

**Department of Defense
United States Marine Corps**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
for the P-236 Sewer Equalization Tank
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar
San Diego County, CA**

The United States Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, following Section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 USC 4332 (2) (c)), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), gives notice that an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared for the proposed upgrade of the Station's existing sewer system.

Proposed Action:

MCAS Miramar's proposed action is the upgrade of the Station's existing sewer system to reduce the effluent flow into the City of San Diego's sewer system to less than the permitted limit of 1.6 million gallons per day (mgpd). The proposed action is needed because, during significant rainfall events, existing sewer infrastructure is not capable of limiting effluent flow within the permitted limit of 1.6 mgpd. The Proposed Action involves construction and operation of a storage tank with a holding capacity sufficient to temporarily retain excess sewage flow generated by a nominal 10-year 24-hour storm event (1.5 million gallons); an active flow control system to regulate the discharge flow; and associated piping, pumps, conduits, and access points. Additional supporting improvements include site access and utility infrastructure upgrades. Site improvements would include grading and clearing, demolition and repaving of the existing road surface and culverts, and restoration of disturbed areas, including Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub and the ephemeral streambed, to pre-construction conditions. Construction would occur over a 15-month period. Operation and maintenance of the facility would entail annual cleaning and inspection of the storage tank.

Alternatives:

Two alternatives that met the purpose and need of the Proposed Action were carried forward for analysis: 1) Alternative 1: De La Garza Road Gravity Tank (Preferred Alternative); and Alternative 2: De La Garza Road Pump Station and Holding Tank. Other location alternatives were considered but not carried forward for analysis for reasons set forth in the EA. The No-Action Alternative is prescribed by CEQ regulations and serves as a benchmark against which federal actions and potential impacts can be evaluated. Under the No-Action Alternative, the existing sewer system within the project site would not be upgraded and MCAS Miramar would be out of compliance with their sewer discharge permit during substantial rainfall events. The No-Action Alternative is not considered a viable alternative.

Summary of Environmental Effects:

The EA supports this FONSI by examining potential effects of the Proposed Action and its alternatives on resources and areas of environmental concern that could be affected. These include air quality; biological resources; geologic resources; public health and safety; recreation; transportation, circulation, and traffic; utilities; and water resources. There would be no

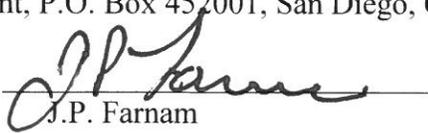
significant impacts, individually or cumulatively, associated with the Proposed Action. There would not be any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects from the action on minority and low-income populations.

Findings:

Based on a review of the information contained in the EA, I find that the upgrade to the Station's existing sewer system is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the environment within the meaning of Section (102)(2)(c) of the NEPA of 1969, as amended. Accordingly, the preparation of an EIS is not required and a FONSI is warranted.

The EA prepared for the Marine Corps addressing this action is on file and interested parties may obtain an electronic copy from: Commanding Officer, MCAS Miramar, Attn: Environmental Management, P.O. Box 452001, San Diego, California 92145-2001, telephone (858) 577-4088.

Signature: _____



J.P. Farnam
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

Date: _____

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