



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

### Hazardous Waste Permit Modification and Draft Environmental Impact Report for China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station

**December 18, 2007 to February 15, 2008**

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites the public to review the Class 3 Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Modification (Permit Modification) and draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (China Lake). DTSC encourages you to review and comment on the Permit Modification and draft EIR during the 60-day public comment period, which begins December 18, 2007 and ends February 15, 2008.

China Lake is located 150 miles northeast of Los Angeles in the Northern Mojave Desert, and operates as a research, development, test, and evaluation facility for weapons systems. The research, development, and testing of weapons at the base can generate reactive hazardous waste, which cannot be transported for safety reasons, and is treated at the base by Open Burn/Open Detonation (OB/OD). China Lake currently operates the OB/OD units under Interim Status, which allows them to conduct OB/OD treatments only until DTSC makes a decision on the Permit Modification application. The site of this proposed project is identified on a list of hazardous materials sites, referenced under section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

If DTSC approves the Permit Modification, the following details would apply to China Lake's modified Hazardous Waste Facility permit:

- China Lake will be able to continue using OB/OD to treat reactive hazardous waste.
- The annual quantity of reactive hazardous waste China Lake is allowed to treat will increase from 300,000 pounds to up to 5,475,000 pounds, depending on the types of wastes.
- The actual amounts and types of waste China Lake can treat will be determined by the health risks and noise impacts on the surrounding community.
- China Lake will be required to monitor environmental impacts caused by OB/OD operations.
- China Lake will be allowed to conduct an average of one OB/OD event per day, and will only be allowed to treat waste generated at the base.

CEQA guidelines require that DTSC conduct a review to determine how the environment may be affected if the Permit Modification is approved. DTSC has conducted the review, and documented the findings in the draft EIR, which is available for review along with the Permit Modification at the following information repositories:

**Kern County Library, Ridgecrest Branch**  
131 East Las Flores Avenue  
Ridgecrest, California 93555  
(760) 375-7666

**Department of Toxic Substances Control**  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
(916) 255-3758

Online at: [www.dtsc.ca.gov/OMF/Projects/China\\_Lake.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/OMF/Projects/China_Lake.cfm)

For more information on the Permit Modification or draft EIR please contact **Beverly Rikala, DTSC Project Manager**, at (916) 255-3746, or email her at [brikala@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:brikala@dtsc.ca.gov). For questions about public participation, please contact **Marcus Simpson, DTSC Public Participation Specialist**, at (916) 255-6683 or toll free at 1-866-495-5651, or email him at [msimpson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:msimpson@dtsc.ca.gov). Please direct media questions to **Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer**, at (818) 551-2176, or email her at [jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov).