

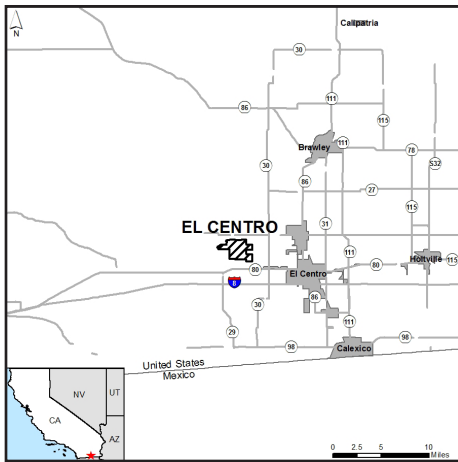


U.S. NAVY :

EL CENTRO RANGE COMPLEX : CALIFORNIA



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.



To sustain this capability, NAF El Centro and its partners are seeking to protect land under special use airspace and high noise zones where desert resort developments or tall structures would conflict with the military training mission. 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.

As an added benefit, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) can establish a habitat restoration program for the flat-tailed horned lizard and burrowing owl on lands protected through REPI. TPL can also use these lands to establish photovoltaic panels that have the potential to supply enough renewable solar energy to power NAF El Centro’s daytime electric needs and improve the installation’s energy security.

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

- Compatible Lands Trust
- The Trust for Public Land

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

- » Acres preserved: **1,536**
- » Transactions conducted: **10**
- » Total funds expended: **\$735.6 thousand**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

CONTACT

Community Plans and Liaison Office
(760) 339-2224