 Phantom Road  
Victorville, CA 92324  
(760) 243-1900

Mr. Pat Conatser, Airport Manager  
**Perris Valley Airport**  
2091 Goetz Road  
Perris, CA 92570  
(951) 943-9673

Mr. Barry Davis, Manager  
**Southern California TRACON**  
9175 Kearny Villa Road  
San Diego, CA 92126  
(858) 537-5800

Mr. Ron Beckerdite, Director  
**Federal Aviation Administration**  
**Western Service Center Landmark Building**  
1601 E Valley Road  
Renton, WA 98057  
(425) 203-4000



Mr. Rusty Bailey, Mayor  
City of Riverside  
3900 Main St.  
Riverside, CA 92501  
(951) 826-5551

Mr. Michael M. Vargas, Mayor  
City of Perris  
101 N. D Street  
Perris, CA 92570  
(951) 943-4903

**The Air Force invited the following tribal government representatives to enter into consultations regarding the EA:**

Patricia Garcia-Plotkin, Director of Historic Preservation  
**Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians**  
5401 Dinah Shore Road  
Palm Springs, CA 92264  
(760) 699-6907  
Email: [acbi-thpo@aquacaliente.net](mailto:acbi-thpo@aquacaliente.net)

Jeff Grubbe, Tribal Chairman  
**Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians**  
5401 Dinah Shore Road  
Palm Springs, CA 92264  
(760) 699-6920  
Email assistant Ms. Laura Aviles, [laviles@aquacaliente.net](mailto:laviles@aquacaliente.net)

William J. Pink, Tribal Chairman  
**Agua Caliente Cupeño Tribe**  
48310 Pechanga Road  
Temecula, CA 92592  
(909) 936-1216  
Email: [wjpink@hotmail.com](mailto:wjpink@hotmail.com)

Doug Welmas Tribal Chairman  
**Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, California**  
84-245 Indio Sprints Parkway  
Indio, CA 92203  
(760) 342-2593

Judy Stapp, Director of Cultural Affairs  
**Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, California**  
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Indio, CA 92203  
(760) 342-2593

Bobby Ray Esparza, Cultural Director  
**Cahuilla Band of Indians**  
52701 Highway 371  
Anza, CA 92539  
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Email: [culturaldirector@cahuilla.net](mailto:culturaldirector@cahuilla.net)

Daniel Salgado, Tribal Chairman  
**Cahuilla Band of Indians**  
52701 Highway 371  
Anza, CA 92539  
(951) 763-5549, ext. 109  
Email: [chairman@cahuilla.net](mailto:chairman@cahuilla.net)

Denisa Torres, Cultural Heritage Program  
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Banning, CA 92220  
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Robert Martin, Tribal Chairman  
**Morongo Band of Mission Indians**  
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Banning, CA 92220  
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Travis Armstrong, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
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Robert Smith, Tribal Chairman  
**Pala Band of Mission Indians**  
Environmental Office, Administration  
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(760) 891-3500

Mark Macarro, Tribal Chairman  
**Pechanga Temecula Band of Luiseño Mission Indians**  
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Temecula, CA 92593  
(951) 770-6313  
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Molly Escobar, Cultural Resources Manager  
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Lynn Valbuena, Tribal Chairman  
**San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**  
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Scott Cozart, Tribal Chairman  
**Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians**  
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Anthony Madrigal, Historic Preservation Officer  
**Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians**  
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Coachella, CA 92236  
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Darrell Mike, Tribal Chairman  
**Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians**  
46200 Harrison Place  
Coachella, CA 92236  
(760) 863-5108  
Email Tribal Executive Assistant Leanna Thomas, [lthomas@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov](mailto:lthomas@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov)

Tribal Letter



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

24 August 2020

David Palmer, USAF  
Environmental Flight Chief  
425 MSG/CEV  
610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403  
March ARB, CA 92518

Mr. William J. Pink  
Tribal Chairman  
Agua Caliente Cupeño Tribe  
48310 Pechanga Road  
Temecula, CA 92592

Dear Mr. Pink

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and March Air Reserve Base (ARB) are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA will analyze the potential impacts and environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March ARB in Riverside County, California (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The EA will be prepared in accordance with the provisions of *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 32, Part 989, and 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508 (Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations).

This letter is being sent as part of the scoping process for the 2020 INRMP EA. The Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives is available for review upon request. The draft EA is anticipated to be available for government and public comment in October 2020.

Please provide written comments or information regarding the action at your earliest convenience, but no later than 30 days from the receipt of this letter. Written comments should be submitted to: March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Chris Wagner, Natural Resource Manager, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518, or by email at [christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil).

Additionally, please let us know if your agency is interested in receiving a link to the draft EA when it becomes available. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely

**PALMER.DAVID**  
**.G.1387648808**

Digitally signed by  
PALMER.DAVID.G.1387648808  
Date: 2020.08.24 12:08:16  
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DAVID PALMER  
Environmental Flight Chief

Attachment:  
Figures









Legend

 March Air Reserve Base

Source:  
1) Google Earth Pro

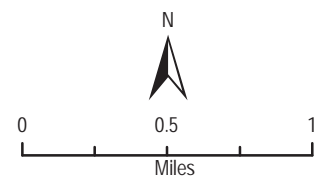


Figure 1-2  
Location Map  
March Air Reserve Base  
INRMP Environmental Assessment  
2020

## State Historic Preservation Officer Letter



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

10 September 2020

**MEMORANDUM FOR CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**ATTENTION: ED CARROLL**

**USAF SHPO Contact**

**1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100**

**Sacramento, CA 95816**

**FROM: 425 MSG/CEV**

**610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403**

**March ARB, CA 92518**

**SUBJECT: Implementation of the 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, March Air Reserve Base, California**

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and March Air Reserve Base (ARB) are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA will analyze the potential impacts and environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March ARB in Riverside County, California (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The EA will evaluate potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives in accordance with the provisions of *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Title 32, Part 989, and 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508 (Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations). We are seeking concurrence from your office regarding the Proposed Action, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION.** March ARB proposes to fully implement the 2020 INRMP as written and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and March ARB Command, which is incorporated by reference. The Proposed Action would allow March ARB to continue several management programs currently in place, implement modified management strategies determined necessary to manage natural resources effectively, and carry out the set of resource-specific projects developed in the INRMP to meet the identified natural resource management goals and objectives. The Proposed Action would enable U.S. Air Force (USAF) personnel to effectively manage the use and condition of natural resources on March ARB. Implementation of the Proposed Action would support the USAF's continuing responsibility to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission while practicing sound resource stewardship and complying with environmental policies and regulations. The Proposed Action supports an ecosystem approach and includes natural resource goals, objectives, and projects to be undertaken on March ARB. The Proposed Action focuses on a 5-year implementation period. This period will become effective upon the date of the last signatory and shall continue in full force for a period of 5 years. Additional environmental analysis might be required as new management strategies are developed during annual reviews of the INRMP and over the long term (i.e., beyond 5 years). The INRMP will be reviewed and



updated annually and will be revised and updated, as necessary, at the end of the 5-year implementation period.

**AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS.** The Area of Potential Effects (APE), which considers both direct and indirect project impacts, includes all property occupied by March ARB (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2).

**PREVIOUSLY RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES.** Based on March ARB's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) (March ARB, 2011), the entirety of March ARB has been surveyed for surface archaeological resources. No known prehistoric, sacred sites, or Traditional Cultural Properties are located within the current boundaries of March ARB. Additionally, consultation with Native American tribes was initiated in February 2020 and no resources or concerns were identified during consultation.

- **Archaeological Resources.** To date, 57 archaeological investigations have been conducted for March ARB. Six archaeological investigations have been conducted within the current boundaries of March ARB. As such, no National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed, -eligible, or potentially eligible archaeological resources have been identified within the current boundaries of the installation (March ARB, 2011).
- **Architectural Resources.** March ARB has been fully surveyed for architectural resources by a number of cultural resources studies. The March Field Historic District (MFHD) was listed in the NRHP in 1994 and represents the only NRHP-listed historic property within the current boundaries of March ARB.

**DRAFT ICRMP UPDATE.** Currently, March ARB is preparing an update to the 2011 ICRMP, and has completed additional field surveys for archaeological and architectural resources located within the boundaries of March ARB. The draft ICRMP Update is undergoing review by AFRC and will be submitted to your office for review and comment. The surveys for the draft ICRMP Update identified one previously unrecorded historic-period archaeological isolate and identified one building, Building 417, as individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. The draft ICRMP Update also re-validated the significance of the NRHP-listed MFHD.

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.** In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and to ensure the effects of the Proposed Action on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP are accounted for, the AFRC and March ARB are initiating Section 106 consultation with your office pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.3.

No significant archaeological resources are located within the APE. Two significant architectural resources (MFHD and Building 417) are located within the APE.

No Traditional Cultural Properties, sacred sites, or sites of religious or cultural importance have been identified in the APE or its environs. No tribal resources or concerns were identified during consultation with Native American tribes.

The implementation of the Proposed Action will not directly or indirectly impact historic properties within the APE; therefore, we recommend a finding of **no historic properties affected** for this undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR Section 800.4(d).

If any unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources or “cultural items” subject to the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) occur during the implementation of natural resource management activities, work would be temporarily halted at the discovery site, the March ARB Installation Cultural Resource Manager would be contacted, and all appropriate measures would be implemented to avoid disturbance, as detailed in the ICRMP. March ARB would immediately inform you of the discovery and invite you to consult on the procedures to minimize adverse effects and/or render disposition of NAGPRA cultural items.

We respectfully request that you provide concurrence on the findings for this undertaking within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Please address questions or comments to March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Douglas Waters, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518, or by email at [douglas.waters.2@us.af.mil](mailto:douglas.waters.2@us.af.mil). Thank you for your assistance.

PALMER.DAVID  
.G.1387648808

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DAVID G PALMER  
Chief Environmental Flight

Attachment:  
Figures

## Attachment Figures





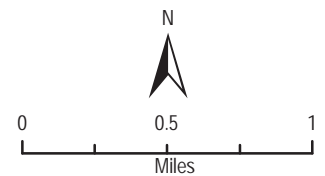


**Legend**

 March Air Reserve Base

Source:

1) Google Earth Pro



**Figure 1-2**  
**Location Map**  
 March Air Reserve Base  
 INRMP Environmental Assessment  
 2020



Tribal Letters

The two figures attached to the first tribal letter were also attached to each of the subsequent tribal letters.



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

Brigadier General Melissa A. Coburn, USAF  
Commander  
452d Air Mobility Wing  
2145 Graeber Street, Suite 117  
March ARB, CA 92518-1667

Mr. Jeff Grubbe  
Tribal Chairman  
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
5401 Dinah Shore Rd  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Dear Mr. Grubbe

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and March Air Reserve Base (ARB) are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA will analyze the potential impacts and environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the 2021 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March ARB in Riverside County, California (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The EA will evaluate potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives in accordance with the provisions of *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 32, Part 989, and 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508 (Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations). We invite your tribe to consult pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

March ARB proposes to fully implement the 2020 INRMP as written and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and March ARB Command, which is incorporated by reference. The Proposed Action would allow March ARB to continue several management programs currently in place, implement modified management strategies determined necessary to manage natural resources effectively, and carry out the set of resource-specific management projects developed in the INRMP to meet the identified natural resource management goals and objectives. The Proposed Action would enable U.S. Air Force (USAF) personnel to effectively manage the use and condition of natural resources on March ARB. Implementation of the Proposed Action would support the USAF's continuing responsibility to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission while practicing sound resource stewardship and complying with environmental policies and regulations. The Proposed Action supports an ecosystem approach and includes natural resource goals, objectives, and projects to be undertaken at March ARB. The Proposed Action focuses on a 5-year implementation period. This period will become effective upon the date of the last signatory and shall continue in full force for a period of 5 years. Additional environmental analysis might be required as new management strategies are developed during annual reviews

of the INRMP and over the long term (i.e., beyond 5 years). The INRMP will be reviewed and updated annually and will be revised and updated, as necessary, at the end of the 5-year implementation period.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE), which considers both direct and indirect project impacts, includes all property occupied by March ARB (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2).

Based on March ARB's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) (March ARB, 2011), the entirety of March ARB has been surveyed for surface archaeological resources. No known prehistoric, sacred sites, or Traditional Cultural Properties are located within the current boundaries of March ARB.

- Archaeological Resources. To date, 57 archaeological investigations have been conducted for March ARB. Six archaeological investigations have been conducted within the current boundaries of March ARB. As such, no National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed, -eligible, or potentially eligible archaeological resources have been identified within the current boundaries of the installation (March ARB, 2011).
- Architectural Resources. March ARB has been fully surveyed for architectural resources by a number of cultural resources studies. The March Field Historic District (MFHD) was listed in the NRHP in 1994 and represents the only NRHP-listed historic property within the current boundaries of March ARB.

March ARB prepared an update to the 2011 ICRMP, and completed additional field surveys for archaeological and architectural resources located within the boundaries of March ARB. The draft ICRMP Update was submitted to your office for review and comment in January 2021. The surveys for the draft ICRMP Update identified one previously unrecorded historic-period archaeological isolate and identified one building, Building 417, as individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. The draft ICRMP Update also re-validated the significance of the NRHP-listed MFHD, expanded the historic district's boundaries, and updated the contributing and non-contributing resources of the district.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and to ensure the effects of the Proposed Action on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP are accounted for, the AFRC and March ARB are initiating Section 106 consultation with your tribe pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.2.

No significant archaeological resources are located within the APE. Two significant architectural resources (MFHD and Building 417) are located within the APE.

No Traditional Cultural Properties, sacred sites, or sites of religious or cultural importance have been identified in the APE or its environs. If your tribe has any special knowledge of such resources, please provide specific comments so that we can take measures to ensure that the project will avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects on such properties.

If any unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources or "cultural items" subject to the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) occur

during the implementation of natural resource management activities, work would be temporarily halted at the discovery site, the March ARB Installation Cultural Resource Manager would be contacted, and all appropriate measures would be implemented to avoid disturbance, as detailed in the ICRMP. March ARB would immediately inform you of the discovery and invite you to consult on the procedures to minimize adverse effects and/or render disposition of NAGPRA cultural items.

We would like to finalize the INRMP soon, and we ask that you correspond with us with your concerns at your earliest convenience. If possible, please provide any information within 30 days of receipt of this letter so that we are able to fully consider your response. Please address questions or comments to March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Chris Wagner, Natural Resource Manager, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518 or by email at [christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil). Thank you for your assistance.

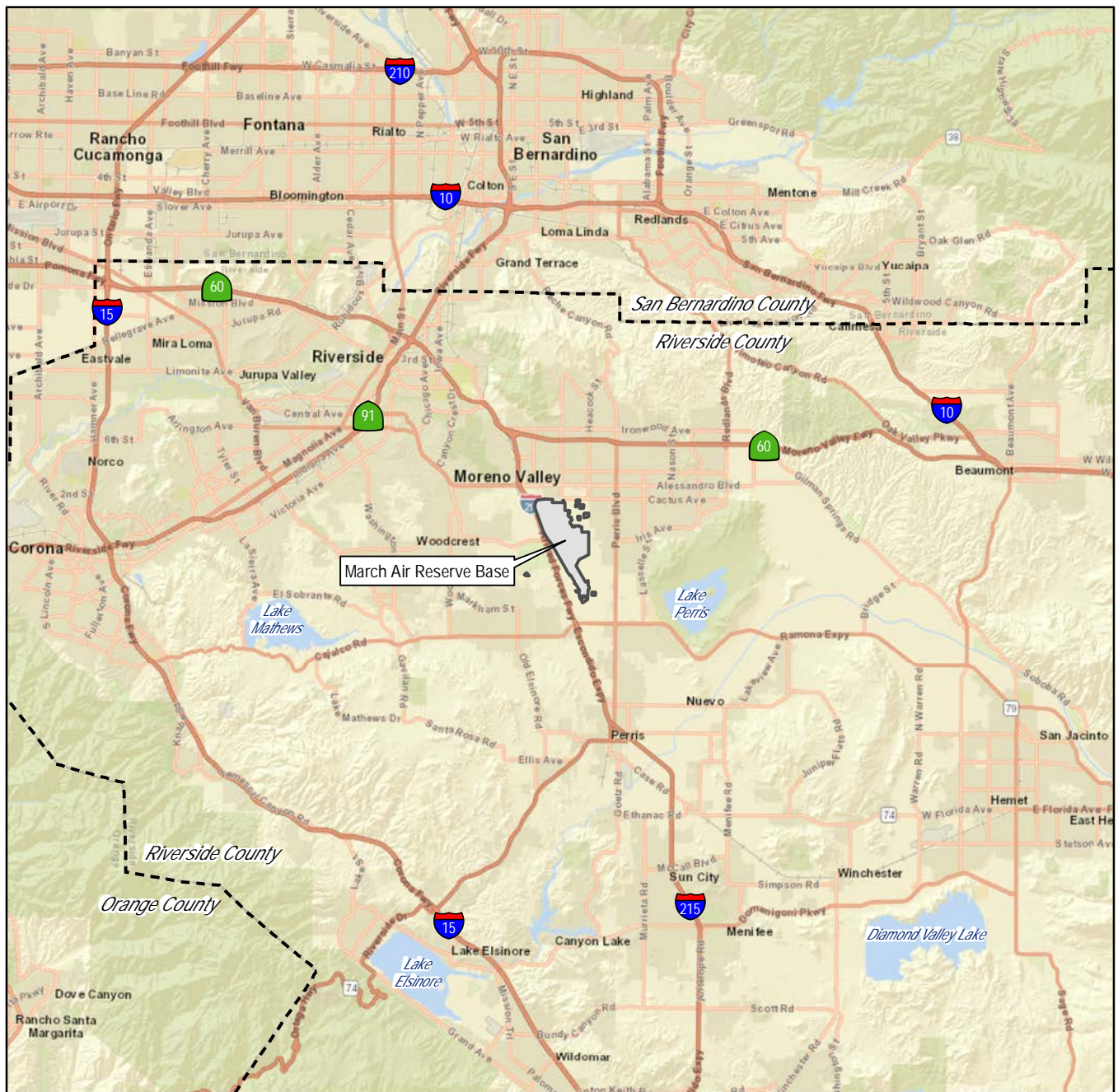
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Melissa A. Coburn" with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

MELISSA A. COBURN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 452d Air Mobility Wing

Attachment:  
Figures





#### Legend

 March Air Reserve Base

Source:

1) Esri World Street Map

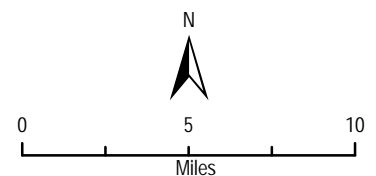
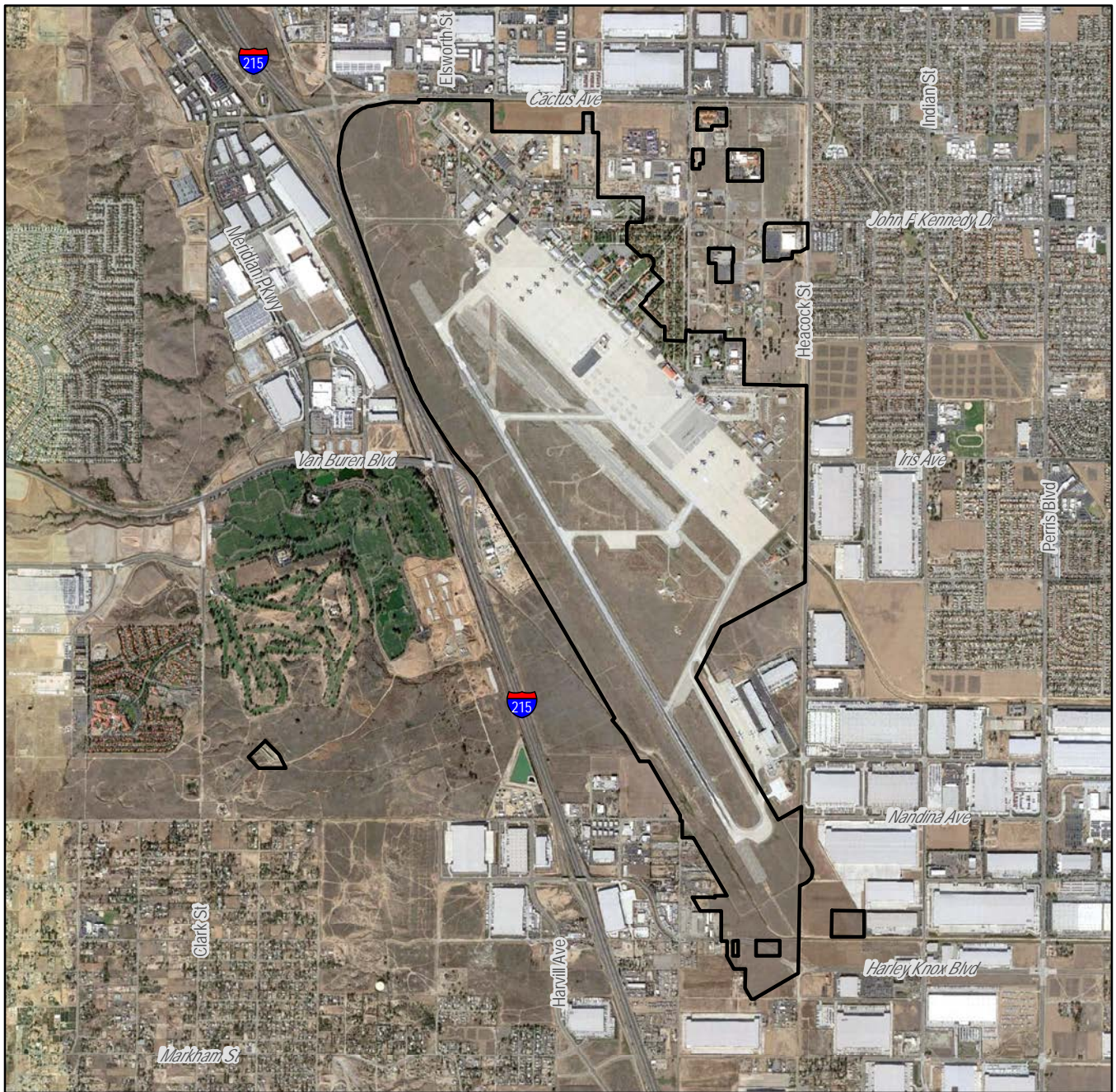


Figure 1-1  
Regional Vicinity Map  
March Air Reserve Base  
INRMP Environmental Assessment  
2020





Legend

 March Air Reserve Base

Source:

1) Google Earth Pro

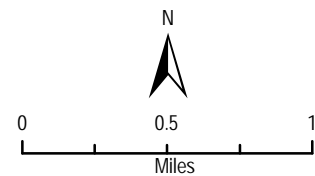


Figure 1-2  
Location Map  
March Air Reserve Base  
INRMP Environmental Assessment  
2020



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

Brigadier General Melissa A. Coburn, USAF  
Commander  
452d Air Mobility Wing  
2145 Graeber Street, Suite 117  
March ARB, CA 92518-1667

Mr. Doug Welmas  
Tribal Chairman  
Cabazon Band Of Mission Indians, California  
84-245 Indio Sprints Parkway  
Indio, CA 92203

Dear Mr. Welmas

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and March Air Reserve Base (ARB) are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA will analyze the potential impacts and environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March ARB in Riverside County, California (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The EA will evaluate potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives in accordance with the provisions of *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 32, Part 989, and 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508 (Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations). We invite your tribe to consult pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

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We would like to finalize the INRMP soon, and we ask that you correspond with us with your concerns at your earliest convenience. If possible, please provide any information within 30 days of receipt of this letter so that we are able to fully consider your response. Please address questions or comments to March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Chris Wagner, Natural Resource Manager, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518 or by email at [christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely



MELISSA A. COBURN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 452d Air Mobility Wing

Attachment:  
Figures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

Brigadier General Melissa A. Coburn, USAF  
Commander  
452d Air Mobility Wing  
2145 Graeber Street, Suite 117  
March ARB, CA 92518-1667

Mr. Daniel Salgado  
Tribal Chairman  
Cahuilla Band of Indians  
52701 Highway 371  
Anza, CA 92539

Dear Mr. Salgado

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and March Air Reserve Base (ARB) are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA will analyze the potential impacts and environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March ARB in Riverside County, California (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The EA will evaluate potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives in accordance with the provisions of *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 32, Part 989, and 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508 (Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations). We invite your tribe to consult pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

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of the INRMP and over the long term (i.e., beyond 5 years). The INRMP will be reviewed and updated annually and will be revised and updated, as necessary, at the end of the 5-year implementation period.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE), which considers both direct and indirect project impacts, includes all property occupied by March ARB (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2).

Based on March ARB's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) (March ARB, 2011), the entirety of March ARB has been surveyed for surface archaeological resources. No known prehistoric, sacred sites, or Traditional Cultural Properties are located within the current boundaries of March ARB.

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- Architectural Resources. March ARB has been fully surveyed for architectural resources by a number of cultural resources studies. The March Field Historic District (MFHD) was listed in the NRHP in 1994 and represents the only NRHP-listed historic property within the current boundaries of March ARB.

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In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and to ensure the effects of the Proposed Action on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP are accounted for, the AFRC and March ARB are initiating Section 106 consultation with your tribe pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.2.

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We would like to finalize the INRMP soon, and we ask that you correspond with us with your concerns at your earliest convenience. If possible, please provide any information within 30 days of receipt of this letter so that we are able to fully consider your response. Please address questions or comments to March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Chris Wagner, Natural Resource Manager, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518 or by email at [christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Melissa A. Coburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MELISSA A. COBURN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 452d Air Mobility Wing

Attachment:  
Figures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

Brigadier General Melissa A. Coburn, USAF  
Commander  
452d Air Mobility Wing  
2145 Graeber Street, Suite 117  
March ARB, CA 92518-1667

Mr. Robert Martin  
Tribal Chairman  
Morongo Band of Mission Indians  
12700 Pumarra Road  
Banning, CA 92220

Dear Mr. Martin

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and March Air Reserve Base (ARB) are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA will analyze the potential impacts and environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March ARB in Riverside County, California (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The EA will evaluate potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives in accordance with the provisions of *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 32, Part 989, and 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508 (Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations). We invite your tribe to consult pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

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MELISSA A. COBURN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 452d Air Mobility Wing

Attachment:  
Figures





**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

Brigadier General Melissa A. Coburn, USAF  
Commander  
452d Air Mobility Wing  
2145 Graeber Street, Suite 117  
March ARB, CA 92518-1667

Mr. Robert Smith  
Tribal Chairman  
Pala Band of Mission Indians  
Environmental Office, Administration  
35008 Pala Temecula Road, PMB50  
Pala, CA 92059

Dear Mr. Smith

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and March Air Reserve Base (ARB) are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA will analyze the potential impacts and environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March ARB in Riverside County, California (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The EA will evaluate potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives in accordance with the provisions of *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 32, Part 989, and 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508 (Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations). We invite your tribe to consult pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

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MELISSA A. COBURN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 452d Air Mobility Wing

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

Brigadier General Melissa A. Coburn, USAF  
Commander  
452d Air Mobility Wing  
2145 Graeber Street, Suite 117  
March ARB, CA 92518-1667

Mr. Mark Macarro  
Tribal Chairman  
Pechanga Temecula Band of Luiseño Mission Indians  
PO Box 1477  
Temecula, CA 92593

Dear Mr. Macarro

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MELISSA A. COBURN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 452d Air Mobility Wing

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

Brigadier General Melissa A. Coburn, USAF  
Commander  
452d Air Mobility Wing  
2145 Graeber Street, Suite 117  
March ARB, CA 92518-1667

Mr. Joseph Hamilton  
Tribal Chairman  
Ramona Band of Cahuilla  
PO Box 391670  
Anza, CA 92539

Dear Mr. Hamilton

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MELISSA A. COBURN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 452d Air Mobility Wing

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Figures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

Brigadier General Melissa A. Coburn, USAF  
Commander  
452d Air Mobility Wing  
2145 Graeber Street, Suite 117  
March ARB, CA 92518-1667

Ms. Lynn Valbuena  
Tribal Chairman  
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians  
26569 Community Center Drive  
Highland, CA 92346

Dear Ms. Valbuena

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- Architectural Resources. March ARB has been fully surveyed for architectural resources by a number of cultural resources studies. The March Field Historic District (MFHD) was listed in the NRHP in 1994 and represents the only NRHP-listed historic property within the current boundaries of March ARB.

March ARB prepared an update to the 2011 ICRMP, and completed additional field surveys for archaeological and architectural resources located within the boundaries of March ARB. The draft ICRMP Update was submitted to your office for review and comment in January 2021. The surveys for the draft ICRMP Update identified one previously unrecorded historic-period archaeological isolate and identified one building, Building 417, as individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. The draft ICRMP Update also re-validated the significance of the NRHP-listed MFHD, expanded the historic district's boundaries, and updated the contributing and non-contributing resources of the district.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and to ensure the effects of the Proposed Action on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP are accounted for, the AFRC and March ARB are initiating Section 106 consultation with your tribe pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.2.

No significant archaeological resources are located within the APE. Two significant architectural resources (MFHD and Building 417) are located within the APE.

No Traditional Cultural Properties, sacred sites, or sites of religious or cultural importance have been identified in the APE or its environs. If your tribe has any special knowledge of such resources, please provide specific comments so that we can take measures to ensure that the project will avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects on such properties.

If any unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources or "cultural items" subject to the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) occur

during the implementation of natural resource management activities, work would be temporarily halted at the discovery site, the March ARB Installation Cultural Resource Manager would be contacted, and all appropriate measures would be implemented to avoid disturbance, as detailed in the ICRMP. March ARB would immediately inform you of the discovery and invite you to consult on the procedures to minimize adverse effects and/or render disposition of NAGPRA cultural items.

We would like to finalize the INRMP soon, and we ask that you correspond with us with your concerns at your earliest convenience. If possible, please provide any information within 30 days of receipt of this letter so that we are able to fully consider your response. Please address questions or comments to March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Chris Wagner, Natural Resource Manager, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518 or by email at [christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa A. Coburn" followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

MELISSA A. COBURN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 452d Air Mobility Wing

Attachment:  
Figures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

Brigadier General Melissa A. Coburn, USAF  
Commander  
452d Air Mobility Wing  
2145 Graeber Street, Suite 117  
March ARB, CA 92518-1667

Mr. Steven Estrada  
Tribal Chairman  
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians  
PO Box 391820  
Anza, CA 92539

Dear Mr. Estrada

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and March Air Reserve Base (ARB) are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA will analyze the potential impacts and environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March ARB in Riverside County, California (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The EA will evaluate potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives in accordance with the provisions of *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 32, Part 989, and 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508 (Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations). We invite your tribe to consult pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

March ARB proposes to fully implement the 2020 INRMP as written and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and March ARB Command, which is incorporated by reference. The Proposed Action would allow March ARB to continue several management programs currently in place, implement modified management strategies determined necessary to manage natural resources effectively, and carry out the set of resource-specific management projects developed in the INRMP to meet the identified natural resource management goals and objectives. The Proposed Action would enable U.S. Air Force (USAF) personnel to effectively manage the use and condition of natural resources on March ARB. Implementation of the Proposed Action would support the USAF's continuing responsibility to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission while practicing sound resource stewardship and complying with environmental policies and regulations. The Proposed Action supports an ecosystem approach and includes natural resource goals, objectives, and projects to be undertaken at March ARB. The Proposed Action focuses on a 5-year implementation period. This period will become effective upon the date of the last signatory and shall continue in full force for a period of 5 years. Additional environmental analysis might be required as new management strategies are developed during annual reviews

of the INRMP and over the long term (i.e., beyond 5 years). The INRMP will be reviewed and updated annually and will be revised and updated, as necessary, at the end of the 5-year implementation period.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE), which considers both direct and indirect project impacts, includes all property occupied by March ARB (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2).

Based on March ARB's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) (March ARB, 2011), the entirety of March ARB has been surveyed for surface archaeological resources. No known prehistoric, sacred sites, or Traditional Cultural Properties are located within the current boundaries of March ARB.

- Archaeological Resources. To date, 57 archaeological investigations have been conducted for March ARB. Six archaeological investigations have been conducted within the current boundaries of March ARB. As such, no National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed, -eligible, or potentially eligible archaeological resources have been identified within the current boundaries of the installation (March ARB, 2011).
- Architectural Resources. March ARB has been fully surveyed for architectural resources by a number of cultural resources studies. The March Field Historic District (MFHD) was listed in the NRHP in 1994 and represents the only NRHP-listed historic property within the current boundaries of March ARB.

March ARB prepared an update to the 2011 ICRMP, and completed additional field surveys for archaeological and architectural resources located within the boundaries of March ARB. The draft ICRMP Update was submitted to your office for review and comment in January 2021. The surveys for the draft ICRMP Update identified one previously unrecorded historic-period archaeological isolate and identified one building, Building 417, as individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. The draft ICRMP Update also re-validated the significance of the NRHP-listed MFHD, expanded the historic district's boundaries, and updated the contributing and non-contributing resources of the district.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and to ensure the effects of the Proposed Action on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP are accounted for, the AFRC and March ARB are initiating Section 106 consultation with your tribe pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.2.

No significant archaeological resources are located within the APE. Two significant architectural resources (MFHD and Building 417) are located within the APE.

No Traditional Cultural Properties, sacred sites, or sites of religious or cultural importance have been identified in the APE or its environs. If your tribe has any special knowledge of such resources, please provide specific comments so that we can take measures to ensure that the project will avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects on such properties.

If any unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources or "cultural items" subject to the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) occur



during the implementation of natural resource management activities, work would be temporarily halted at the discovery site, the March ARB Installation Cultural Resource Manager would be contacted, and all appropriate measures would be implemented to avoid disturbance, as detailed in the ICRMP. March ARB would immediately inform you of the discovery and invite you to consult on the procedures to minimize adverse effects and/or render disposition of NAGPRA cultural items.

We would like to finalize the INRMP soon, and we ask that you correspond with us with your concerns at your earliest convenience. If possible, please provide any information within 30 days of receipt of this letter so that we are able to fully consider your response. Please address questions or comments to March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Chris Wagner, Natural Resource Manager, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518 or by email at [christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa A. Coburn" followed by a horizontal flourish.

MELISSA A. COBURN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 452d Air Mobility Wing

Attachment:  
Figures





**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

Brigadier General Melissa A. Coburn, USAF  
Commander  
452d Air Mobility Wing  
2145 Graeber Street, Suite 117  
March ARB, CA 92518-1667

Mr. Scott Cozart  
Tribal Chairman  
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians  
PO Box 487  
San Jacinto, CA 92581

Dear Mr. Cozart

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and March Air Reserve Base (ARB) are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA will analyze the potential impacts and environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March ARB in Riverside County, California (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The EA will evaluate potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives in accordance with the provisions of *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 32, Part 989, and 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508 (Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations). We invite your tribe to consult pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

March ARB proposes to fully implement the 2020 INRMP as written and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and March ARB Command, which is incorporated by reference. The Proposed Action would allow March ARB to continue several management programs currently in place, implement modified management strategies determined necessary to manage natural resources effectively, and carry out the set of resource-specific management projects developed in the INRMP to meet the identified natural resource management goals and objectives. The Proposed Action would enable U.S. Air Force (USAF) personnel to effectively manage the use and condition of natural resources on March ARB. Implementation of the Proposed Action would support the USAF's continuing responsibility to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission while practicing sound resource stewardship and complying with environmental policies and regulations. The Proposed Action supports an ecosystem approach and includes natural resource goals, objectives, and projects to be undertaken at March ARB. The Proposed Action focuses on a 5-year implementation period. This period will become effective upon the date of the last signatory and shall continue in full force for a period of 5 years. Additional environmental

analysis might be required as new management strategies are developed during annual reviews of the INRMP and over the long term (i.e., beyond 5 years). The INRMP will be reviewed and updated annually and will be revised and updated, as necessary, at the end of the 5-year implementation period.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE), which considers both direct and indirect project impacts, includes all property occupied by March ARB (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2).

Based on March ARB's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) (March ARB, 2011), the entirety of March ARB has been surveyed for surface archaeological resources. No known prehistoric, sacred sites, or Traditional Cultural Properties are located within the current boundaries of March ARB.

- Archaeological Resources. To date, 57 archaeological investigations have been conducted for March ARB. Six archaeological investigations have been conducted within the current boundaries of March ARB. As such, no National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed, -eligible, or potentially eligible archaeological resources have been identified within the current boundaries of the installation (March ARB, 2011).
- Architectural Resources. March ARB has been fully surveyed for architectural resources by a number of cultural resources studies. The March Field Historic District (MFHD) was listed in the NRHP in 1994 and represents the only NRHP-listed historic property within the current boundaries of March ARB.

March ARB prepared an update to the 2011 ICRMP, and completed additional field surveys for archaeological and architectural resources located within the boundaries of March ARB. The draft ICRMP Update was submitted to your office for review and comment in January 2021. The surveys for the draft ICRMP Update identified one previously unrecorded historic-period archaeological isolate and identified one building, Building 417, as individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. The draft ICRMP Update also re-validated the significance of the NRHP-listed MFHD, expanded the historic district's boundaries, and updated the contributing and non-contributing resources of the district.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and to ensure the effects of the Proposed Action on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP are accounted for, the AFRC and March ARB are initiating Section 106 consultation with your tribe pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.2.

No significant archaeological resources are located within the APE. Two significant architectural resources (MFHD and Building 417) are located within the APE.

No Traditional Cultural Properties, sacred sites, or sites of religious or cultural importance have been identified in the APE or its environs. If your tribe has any special knowledge of such resources, please provide specific comments so that we can take measures to ensure that the project will avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects on such properties.

If any unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources or "cultural items" subject to the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) occur during the implementation of natural resource management activities, work would be temporarily halted at the discovery site, the March ARB Installation Cultural Resource Manager would be contacted, and all appropriate measures would be implemented to avoid disturbance, as detailed in the ICRMP. March ARB would immediately inform you of the discovery and invite you to consult on the procedures to minimize adverse effects and/or render disposition of NAGPRA cultural items.

We would like to finalize the INRMP soon, and we ask that you correspond with us with your concerns at your earliest convenience. If possible, please provide any information within 30 days of receipt of this letter so that we are able to fully consider your response. Please address questions or comments to March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Chris Wagner, Natural Resource Manager, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518 or by email at [christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa A. Coburn". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

MELISSA A. COBURN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 452d Air Mobility Wing

Attachment:  
Figures



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

Brigadier General Melissa A. Coburn, USAF  
Commander  
452d Air Mobility Wing  
2145 Graeber Street, Suite 117  
March ARB, CA 92518-1667

Mr. Darrell Mike  
Tribal Chairman  
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians  
46200 Harrison Place  
Coachella, CA 92236

Dear Mr. Mike

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and March Air Reserve Base (ARB) are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA will analyze the potential impacts and environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March ARB in Riverside County, California (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The EA will evaluate potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives in accordance with the provisions of *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 32, Part 989, and 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508 (Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations). We invite your tribe to consult pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

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Based on March ARB's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) (March ARB, 2011), the entirety of March ARB has been surveyed for surface archaeological resources. No known prehistoric, sacred sites, or Traditional Cultural Properties are located within the current boundaries of March ARB.

- Archaeological Resources. To date, 57 archaeological investigations have been conducted for March ARB. Six archaeological investigations have been conducted within the current boundaries of March ARB. As such, no National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed, -eligible, or potentially eligible archaeological resources have been identified within the current boundaries of the installation (March ARB, 2011).
- Architectural Resources. March ARB has been fully surveyed for architectural resources by a number of cultural resources studies. The March Field Historic District (MFHD) was listed in the NRHP in 1994 and represents the only NRHP-listed historic property within the current boundaries of March ARB.

March ARB prepared an update to the 2011 ICRMP, and completed additional field surveys for archaeological and architectural resources located within the boundaries of March ARB. The draft ICRMP Update was submitted to your office for review and comment in January 2021. The surveys for the draft ICRMP Update identified one previously unrecorded historic-period archaeological isolate and identified one building, Building 417, as individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. The draft ICRMP Update also re-validated the significance of the NRHP-listed MFHD, expanded the historic district's boundaries, and updated the contributing and non-contributing resources of the district.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and to ensure the effects of the Proposed Action on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP are accounted for, the AFRC and March ARB are initiating Section 106 consultation with your tribe pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.2.

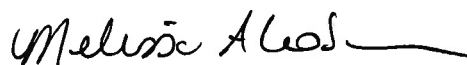
No significant archaeological resources are located within the APE. Two significant architectural resources (MFHD and Building 417) are located within the APE.

No Traditional Cultural Properties, sacred sites, or sites of religious or cultural importance have been identified in the APE or its environs. If your tribe has any special knowledge of such resources, please provide specific comments so that we can take measures to ensure that the project will avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects on such properties.

If any unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources or "cultural items" subject to the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) occur during the implementation of natural resource management activities, work would be temporarily halted at the discovery site, the March ARB Installation Cultural Resource Manager would be contacted, and all appropriate measures would be implemented to avoid disturbance, as detailed in the ICRMP. March ARB would immediately inform you of the discovery and invite you to consult on the procedures to minimize adverse effects and/or render disposition of NAGPRA cultural items.

We would like to finalize the INRMP soon, and we ask that you correspond with us with your concerns at your earliest convenience. If possible, please provide any information within 30 days of receipt of this letter so that we are able to fully consider your response. Please address questions or comments to March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Chris Wagner, Natural Resource Manager, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518 or by email at [christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa A. Coburn", followed by a horizontal line.

MELISSA A. COBURN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 452d Air Mobility Wing

Attachment:  
Figures

Re-submittal of the State Historic Preservation  
Officer Letter





**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND**

30 March 2021

**MEMORANDUM FOR CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**ATTENTION: JULIANNE  
POLANCO**  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**FROM: 452 MSG/CEV**  
610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403  
March ARB, CA 92518

**SUBJECT: Implementation of the 2021 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, March Air Reserve Base, California**

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and March Air Reserve Base (ARB) are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA will analyze the potential impacts and environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the 2021 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at March ARB in Riverside County, California (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The EA will evaluate potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives in accordance with the provisions of *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Title 32, Part 989, and 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508 (Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations). We are seeking concurrence from your office regarding the Proposed Action, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION.** March ARB proposes to fully implement the 2021 INRMP as written and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and March ARB Command, which is incorporated by reference. The Proposed Action would allow March ARB to continue several management programs currently in place, implement modified management strategies determined necessary to manage natural resources effectively, and carry out the set of resource-specific projects developed in the INRMP to meet the identified natural resource management goals and objectives. The Proposed Action would enable U.S. Air Force (USAF) personnel to effectively manage the use and condition of natural resources on March ARB. Implementation of the Proposed Action would support the USAF's continuing responsibility to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission while practicing sound resource stewardship and complying with environmental policies and regulations. The Proposed Action supports an ecosystem approach and includes natural resource goals, objectives, and projects to be undertaken on March ARB. The Proposed Action focuses on a 5-year implementation period. This period will become effective upon the date of the last signatory and shall continue in full force for a period of 5 years. Additional environmental analysis might be required as new management strategies are developed during annual reviews of the INRMP and over the long term (i.e., beyond 5 years). The INRMP will be reviewed and

updated annually and will be revised and updated, as necessary, at the end of the 5-year implementation period.

**AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS.** The Area of Potential Effects (APE), which considers both direct and indirect project impacts, includes all property occupied by March ARB (Attachment, Figures 1-1 and 1-2).

**PREVIOUSLY RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES.** Based on March ARB's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) (March ARB, 2011), the entirety of March ARB has been surveyed for surface archaeological resources. No known prehistoric, sacred sites, or Traditional Cultural Properties are located within the current boundaries of March ARB. Additionally, consultation with Native American tribes was initiated in February 2020 and no resources or concerns were identified during consultation.

- **Archaeological Resources.** To date, 57 archaeological investigations have been conducted for March ARB. Six archaeological investigations have been conducted within the current boundaries of March ARB. As such, no National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed, -eligible, or potentially eligible archaeological resources have been identified within the current boundaries of the installation (March ARB, 2011).
- **Architectural Resources.** March ARB has been fully surveyed for architectural resources by a number of cultural resources studies. The March Field Historic District (MFHD) was listed in the NRHP in 1994 and represents the only NRHP-listed historic property within the current boundaries of March ARB.

**DRAFT ICRMP UPDATE.** Currently, March ARB is preparing an update to the 2011 ICRMP, and has completed additional field surveys for archaeological and architectural resources located within the boundaries of March ARB. The draft ICRMP Update is undergoing review by AFRC and will be submitted to your office for review and comment. The surveys for the draft ICRMP Update identified one previously unrecorded historic-period archaeological isolate and identified one building, Building 417, as individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. The draft ICRMP Update also re-validated the significance of the NRHP-listed MFHD.

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.** In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and to ensure the effects of the Proposed Action on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP are accounted for, the AFRC and March ARB are initiating Section 106 consultation with your office pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.3.

No significant archaeological resources are located within the APE. Two significant architectural resources (MFHD and Building 417) are located within the APE.

No Traditional Cultural Properties, sacred sites, or sites of religious or cultural importance have been identified in the APE or its environs. No tribal resources or concerns were identified during consultation with Native American tribes.

The implementation of the Proposed Action will not directly or indirectly impact historic properties within the APE; therefore, we recommend a finding of **no historic properties affected** for this undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR Section 800.4(d).

If any unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources or “cultural items” subject to the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) occur during the implementation of natural resource management activities, work would be temporarily halted at the discovery site, the March ARB Installation Cultural Resource Manager would be contacted, and all appropriate measures would be implemented to avoid disturbance, as detailed in the ICRMP. March ARB would immediately inform you of the discovery and invite you to consult on the procedures to minimize adverse effects and/or render disposition of NAGPRA cultural items.

We respectfully request that you provide concurrence on the findings for this undertaking within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Please address questions or comments to March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Douglas Waters, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518, or by email at [douglas.waters.2@us.af.mil](mailto:douglas.waters.2@us.af.mil). Thank you for your assistance.

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Date: 2020.09.10 18:51:48  
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DAVID G PALMER  
Chief Environmental Flight

Attachment:  
Figures

## Attachment Figures





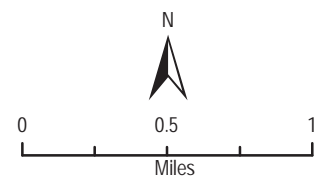




**Legend**

 March Air Reserve Base

Source:  
1) Google Earth Pro



**Figure 1-2**  
**Location Map**  
March Air Reserve Base  
INRMP Environmental Assessment  
2020

Responses



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**From:** Vanessa Minott <[vminott@santarosa-nsn.gov](mailto:vminott@santarosa-nsn.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2021 4:09 PM

**To:** WAGNER, CHRISTHILD L GS-12 USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <[christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil)>; Steven Estrada <[SEstrada@santarosa-nsn.gov](mailto:SEstrada@santarosa-nsn.gov)>; Gabriella Rubalcava <[GRubalcava@santarosa-nsn.gov](mailto:GRubalcava@santarosa-nsn.gov)>

**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] RE: March ARB Installation Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)

Acha'i Tamit,

There are no concerns from Santa Rosa.

Respectfully,

Vanessa Minott



Tribal Administrator

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians

W - 951-659-2700 ext. 102

C – 760-668-0460

F – 951-659-2228

65199 State Hwy. 74

Mountain Center, CA 92561

P.O. Box 391820

Anza, CA 92539

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**From:** WAGNER, CHRISTHILD L GS-12 USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <[christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2021 11:03 AM

**To:** Steven Estrada <[SEstrada@santarosa-nsn.gov](mailto:SEstrada@santarosa-nsn.gov)>; Vanessa Minott <[vminott@santarosa-nsn.gov](mailto:vminott@santarosa-nsn.gov)>; Gabriella Rubalcava <[GRubalcava@santarosa-nsn.gov](mailto:GRubalcava@santarosa-nsn.gov)>

**Subject:** March ARB Installation Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)

Mr. Steven Estrada, Tribal Chairman

Attached you will find a notification of an EA that is being prepared for the MARCH ARB INRMP. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have.

**Chris Wagner**

**Environmental**

**Cultural and Natural Resource Manager**

**Pest mngt Coordinator, Tribal Liaison**

**NEPA Coordinator**

**Backup Hazmat/Hazwaste**

[christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil)

Office- 951-655-3653

Cell- 503-758-3268

DSN- 447-3653

.....ô.....

**US Air Force Reserve Command**

**452nd MSG/Civil Engineers**

**610 Meyer Dr., Bldg 2403**

**March ARB, CA 92518-2188**

## Naccarato, Andrea/ATL

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**From:** WAGNER, CHRISTHILD L GS-12 USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <christhild.wagner@us.af.mil>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 1:43 PM  
**To:** Naccarato, Andrea/ATL; Jackson, Sara/ORL  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: March ARB Installation Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)

See below

### Chris Wagner

Environmental

*Cultural and Natural Resource Manager*

*Pest mngt Coordinator, Tribal Liaison*

*NEPA Coordinator*

*Backup Hazmat/Hazwaste*

[christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil)

Office- 951-655-3653

Cell- 503-758-3268

DSN- 447-3653

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**US Air Force Reserve Command**

**452nd MSG/Civil Engineers**

**610 Meyer Dr., Bldg 2403**

**March ARB, CA 92518-2188**

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**From:** BobbyRay Esparza <Besparza@cahuilla.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 10:41 AM  
**To:** WAGNER, CHRISTHILD L GS-12 USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <christhild.wagner@us.af.mil>  
**Cc:** anthony madrigal <anthonymad2002@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: March ARB Installation Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)

Good Morning,

The Cahuilla Band of Indians received your letter regarding the above project. We will review. Thanks

Respectfully,

BobbyRay Esparza  
Cultural Coordinator  
Cahuilla Band of Indians  
Cell: (760)423-2773  
Office: (951)763-5549  
Fax:(951)763-2808

**From:** WAGNER, CHRISTHILD L GS-12 USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <[christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2021 10:55 AM  
**To:** Daniel Salgado <[CHAIRMAN@CAHUILLA.NET](mailto:CHAIRMAN@CAHUILLA.NET)>; BobbyRay Esparza <[Besparza@cahuilla.net](mailto:Besparza@cahuilla.net)>  
**Subject:** March ARB Installation Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)

Mr. Daniel Salgado, Tribal Chairman

Attached you will find a notification of an EA that is being prepared for the MARCH ARB INRMP. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have.

**Chris Wagner**

**Environmental**

***Cultural and Natural Resource Manager***

***Pest mngt Coordinator, Tribal Liaison***

***NEPA Coordinator***

***Backup Hazmat/Hazwaste***

[christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil)

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**610 Meyer Dr., Bldg 2403**

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## Naccarato, Andrea/ATL

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**From:** WAGNER, CHRISTHILD L GS-12 USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <christhild.wagner@us.af.mil>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 7:00 PM  
**To:** Naccarato, Andrea/ATL  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: RE: NEPA notice for EA at March ARB

Just in case there are more tribal letters, we can now remove San Manual as a tribe off the list.

### Chris Wagner

**Environmental**

***Cultural and Natural Resource Manager***

***Pest mgmt Coordinator, Tribal Liaison***

***NEPA Coordinator***

***Backup Hazmat/Hazwaste***

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**610 Meyer Dr., Bldg 2403**

**March ARB, CA 92518-2188**



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**From:** Ryan Nordness <Ryan.Nordness@sanmanuel-nsn.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:17 PM  
**To:** WAGNER, CHRISTHILD L GS-12 USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <christhild.wagner@us.af.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] RE: RE: NEPA notice for EA at March ARB

Yes, thank you.

## Ryan Nordness

CULTURAL RESOURCE ANALYST

Email: [Ryan.Nordness@sanmanuel-nsn.gov](mailto:Ryan.Nordness@sanmanuel-nsn.gov)

O: (909) 864-8933 x50-2022

Internal: 50-2022

M: 909-838-4053

26569 Community Center Dr Highland California 92346



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**From:** WAGNER, CHRISTHILD L GS-12 USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <[christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 1:54 PM  
**To:** Ryan Nordness <[Ryan.Nordness@sanmanuel-nsn.gov](mailto:Ryan.Nordness@sanmanuel-nsn.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: NEPA notice for EA at March ARB

Ryan. Does this mean you would like us to take you off the list for all future notifications?

## Chris Wagner

Environmental

*Cultural and Natural Resource Manager*

*Pest mngt Coordinator, Tribal Liaison*

*NEPA Coordinator*

*Backup Hazmat/Hazwaste*

[christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil)

Office- 951-655-3653

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DSN- 447-3653



**US Air Force Reserve Command**

**452nd MSG/Civil Engineers**

**610 Meyer Dr., Bldg 2403**

**March ARB, CA 92518-2188**



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**From:** Ryan Nordness <[Ryan.Nordness@sanmanuel-nsn.gov](mailto:Ryan.Nordness@sanmanuel-nsn.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 12:15 PM  
**To:** WAGNER, CHRISTHILD L GS-12 USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <[christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil)>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] RE: NEPA notice for EA at March ARB

Hello,

Thank you for contacting the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians regarding the proposed project. This project is located outside of Serrano ancestral territory, and, as a result, SMBMI will not be requesting consultation under 106 for this undertaking.

Regards,  
Ryan Nordness  
Cultural Resource Analyst  
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

**Ryan Nordness**  
CULTURAL RESOURCE ANALYST  
Email: [Ryan.Nordness@sanmanuel-nsn.gov](mailto:Ryan.Nordness@sanmanuel-nsn.gov)  
O: (909) 864-8933 x50-2022  
Internal: 50-2022  
M: 909-838-4053  
26569 Community Center Dr Highland California 92346





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## Naccarato, Andrea/ATL

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**From:** WAGNER, CHRISTHILD L GS-12 USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <christhild.wagner@us.af.mil>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 3:56 PM  
**To:** Naccarato, Andrea/ATL; Jackson, Sara/ORL  
**Cc:** PALMER, DAVID G CIV USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: MARB INRMP

Response from SHPO-

### Chris Wagner

Environmental

*Cultural and Natural Resource Manager*

*Pest mgnt Coordinator, Tribal Liaison*

*NEPA Coordinator*

*Backup Hazmat/Hazwaste*

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**US Air Force Reserve Command**

**452nd MSG/Civil Engineers**

**610 Meyer Dr., Bldg 2403**

**March ARB, CA 92518-2188**

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**From:** Carroll, Ed@Parks <Ed.Carroll@parks.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 12:53 PM  
**To:** WAGNER, CHRISTHILD L GS-12 USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <christhild.wagner@us.af.mil>  
**Cc:** PALMER, DAVID G CIV USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <david.palmer.22@us.af.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] MARB INRMP

Good Morning, i received your submittal for the INRMP and see that i did indeed have the letter from September that you just sent again. What I didn't see was the draft INRMP document which does not appear to have been sent. I assumed you were asking about the INRMP letter which i did receive but without the document. However, as the SHPO does not review INRMPs no comments would be offered in this instance.

Ed

Ed Carroll

Historian II

Architectural Review and Environmental Compliance Unit

Office of Historic Preservation

(916) 445-7006

(916) 450-1611 (cell)  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, California 95816

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**From:** Juan Ochoa <jochoa@pechanga-nsn.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 9:19 AM  
**To:** WAGNER, CHRISTHILD L GS-12 USAF AFRC 452 MSG/CEV <christhild.wagner@us.af.mil>  
**Cc:** Andrea Fernandez <afernandez@pechanga-nsn.gov>; Ebru Ozdil <eozdil@pechanga-nsn.gov>; Tina Thompson Mendoza <tmendoza@pechanga-nsn.gov>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Pechanga Tribe Section 106 Comments on 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan at March ARB

Dear Chris Wagner,

This letter is written on behalf of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (hereinafter, “the Tribe”), a federally recognized Indian tribe and sovereign government in response to the Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act Consultation notice received in our office March 22, 2021 on the above referenced Project. This letter serves as the Tribe’s formal request for consultation with the March Air Reserve Base (ARB) under Section 106 for this Project. We would like to receive additional detailed information about the proposed Project

and meet with March ARB to discuss this further.

The Tribe formally requests to be notified and involved in the entire environmental review process for the duration of the above referenced Project (INRMP at March ARB). Please add the Tribe to your distribution list(s) for public notices and circulation of all documents, including environmental review documents, archaeological reports, and all documents pertaining to this Project. The Tribe further requests to be directly notified of all public workshops or hearings and scheduled approvals. Please also incorporate these comments into the record of approval.

The Pechanga Tribe asserts that the Project area lies within 'Atáaxum (Luiseño), and therefore the Tribe's, aboriginal territory as evidenced by the existence of cultural resources, place names, *tóota yixélval* (rock art, pictographs, petroglyphs), and an extensive 'Atáaxum artifact record in the vicinity of the undertaking. This culturally sensitive area is affiliated with the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians because of the Tribe's cultural ties to this area as well as an extensive documentation of the Tribe's ancestors living in the Moreno Valley and Perris areas. The Tribe hereby informs March ARB that the Project site is located within a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). We will provide additional information regarding tribal affiliation and the TCP in our consultation.

Under both NEPA and Section 106, we look forward to working closely with the March ARB on ensuring that a full, comprehensive environmental review of the INRMP at March ARB effects is completed, which includes analysis and discussion of any sensitive cultural resources that could potentially be effected by this Project and any future projects, whether they be direct, indirect or cumulative effects. Further, we hope to assist March ARB with ensuring that the Project will provide every effort to avoid effects to cultural resources in addition to addressing the culturally appropriate and respectful treatment of human remains, cultural resources and inadvertent discoveries, should they be effected during the future proposed maintenance activities. As such, we request a face-to-face meeting with March ARB to receive additional information about the Project and to discuss our concerns further.

In addition to those rights granted to the Tribe under Section 106, the Tribe reserves the right to fully participate in the environmental review process, as well as to provide further comment on the Project's effects to cultural resources and potential avoidance and mitigation for such effects.

The Pechanga Tribe looks forward to working together with the March Air Reserve Base in protecting the invaluable Pechanga cultural resources that could be effected by the issuance of the requested permits. The lead contact for this project is Ebru Ozdil, you can contact her at 951-770-6313 or at [eozdil@pechanga-nsn.gov](mailto:eozdil@pechanga-nsn.gov). Thank you.

Juan Ochoa, MLIS  
Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Pechanga Cultural Resources Department  
P.O. Box 2183  
Temecula, CA 92593  
Office:(951)-770-6308  
[jochoa@pechanga-nsn.gov](mailto:jochoa@pechanga-nsn.gov)

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## Appendix C

### Notice of Availability

## NOTICE OF 30-DAY PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze impacts that could result from implementing the 2021 March Air Reserve Base (March ARB) Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) as written and as approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and March ARB Command.

The draft EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), along with the draft INRMP are available for 30 days of public review and comment at the Moreno Valley Public Library, 25480 Alessandro Blvd., Moreno Valley, CA 92553 and online at <https://www.march.afrc.af.mil/>, under Public Announcements. The USAF is aware of the impacts of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic on the usual methods of accessing information and communicating, such as the closure of local public libraries and the increased consumer demand on mobile and broadband Internet networks. The USAF seeks to implement appropriate measures to ensure that the public and all interested stakeholders have the opportunity to participate fully in this EA process. Accordingly, please contact us directly at the email address below if you need help resolving issues involving access to the documents or the ability to comment.

Written comments will be considered for 30 days after the publication of this notice. Comments should be sent by mail to: March Air Reserve Base, Attention: Chris Wagner, 452 MSG/CEV, 610 Meyer Drive, Building 2403, March ARB, CA 92518, or by email at [christhild.wagner@us.af.mil](mailto:christhild.wagner@us.af.mil).

## Appendix D

### 2021 INRMP

The draft 2021 INRMP is available for review as a standalone document on March ARB's website:  
<https://www.march.afrc.af.mil/>.