

DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)
FOR AN
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
ADDRESSING IMPLEMENTATION OF A NET ZERO PROGRAM
AT
FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, CALIFORNIA

Introduction

Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL) proposes to implement a net zero program for energy, water, and waste at the installation. The Proposed Action consists of the implementation of a series of policies, procedures, best management practices (BMPs), and proposed projects, some of which are possibly related or interconnected, that would be necessary for FHL to become net zero for energy, water, and waste.

This EA has been prepared to evaluate the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. Areas that are considered in the impacts analyses include noise, land use, air quality, geological resources, water resources, biological resources, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, socioeconomics and environmental justice, infrastructure, traffic and transportation systems, and hazardous materials and wastes.

1. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to implement a net zero program for energy, water, and waste at FHL. The Proposed Action would require FHL to make every fiscally prudent effort to reduce the installation's overall consumption of energy and water, and disposal of solid waste in landfills to an effective rate of zero. This requires an assessment of resource requirements against the increased constraints on energy and water supplies and disposal methods. Evaluation against this benchmark identifies opportunities for reduction, re-purposing, recycling and composting, and energy recovery.

The Proposed Action consists of the implementation of a series of net zero projects (i.e., proposed programs, policies, procedures, BMPs, and construction projects), some of which are possibly related or interconnected, that could be implemented to change behaviors, processes, and technologies to achieve net zero. The Proposed Action is generally regarded as supportive of FHL's mission and an environmentally beneficial strategy designed to reduce energy and water use and waste generation.

The proposed projects identified and more fully described in the attached EA are conceptual and could be implemented in various combinations to achieve net zero at FHL. Although specific net zero projects have not been selected or designed, it is likely that a majority of the proposed projects would be on previously disturbed land in the cantonment area.

Alternatives Considered

In addition to the Proposed Action, the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) analyzed a No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, FHL will not implement the Proposed Action and, therefore, will not implement a net zero program for energy, water, and waste at FHL to reduce overall consumption of energy and water resources and disposal of solid waste in landfills beyond those policies and procedures that are currently in place. Taking no action will not comply with the need for the action, which is to enhance energy and water security at FHL; allow for predictable and potentially reduced operational costs; appropriately manage natural resources; and fulfill Federal, Department of Defense, and U.S. Army energy and sustainability goals, mandates, and objectives. FHL would continue to implement projects related to net zero energy, water, and waste if they are required by other mandates or identified in other documents.

2. Environmental Analysis

Based on the analysis contained in the EA, the USARC has determined that implementation of the Proposed Action will not have any significant adverse effects on the human or natural environments.

Resources that could be adversely affected by the Proposed Action include noise, land use, air quality, geological resources, water resources, biological resources, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources (architectural resources [i.e., historic buildings] and archaeological resources), traffic and transportation systems, and hazardous materials and wastes. In all instances, effects on these resources are expected to be negligible to minor in significance. Use of common BMPs and other minimization measures identified in FHL management plans will help minimize effects on water resources, biological resources, and threatened and endangered species. No effects on resources of Traditional, Religious, or Cultural Significance to Native American Tribes or environmental justice will be anticipated. Beneficial effects on land use, air quality, geological resources, water resources, biological resources, threatened and endangered species, socioeconomics, infrastructure, and hazardous materials and wastes will be expected. Implementation of the No Action Alternative will not result in a change in how energy, water, and waste are managed at FHL; therefore, no reductions of energy and water usage or waste generation will occur. While the No Action Alternative will result in associated adverse effects, no significant direct or indirect effects will occur.

Mitigation

Some mitigation measures and BMPs will be implemented to ensure that potentially significant effects be reduced to less-than-significant levels. Procedures identified to minimize any impacts are identified in the EA and are summarized as follows:

- Future construction will not be sited on identified hazardous materials contamination sites without appropriate planning to protect human health and prevent pollutant migration.
- FHL will comply with the terms and conditions of the Programmatic Biological Opinion for FHL issued by the USFWS in 2010, or as revised. The San Antonio River and other waterways will be protected from adverse effects on storm water runoff from the cantonment area and other development sites to the maximum extent feasible. This will be achieved through continued compliance with the Clean Water Act for construction and industrial activities, and Energy Independence and Security Act Section 438 to address

hydrology. As appropriate, FHL will use storm water catchments, permeable pavement, oil/water separators, or other applicable technologies for new development, and will review existing development sites for feasibility of adding these technologies. A riverine monitoring program will be developed and implemented for the San Antonio and Nacimientto Rivers to monitor at minimum three sites from each river on at minimum a quarterly basis for water quality parameters, such as pH, dissolved oxygen, and other measures.

- Storm water compliance will be included as an Environmental Management Action Plan as part of the federally mandated Environmental Management System to document and monitor success criteria. FHL will develop and implement an installation policy and standard operating procedure outlining installation procedures and responsibilities to comply with construction storm water requirements. FHL will develop and implement a drip-pan policy and inspection procedure.

3. Regulations

The Proposed Action will not violate any Federal, state, or local environmental regulations.

4. Commitment to Implementation

The USARC affirms its commitment to implement the EA in accordance with the NEPA. Implementation is dependent on funding. The USARC Environmental Program and Training Division will ensure that adequate funds are requested in future years' budgets to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in the EA.

5. Public Review and Comment

The EA and Draft FNSI will be available for public review and comment for 30 days following publication of the Notice of Availability. Review locations will be listed in the public notice. The EA and Draft FNSI will also be available at the following Web site: <http://www.liggett.army.mil/sites/dpw/environmental.asp>. Copies can be obtained by mail, and written comments for FHL can be submitted by mail to Liz Clark, Fort Hunter Liggett Environmental Office, 233 California Avenue, Fort Hunter Liggett, CA 93928-7090, or by email to elizabeth.r.clark14.civ@mail.mil.

6. Finding of No Significant Impact

After careful review of the EA, I have concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action will not generate significant controversy or have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. Per 32 Code of Federal Regulations Part 651, the EA and Draft FNSI will be made available for a 30-day public review and comment period. Once any public comments have been addressed, and if a determination is made that the Proposed Action will have no significant impact, the FNSI will be signed and the action will be implemented. This analysis fulfills the requirements of NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the USARC is issuing this FNSI.

DONNA R. WILLIAMS
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Date