

SALTON SEA TEST BASE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND



FACT SHEET

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

INTRODUCTION

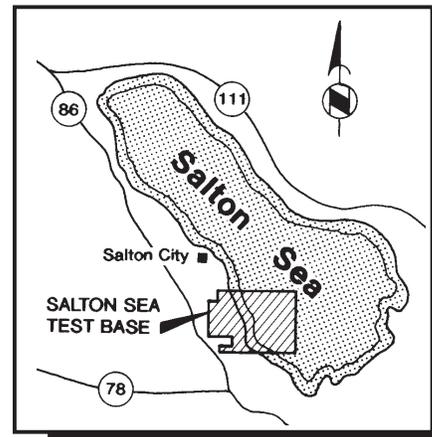
This is the fifth monthly fact sheet providing information on the U. S. Navy's environmental cleanup activities underway at the Salton Sea Test Base. This fact sheet provides an overview of the U. S. Department of the Interior's *Integrated Resource Management Plan for Acquired and Withdrawn Lands on the Salton Sea Test Base*, which was finalized in May 1995. This document describes Navy-acquired lands (owned by the Navy) and lands that were withdrawn (leased to the Navy) from other federal agencies since SSTB was established in 1942. It also describes the resources (soil, vegetation, wildlife, air, and water) present and the proposed future reuse of those lands. This 14-page document is available to the public at the information repositories listed on the back of this fact sheet.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP AT SSTB

Before SSTB property can be transferred to public and/or private entities for reuse, all environmental concerns must be addressed. This means that environmental problems associated with the past use and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes at the base must be investigated and, if necessary, cleaned up. Previous SSTB fact sheets have discussed such activities.

SALTON SEA TEST BASE PROPERTY

Salton Sea Test Base (SSTB) consists of approximately 19,450 acres, about two-thirds of which is in the Salton Sea. SSTB consists of lands owned by the Navy and federal lands that were leased to the Navy through several Public Land Orders. All Navy-leased property will be transferred back to its owners. Any Navy-owned land not being transferred to interested public agencies will be put up for sale.



The Integrated Resource Management Plan

In 1993, as part of Base Realignment and Closure process, the Navy notified agencies of the Department of the Interior of the availability of Navy-owned lands at SSTB. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) expressed interest in obtaining these lands for wildlife habitat management purposes. The Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) also expressed interest in obtaining the lands for use in conjunction with existing reclamation projects.

The Integrated Resource Management Plan (Plan) was prepared by the Department of the Interior, at the request of the Department of the Navy, in conjunction with the SSTB Base Realignment and Closure process. The Plan was approved by the County of Imperial, who is the redevelopment authority for SSTB, and reviewed by the Navy. The Plan reflects agreement reached in 1994 among the USFWS, BLM, and BuRec for the BLM to manage the approximately 7,000 non-marine (land) acres. The USFWS is interested in using the marine acreage to expand the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge.

Management Plan Summary

Public lands in the California Desert Conservation Area are managed according to the 1980 California Desert Conservation Area Plan which assigns most public land to one of four Multiple-Use Classes. This plan sets forth guidelines for managing lands in each class. Multiple-Use Class L (Limited Use) protects sensitive, natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural resource (archaeological) values. Public lands designated Class L are managed to provide for generally lower-intensity, carefully controlled multiple use of resources, while assuring that sensitive values are not significantly diminished.

Under the terms of the Integrated Resource Management Plan, the BLM will manage SSTB lands according to Multiple-Use Class L guidelines. Management of these lands will emphasize conservation of flat-tailed horned lizard habitat. Conservation of this sensitive habitat, which includes the desert dune areas, will increase the likelihood of this threatened reptile's continued existence. The BLM currently patrols SSTB for the Navy and conducts wildlife inventories.

Update

On 14 August 1996, at the Salton City Senior Citizens' Center, a public meeting was held to present an overview of the ordnance investigation and clearance that is about to begin at SSTB. The next Restoration Advisory Board Meeting will be held at the Senior Center on **18 September**. During this meeting, a date will be set for a workshop to help the public better understand the Removal Site Evaluation Report.

Information Repositories for the SSTB cleanup project have been established at two locations in the area so that the local community has the opportunity to review project documents and reports:

Salton City Library

2098 Frontage Road (Hwy 86)
Salton City, CA (619) 394-4446

Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri
8:00 AM - NOON
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Spencer Library Media Center

Imperial Valley College, Aten Road/Hwy 111
Imperial, CA (619) 355-6377

Hours: Mon-Thur: 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Fri: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sat: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
(except holidays)

In addition, documents, reports, and Restoration Advisory Board meeting minutes and agendas are available at the reading room of the Salton City Spa and RV Park in Salton City. Please contact Ms. Shirley Lee Palmer at (619) 394-4333 for hours.

For More Information

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Thank you!

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INSIDE:

*SSTB Integrated Resource
Management Plan*