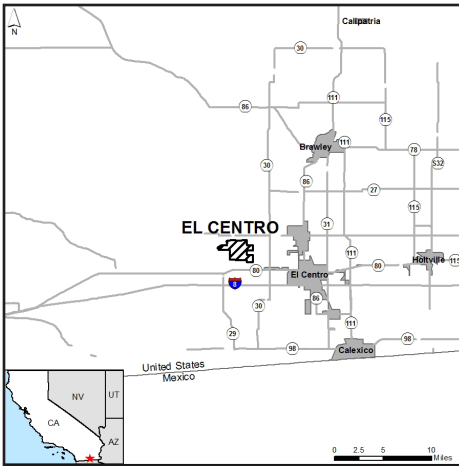




EL CENTRO RANGE COMPLEX

Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro is a support facility that provides access to ranges for fleet air squadrons to perform tactical air training.

Air crews can practice ordnance delivery, live strafing, and Field Carrier Landing Practice in a harsh desert environment, among many other training exercises. Protecting this undeveloped environment is important because the El Centro



Range Complex is one of the few places left where pilots can “train like they fight” by delivering ordnance to ground targets.

Encroachment issues at NAF El Centro primarily relate to development of incompatible land uses in the areas affected by installation and range operations (e.g., by aircraft and live-fire noise, overflights). Development pressures in such areas could eventually lead to public pressure on the Navy to modify or cease specific

operations based on noise sensitivity or safety concerns. The desired end state is to establish a protective buffer of compatible land use and encroachment prevention policies and controls such as restrictive use easements surrounding operating areas to ensure that key operations can continue to be conducted in an unconstrained manner.

Maintaining the desert or agricultural environment on these lands also provides additional flexibility for ranges that support the flat-tailed horned lizard, helping keep it from being listed as threatened or endangered, while also preventing off-road vehicle trespassing on those ranges.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Provides habitat for rare and at-risk species
- Preserves working agricultural land
- Supports compatible development including possible renewable energy sources

MILITARY

- Protects night flying and air exercises that require minimal light pollution
- Improves operational safety and reduces trespassing on military ranges
- Preserves live-fire training capability



NAF El Centro's location, weather, and training ranges make it a perfect winter home of the Blue Angels (top). The compatible landscape also supports live-fire training with the M134 minigun on a UH-1Y Venom helicopter (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Rivers and Lands Trust
- The Trust for Public Land

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2022

- ACRES PRESERVED: 1,537
- TRANSACTIONS CONDUCTED: 10
- TOTAL FUNDS EXPENDED: \$744 thousand
- PROJECT STATUS: In Progress

CONTACT

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