U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District

PROPOSED PLAN FOR MUNITIONS RESPONSE ACTION – FINAL

El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 (#92) Munitions Response Site.
Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Project No. J09CA014601 - Imperial County, CA

January 2026

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This **Proposed Plan** is being presented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Sacramento District for the public to review and comment on the proposed decision for no action with no long-term monitoring at the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 (#92) **munitions response site (MRS)** located in Imperial County, California (CA) (**Figure 1**). This Proposed Plan is prepared in accordance with Section 117(a) of the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)** which provides opportunities for public input in the site decision-making process.

This Proposed Plan identifies that USACE, the lead agency, has determined that no action is necessary to protect public health or welfare or the environment at the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 (#92) (hereafter referred to as "El Centro Rocket Target No. 1") and provides the rationale for this preference determination. This plan summarizes information in the **Remedial Investigation (RI)** Report (USACE, 2025). The USACE Sacramento District encourages the public to review the RI report to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the site. It is noted that, following their review, the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) did not agree with the RI Report conclusions. Although the RI followed the approved work plan developed and mutually agreed upon with DTSC, and the investigation utilized approaches discussed and accepted during systematic planning process sessions, DTSC considers an absence of metals testing in soil to be a data gap and considers the site to be insufficiently characterized. Similarly, DTSC raised concerns about the version of the Risk Management Methodology that was implemented as part of the risk assessment process during the RI. The Information Repository locations for this site include copies of the work plan and RI Report,

This Proposed Plan contains terms (**in bold letters**) used for environmental remediation and the overall **Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP)**. These terms are described in the Glossary found at the end of this document.

A list of acronyms and abbreviations used in this document is presented following the Glossary at the back of this document.

Dates to Remember:
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:
09 February 2026 – 13 March 2026

The USACE will accept written comments on the Proposed Plan during the public comment period.

Written comments may be sent to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District Public Affairs Office or via the following address or email:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Attn: Public Affairs Office
1325 J St
Sacramento, CA 95814

spk-pao@usace.army.mil

Comments will be considered if postmarked by the last day of the public comment period.

A public meeting will be held, if requested, to discuss the Proposed Plan. Details will be made available on the Project Website:

https://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Military-Projects/FUDS/El-Centro-Rocket-Target-Range-No-1/

For more information, please see the Information Repository locations at:

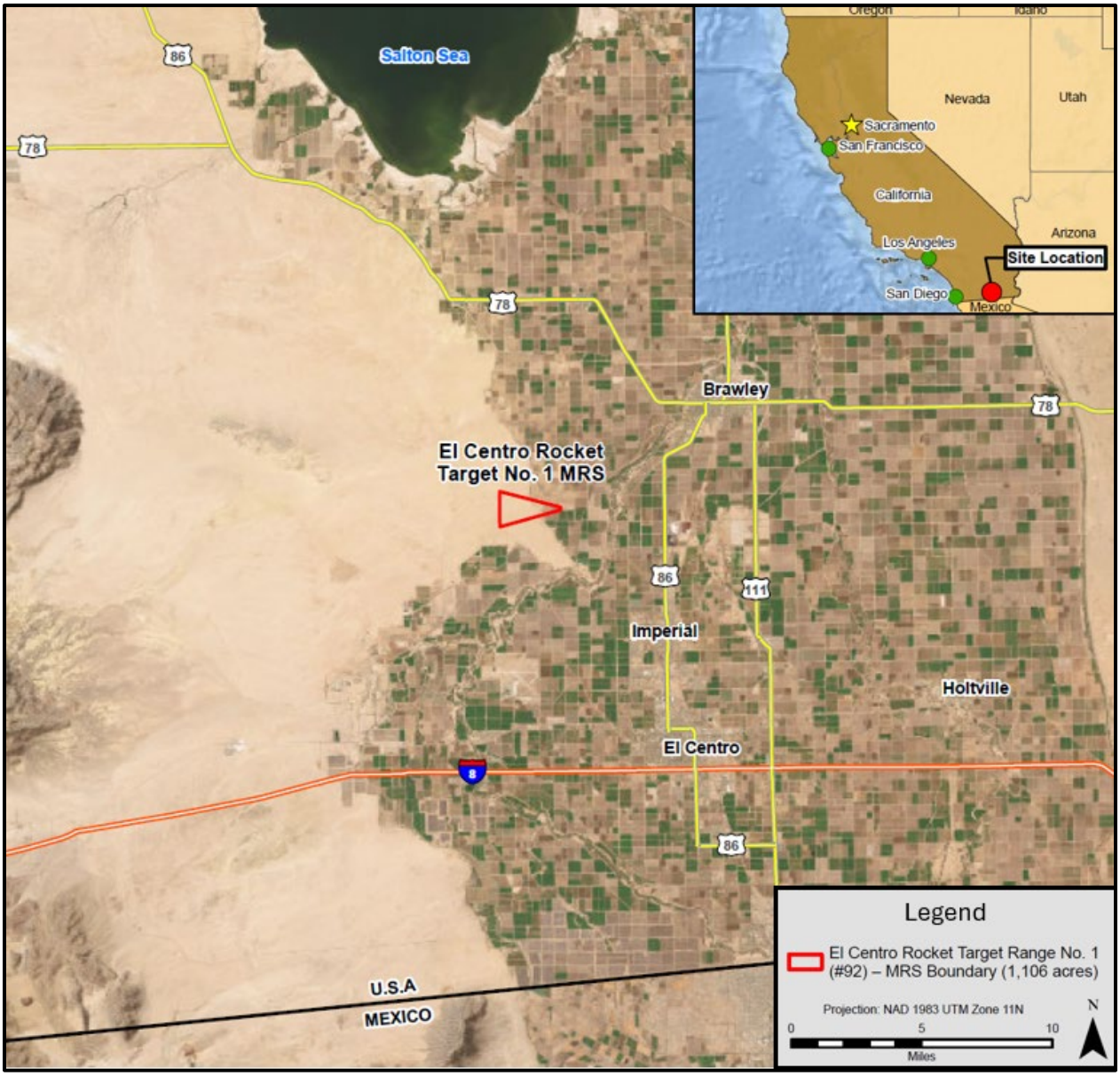
El Centro Library
1198 N Imperial Avenue
El Centro, CA 92243

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
1325 J St, Room 1640
Sacramento, CA 95814

along with pertinent correspondence that documents DTSC's positions stated above that were shared during the review of the RI Report. No **munitions and explosives of concern (MEC)** were identified during the RI. Only **munitions debris (MD)** associated with practice munitions were recovered. The MEC risk assessment conducted by the project team for El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 did not identify unacceptable risks from explosive hazards under current and reasonably anticipated future land use scenarios.

RMM evaluation involved the project team in conjunction with BLM and a private landowner who were consulted and involved with development of the baseline MEC risk assessment. With regards to **munitions constituents (MC)**, there was no evidence of a release of MC to soil. Thus, there are no complete pathways and no unacceptable risks from MC under current and reasonably anticipated future land use scenarios.

Figure 1: El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS General Location Map



Since no unacceptable risks were identified for current and reasonably anticipated future land use at the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS, no remedial action or **Feasibility Study** was warranted. After reviewing and considering all information submitted during the public comment period, USACE will present its final decision in a **Record of Decision (ROD)**.

Scope and Role of Munitions Response Site

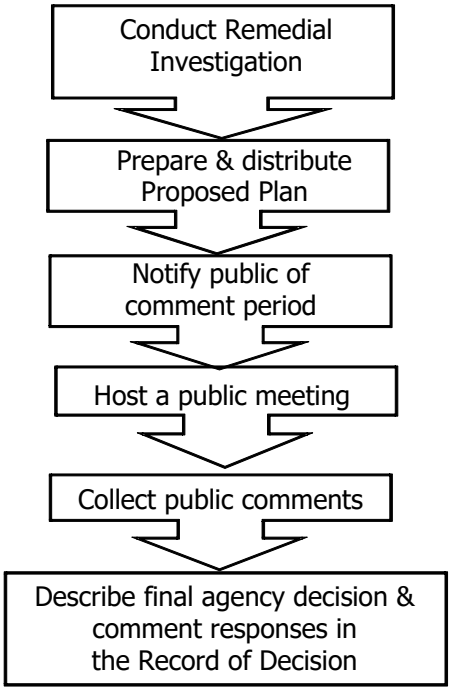
No prior removals or remedial actions have been documented for the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 **Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS)**. El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 is the only MRS identified for this property and no other response actions are anticipated to be needed to reduce the risk of hazards associated with potential exposure to MEC and/or MC.

Public Involvement Process

Local community members and other interested parties are encouraged to review this Proposed Plan and submit comments. USACE will consider public comments before making a final determination for the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS. The USACE, as lead agency for site activities, will determine the appropriateness of the proposed no action decision with no long-term monitoring for El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 after reviewing and considering all information submitted during the public comment period. The USACE may modify its proposed decision for no action based on new information or public comments. This Proposed Plan is a component of the requirements of Section 117(a) of the CERCLA, and Sections 300.430(f)(2) and 300.430(f)(3) of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. This document summarizes information that can be found in greater detail in the RI report and other documents contained in the Information Repository for this site (see address on Page 1). The public is encouraged to review these documents to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the site, and activities conducted at the site. The Proposed Plan follows the requirements of Engineer Regulation 200-3-1 (USACE, 2020), the FUDS Handbook (USACE, 2022) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) guidance provided in A Guide to Preparing Superfund Proposed Plans, Records of Decision, and Other Remedy Selection Decision Documents (USEPA, 1999).

The decision for El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 will be presented in a ROD. The USACE responses to public comments on this Proposed Plan will appear in the "Responsiveness Summary" section of the ROD. The flow chart shown in **Figure 2** summarizes the process that USACE follows to develop a ROD when no unacceptable risks are identified during the remedial investigation.

Figure 2: Public Involvement Process



Lead and Support Agencies

The USACE is the lead agency for investigating, reporting, and making remedial decisions at the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS. The CA DTSC is the lead regulatory agency.

Most of the MRS is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and therefore BLM is considered a major stakeholder. Due to the proximity of the adjacent active U.S. Navy training area to the west of the MRS, the U.S. Navy is also considered a stakeholder. A U.S. Navy representative has attended project meetings but does not review project documents.

PROJECT SITE BACKGROUND

Site History and Causes of Contamination

In 1945, the Eleventh Naval District acquired approximately 480 acres of desert land from the Department of Interior and established El Centro Rocket Target No. 1. The Navy used the site as a rocket, bombing and strafing target for Fleet Unit training from 1945 to 1946. On April 23, 1945, the Commander of the Eleventh Naval District changed the number system of all the El Centro targets, and El Centro Target #1 became El Centro Target #92. The Navy discontinued use of the site on October 24, 1946. Most of the MRS is owned and managed by the BLM (918 acres). The El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 is comprised of 1,106 acres. The BLM portion of the MRS is uncultivated, undeveloped, rough desert land except for an above ground transmission line that bisects the site. The remaining areas of the MRS are privately owned and are undeveloped desert land (57 acres) or used as agricultural land (131 acres).

The munitions used at El Centro Target No. 1 included practice bombs (and their associated spotting charges and signals), practice rockets, and small arms ammunition. Based on the site history, the site was investigated for contamination caused by past munitions activity. The site was investigated for residual MEC, as well as contamination resulting from release of MC to the environment. MC are considered chemicals that could cause contamination as a result of munitions activity at the site and include explosives common among World War II era munitions.

Previous Investigations

Several investigations have previously been conducted at the site that preceded the RI. Those investigations are summarized here, while the RI is summarized in the subsequent sections of this Proposed Plan and more comprehensively documented in the RI report (USACE, 2025).

The **Inventory Project Report (INPR)** (USACE, 1993) was completed in September 1993. The INPR established the site as a FUDS, established the acreage, and assigned the FUDS project number (J09CA014601). A site visit was conducted for the INPR on May 3, 1993. Ordnance found included flares, one 0.50-caliber round (live), multiple blasting caps/fuses, multiple practice bomb remnants, and a two-strand wire.

Following the INPR, an **Archive Search Report (ASR)** and ASR Supplement were conducted in 1996 and 2004 respectively. The initial 1996 ASR included a site visit to verify information found in the historical records. The primary focus of the site visit was to locate evidence of ordnance and explosives on the surface. During the site visit, ordnance observed included two-prong electrical connector plugs and nozzle closures from 2.25-inch and/or 3.25-inch rocket motors, a tail boom and a tail tube assembly from a MK 76 25-pound practice bomb, several scattered MK 76 practice bombs, and one 20mm dummy round. The single 20mm dummy round cartridge case is a MK5 Mod 0 and the projectile portion is MK14 Mod 0. The ASR concluded that there is the potential for MEC to be present at the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS, based on extensive archive searches, interviews, and the ASR site visit.

A **Site Inspection (SI)** was completed at El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 in 2008 (USACE, 2008). The SI evaluation included performing approximately 12.8 miles of qualitative reconnaissance within the El Centro Target No. 1. During the qualitative reconnaissance, two items were identified as material potentially presenting an explosive hazard (MPPEH). Two 5-inch rocket warheads were observed during the SI field effort, which were not considered MEC. These two MPPEH items were removed from the site by the Imperial County Fire Department Bomb Squad on May 31, 2008. MD from 0.50-caliber small arms ammunition (bullets, casings, and links), 2.25-inch rockets (SCAR), and MK76 25-lb. practice bombs were found in the MRS. MD from the MK76 practice bombs were found in three separate piles within the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS, with each pile containing up to 40 practice bombs (i.e., MD collection piles). There were no other visual indicators (distressed vegetation, stained soil, ground scars or craters, target remnants) of former DoD use or potential MC contamination identified during the qualitative reconnaissance. Two berms were also observed, but they are not believed to be munitions-related features. The presence of MD has historically been reported at the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS.

Fourteen discrete surface soil samples and two associated field duplicate samples were collected and analyzed for explosives and munitions related metals (e.g., lead, copper, antimony, etc.) as part of the SI. Explosives were reported as non-detections at concentrations less than the project

screening levels for all samples. Metals were detected in all soil samples collected, but the concentration of each evaluated non-essential MC metal was less than the respective human health screening value.

PROJECT SITE CHARACTERISTICS

Location

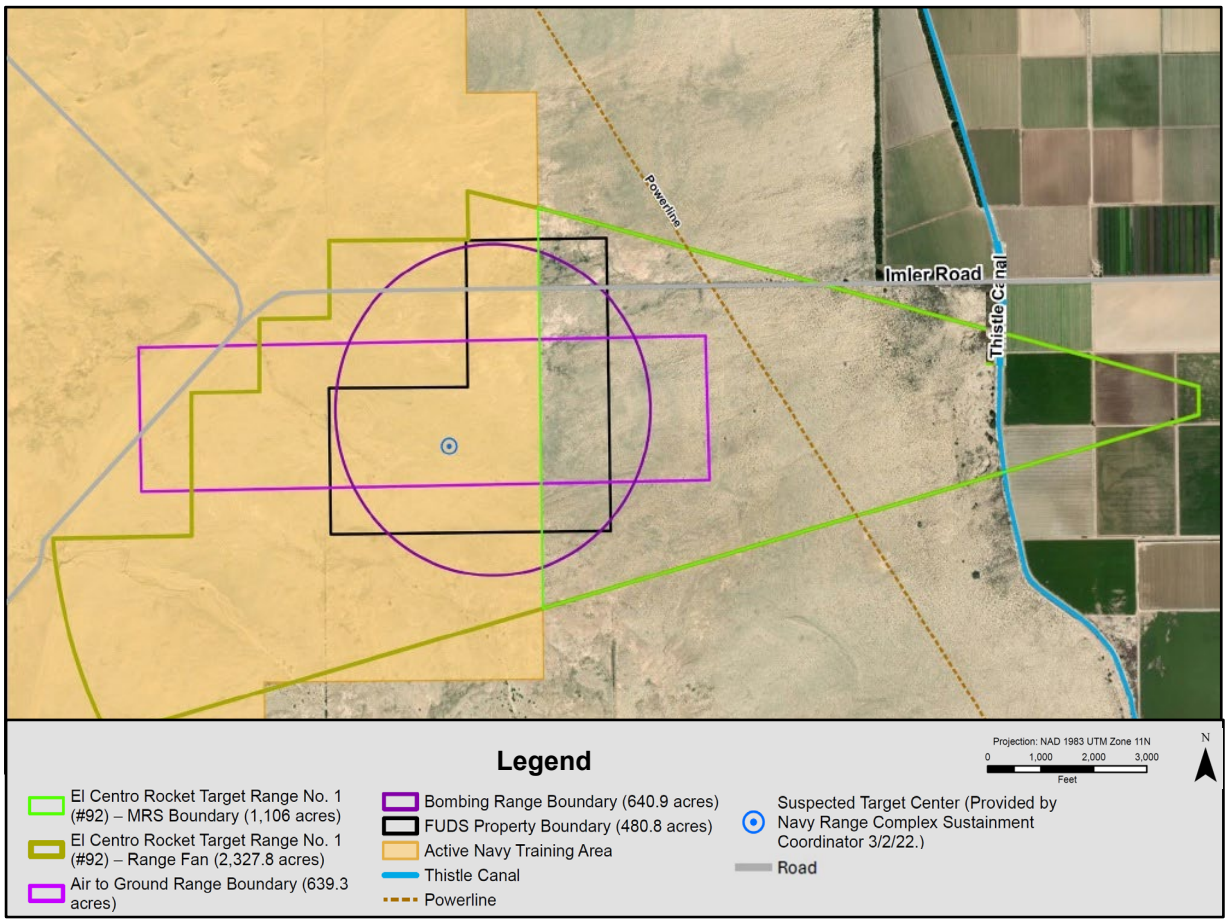
The El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 is located within the Imperial Valley in Section 25, Township 14 South, Range 12 East of Imperial County, California. El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 lies approximately 10 miles northwest of the town of El Centro, California and 11 miles due south of the Salton Sea in the south of California (**Figure 1**). Thistle Canal crosses the site North-South. Approximately a third of the site is east of Thistle Canal and is primarily used for agricultural purposes. The rest of the site is west of Thistle Canal and consists of undeveloped desert (**Figure 3**).

Physical Characteristics

The El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 is located within the Imperial Valley of California. The terrain of the Imperial Valley of California consists mostly of smooth plains. The topography at the site slopes gently to the east with an elevation change of approximately 100 feet.

There are no perennial surface water bodies at the site. Natural drainage at the site occurs through washes, draws, and gullies (trenches cut out by the natural drainage of runoff from precipitation). These trenches are dry in times of no precipitation. These natural runoff drainage trenches empty into rivers or canals. Surface water within the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 drains into the Thistle Canal, which drains into the New River and eventually into the Salton Sea.

Figure 3: El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 Munitions Response Site Overview



The site itself is underlain by the Imperial Valley groundwater basin, which is bounded on the east by the Sand Hills and on the west by the impermeable rocks of the Fish Creek and Coyote Mountains. To the north, the basin is bounded by the Salton Sea, which is the discharge point for groundwater in the basin. The basin has two major aquifers, an upper and a lower, that consist mostly of alluvial deposits of late Tertiary and Quaternary age.

The vegetation that grows naturally in this area is mostly brush and shrublands. Predominant potential natural communities include the creosote bush, bursage, allscale, salt bush, mesquite, ocotillo, and fan palm (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2008). The portion of the site that lies east of Thistle Canal is agricultural land used for crops that rotate throughout the year.

There is no designated critical habitat for federally-listed species at El Centro No. 1. Several California species of special concern (those not yet formally listed but recognized as vulnerable) were observed during the RI, including flat-tailed horned lizards and burrowing owls.

Land Use

Most of the MRS (918 acres) is managed by the BLM (i.e., the western portion of the El Centro Target No. 1) and is located within a "Limited Use" area for vehicle travel. This "Limited Use" area falls within the West Mesa Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), a designation to protect sensitive environmental, cultural, or scenic resources. Within the West Mesa ACEC, vehicles must stay on approved, signed routes and cross-country vehicle travel off those routes is not permitted. The remaining portion of the site is privately owned and is undeveloped desert land (57 acres) or used as agricultural land (131 acres).

Information obtained from BLM (USACE, 2024) notes that the California desert is a regional recreation resource, attracting not only local residents, but visitors from an area encompassing Southern California, and to a lesser degree, other regions of the United States and Canada. The area is open year-round, but visitation increases significantly during the winter months. Visitation on regular weekdays is usually low but increases during the weekends. Specifically, for the El Centro Target No. 1, BLM stated that there is limited camping, but the area is used by the locals for day use: off-highway vehicle riding and target shooting. Drivers tend to stay on designated roads and trails but areas adjacent to the roads are used by utility task vehicle and all-terrain vehicle drivers as staging areas. BLM estimates 1,500 to 3,000 visitors per year to the El Centro Target No. 1, with most of those numbers coming from wintertime weekends. BLM patrols the area to enforce regulation compliance with most patrolling taking place during the weekends when visitation is at its peak. The Imperial County Sheriff's Office also patrols the area and enforces County and State regulations. Limited intrusive activities are conducted in the area, but from BLM's observations, these primarily occur in proximity to the legal roads and trails. Potential intrusive activities for recreational users include driving tent stakes to a depth of 12 inches. For the portion of the MRS utilized for agricultural purposes, intrusive activities performed include mechanized agricultural practices (e.g., tilling or disking) down to a depth of 36 inches. Activities limited to the surface include maintenance of surface-based irrigation lines. There has been no historical evidence or documentation of MEC being uncovered by agricultural activities.

Based on information provided by BLM in February 2024, plans are being evaluated to upgrade/replace the existing above ground power transmission line that bisects the MRS. Future plans include installing a power transmission line utilizing the existing power line's footprint or constructing a separate power line running parallel. As of August 2024, plans are in the early stages of development and a system impact study is being conducted by the owner of the transmission line. Once complete, the transmission line may be left undisturbed for 30 years or more. However, there is periodic inspection work as well as any maintenance necessary depending on its condition. The depth required for either direct burial or foundational work would all be design specific, which cannot be provided at this time. It is assumed that foundational work would be performed down to depths exceeding 10 ft.

The reasonably anticipated future land use of the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 is expected to remain the same as current use.

Nature and Extent of Contamination

Background

During the RI, initial surveys were conducted using geophysical instruments (i.e., EM61-MK2) to identify conductive objects in the subsurface – termed "**anomalies**". These subsurface anomalies

could be buried metallic debris (e.g., construction debris, irrigation pipe, barbed wire, etc.) or a potential munitions item.

An area with numerous anomalies (termed a **high-density [HD] area**) may be indicative of a **high use area (HUA)**, where munitions use has been confirmed. Alternatively, an area within an MRS that has few anomalies (termed a **low-density [LD] area**) may be indicative of a **low use area (LUA)**, where there is a low potential for munitions to be present due to limited historical munitions use (e.g., buffer zone).

For each HD area identified during the preliminary characterization, the project team determined whether it was munitions-related. For HD areas that did not align with the **conceptual site model (CSM)**, anomalies were intrusively investigated to provide useful characterization information.

The following subsections provide an overview of the approach and results from the RI performed at El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 for MEC and MC. The nature and extent of contamination results are presented in detail in the RI report (USACE, 2025). The full extent of the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 range fan was not available for investigation during the RI due to an overlapping active Navy range that covers the western portion of the site (i.e., not FUDS-eligible).

Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC)

A RI was performed to complete the characterization of MEC at the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS. The work was conducted in accordance with the objectives and goals presented in the accepted Uniform Federal Policy – Quality Assurance Project Plan (UFP-QAPP) (USACE, 2024) and followed the general MEC characterization tasks:

- Conducting preliminary characterization by collecting **digital geophysical mapping (DGM)** transects to estimate anomaly density and identify high-density (HD) areas;
- Additional characterization of HD areas that do not align with the CSM (e.g. additional DGM transects, intrusive investigation of anomalies to determine if source is munitions related).

At El Centro Rocket Target No. 1, no HUAs were identified. The singular HD area, shown in **Figure 4**, was associated with agricultural activities and was not munitions related. **Figure 5** presents the intrusive investigation results within the HD area, and as shown, no munitions-related items were identified. The entire MRS was determined to be an LUA (**Figure 6**), which inherently has lower risk than HUAs. Based on the current and anticipated land use, it was determined that there is no unacceptable risk and no action with no long-term monitoring is necessary to protect public health or the environment.

Additional Characterization

Additional characterization at El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 included an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) survey, MD pile inspections, and MC sampling. An UAS (or drone) survey was performed February 2023 across 450 acres in the western portion of the MRS to visually scan for surface munitions, particularly additional munitions consolidation piles initially observed in the 2008 SI (**Figure 7**). Five consolidated MD piles and four potential isolated munitions items were identified and investigated on July 09, 2024.

All five of the consolidated MD piles consisted of Mark 76 practice bomb tails which were inspected, determined to present no hazard, and left in place. Of the isolated items investigated, one was a 5-inch practice rocket warhead with no fuze. On July 12, 2024, this item was confirmed to be sand and gravel filled after being cut open utilizing a remote-controlled bandsaw. The other isolated items investigated were two practice bombs (determined to present no hazard and left in place) and one rock.

Figure 4: Anomaly Density Evaluation

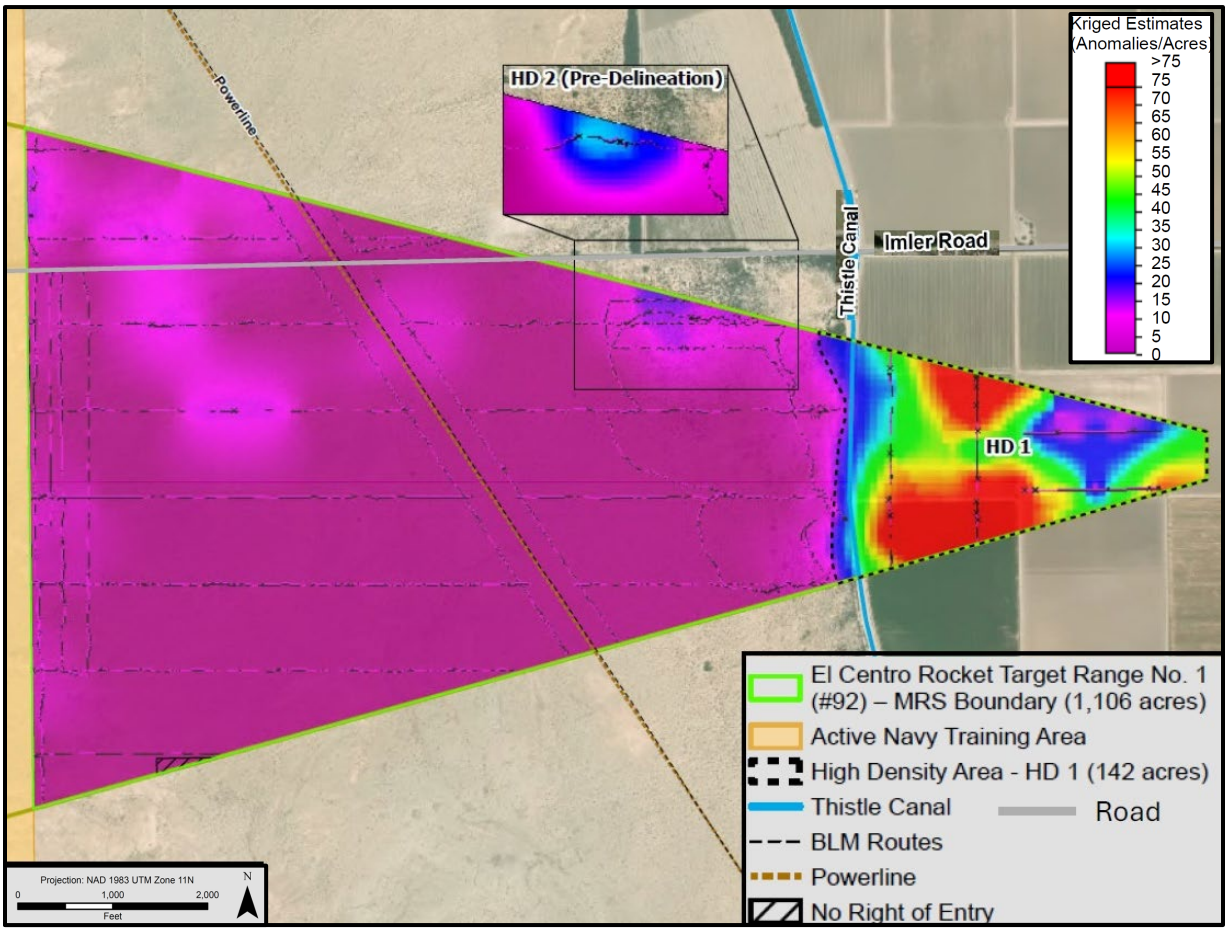
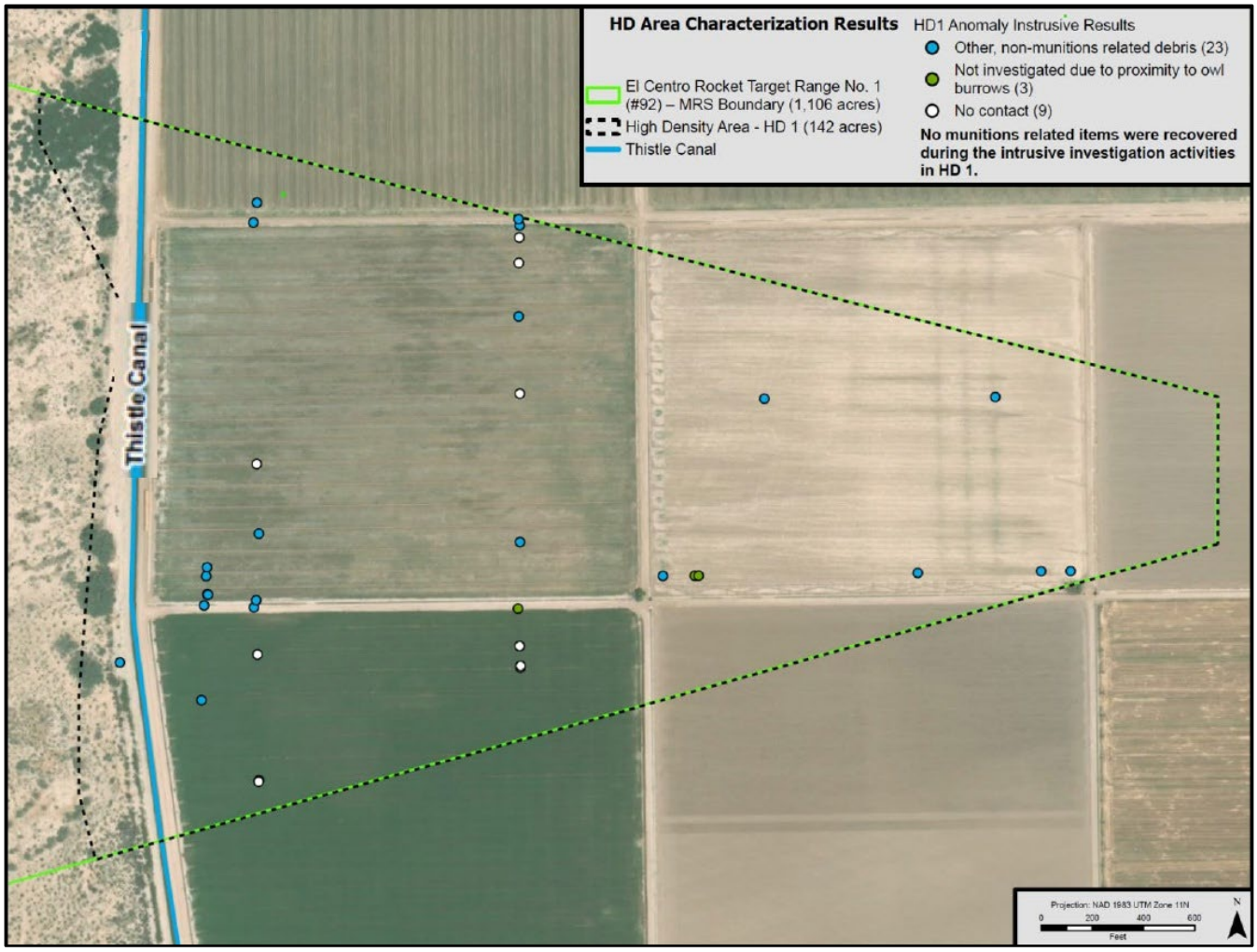


Figure 5: Intrusive Investigation Results



Munitions Constituents (MC)

Past munitions detonations or degradation of munitions can result in MC being released to surface and subsurface soil. Soil sampling was conducted on July 11, 2024, to determine if Mark 76 practice bomb piles pose risks to human health or the environment. Note, practice bombs do not contain high explosive compounds and are limited to black powder or other spotting charges. Black powder is not hazardous if uncontained, and breached practice bombs do not constitute an environmental hazard. The surface soil samples were collected using incremental sampling methods from two sampling units (30 increments per 0.25-acre sampling unit) located over the two largest MD piles (Pile 1 and Pile 5) (**Figure 7**). The surface soil increments were collected from 0-6 inches below ground surface and in triplicate. Samples were sent to an offsite analytical laboratory for analysis.

Each sample was analyzed for explosives. Explosives were not detected in any sample (and detection limits were less than screening levels identified for the project). If the concentration of a contaminant in the soil is below the screening level, it is generally considered safe.

Figure 6: Extent of LUA

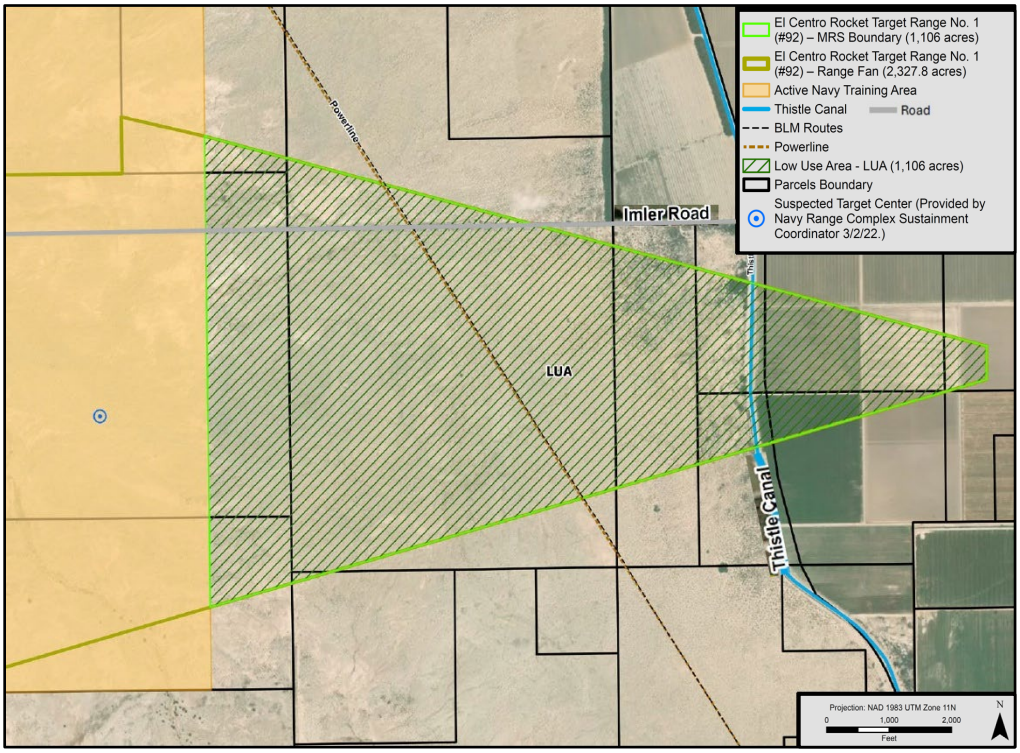
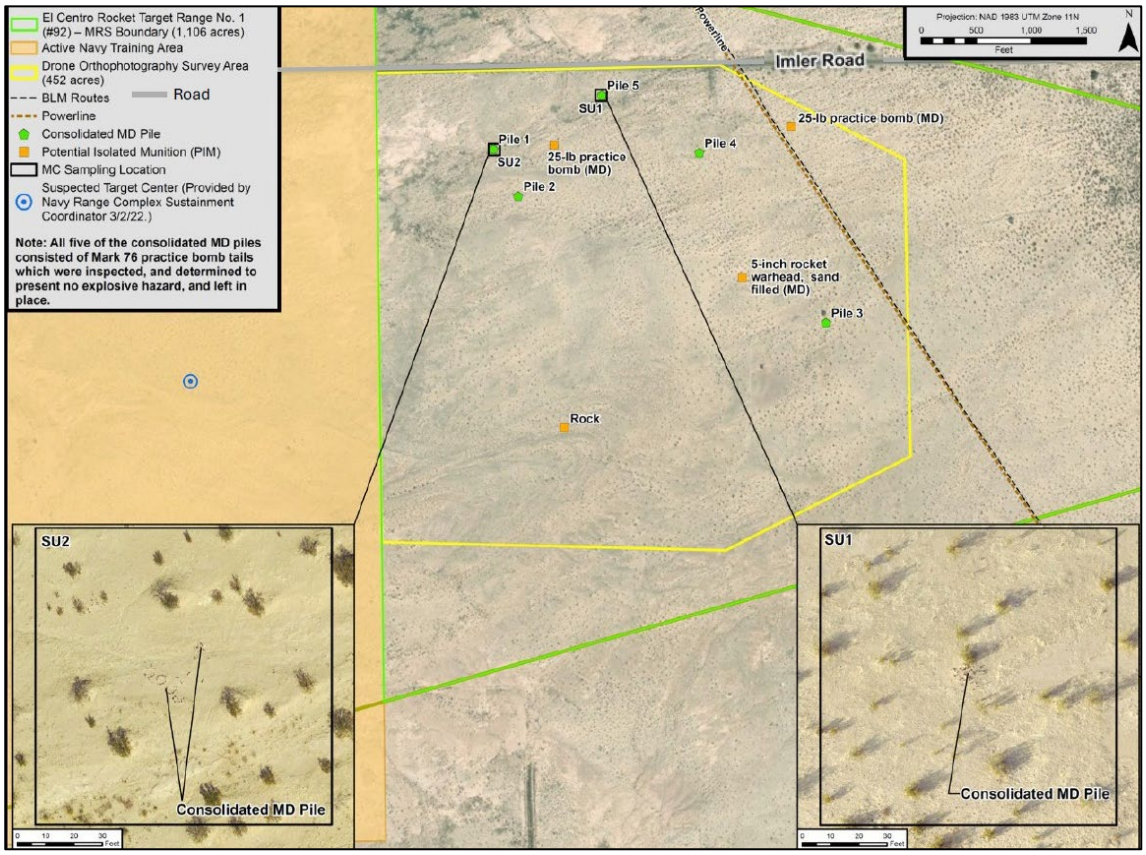


Figure 7: Additional Characterization Activities



SUMMARY OF SITE RISKS

A qualitative risk assessment was conducted to evaluate potential explosive hazards to human receptors at El Centro Rocket Target No. 1. The evaluation was completed in accordance with Headquarters, USACE Memorandum dated, 3 January 2017, Subject, *Trial Period for **Risk Management Methodology** at FUDSs MMRP Projects*, also referred to as the "**RMM**" (USACE, 2017). The qualitative risk assessment was prepared as a collaborative effort amongst the project team. Since the baseline MEC risk assessment is greatly influenced by current and reasonably anticipated future land use considerations, BLM and a private landowner were consulted and involved with development of the baseline MEC risk assessment. Detailed information regarding assessing risks from explosive hazards, an approach for addressing multiple risk scenarios, and an overview of the input factors for the RMM can be seen in Section 6.1. of the RI Report (USACE, 2025). The RMM uses three matrices to support the risk evaluation for each risk scenario:

- Likelihood of Encounter;
- Severity of Incident; and
- Likelihood of Detonation.

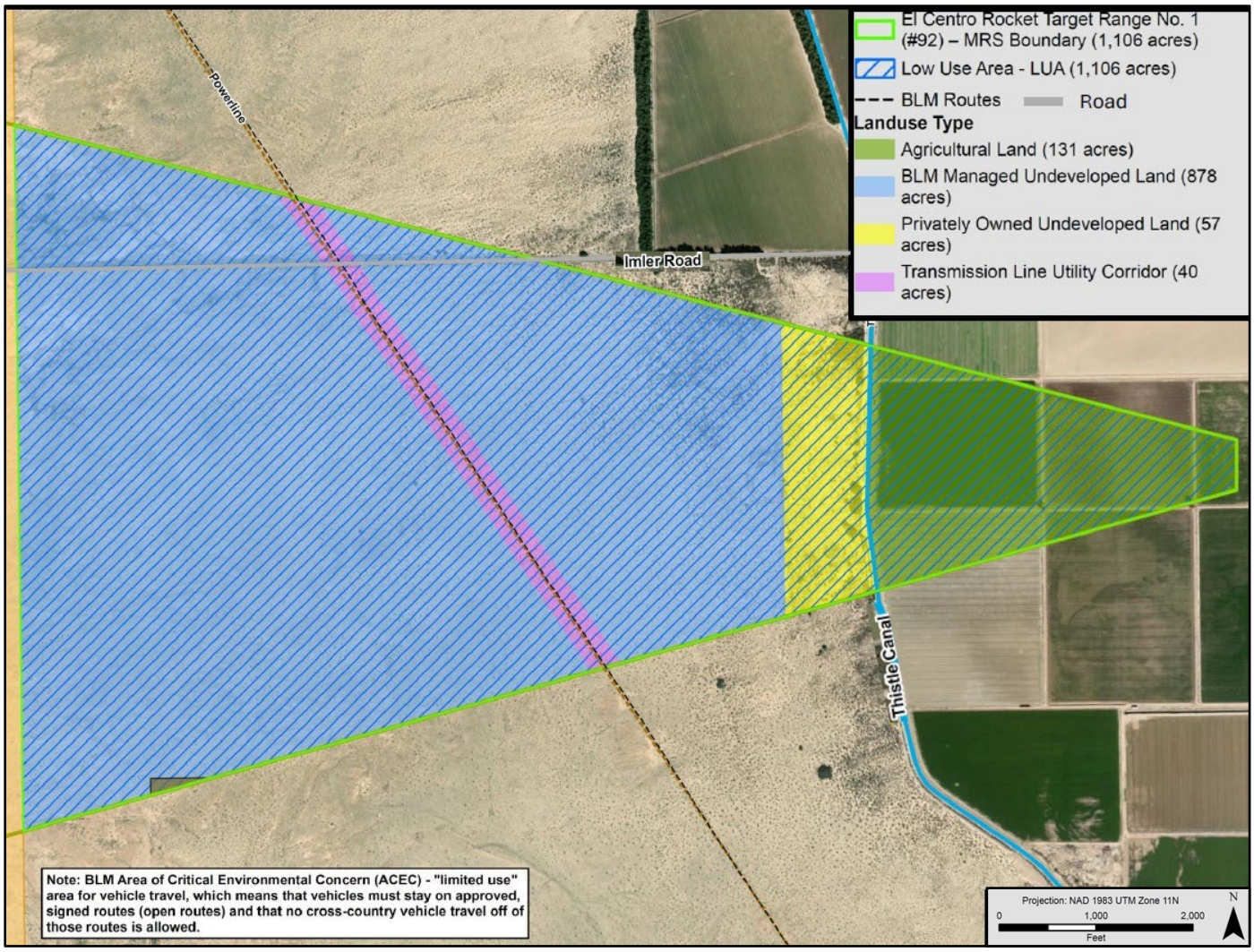
The RMM considers land use in determining the likelihood of encounter component of the risk assessment process. To assess risks in El Centro Rocket Target No. 1, USACE identified one assessment area (see **Figure 8**) a LUA. The 1,106 acres El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS is a LUA.

Table 1: El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 Receptors and Exposure Pathways

Assessment Area	Receptors and Exposure Pathways	Depth of Exposure
LUA 1,106 acres See **Figure 8**	**LUA-1: Agricultural workers**: Disking down to 8-12 inches as often as 4x per year, and other less frequent ground disturbing activities down to 36 inches (131 acres)	Subsurface – down to 36 inches below ground surface
	LUA-2: Agricultural workers: Surface agricultural activities (adjusting surface irrigation lines, etc.) (131 acres)	Surface only
	LUA-3: Recreational users: Illegal off-road travel, hiking within BLM undeveloped land (878 acres)	Surface only
	LUA-4: Recreational users: Camping within BLM undeveloped land (878 acres)	Subsurface – down to 12 inches below ground surface
	LUA-5: Recreational users/ BLM personnel: Off-road travel, along approved BLM routes. BLM personnel patrol area to enforce regulation compliance (40 acres). One approved BLM route exists on the site and is located within the 40-acre Transmission Power Line Utility Corridor.	Surface only
	LUA-6: Construction workers: Construction associated with installation of new or upgraded transmission line. Periodic inspections and maintenance as necessary (40 acres)	Surface and Subsurface – Down to 10+ feet below ground surface
	LUA-7: Recreational users/Site Visitors: Off-road travel, hiking within privately owned undeveloped land (57 acres)	Surface only

Land use within the LUA is varied, with privately owned and BLM managed undeveloped desert recreational land west of the Thistle canal, an overhead utility transmission corridor, and agricultural land to the east. No changes to land use are anticipated. As a result of the varied ownership and physical characteristics of land at El Centro Rocket Target No. 1, several different land use scenarios exist across different swathes of the site. As such, risk scenarios were evaluated for different receptors and exposure pathways based off the use case, frequency of use, and potential exposure depths of different receptors. A list of each identified exposure scenario is presented in **Table 1** and shown on **Figure 8**.

Figure 8: Land Use and Exposure Scenario Overview



Risk Assessment Results

The results of the RMM assessment for El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS indicated there are no unacceptable risks from explosive hazards under current and reasonably anticipated future land use scenarios. Additional details describing the baseline RMM for MEC for the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS are provided in Chapter 6 and Appendix D of the RI Report (USACE, 2025), and a summary table of the results is included below as **Table 2**.

Soil samples were collected and analyzed for explosives from two consolidated MD piles. Explosives were not detected in any sample (and detection limits were less than screening levels identified for the project). Therefore there is no evidence of a release of MC to environmental media. Thus, there are no complete pathways, and no unacceptable human health or ecological risks anticipated due to exposure to MC at El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 (USACE, 2025).

Table 2: El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 – MEC RMM Summary Table

Exposure Scenario	MEC Risk (1) Conclusions
El Centro Rocket Target No. 1: LUA	
Agricultural Land; Subsurface Use (e.g., Disking down to 8-12" as often as 4x per year, and other less frequent ground disturbing activities down to 36")	Acceptable
Agricultural Land; **Surface Use**	Acceptable
BLM Undeveloped Land; Surface Use (e.g., illegal off-road travel, hiking)	Acceptable
BLM Undeveloped Land; Subsurface Use (e.g., illegal camping)	Acceptable
BLM Roads; **Surface Use**	Acceptable
Transmission Line Utility Corridor; Surface and Subsurface Use (to depths of 10+ feet)	Acceptable
Privately Owned Undeveloped Land; Surface Use (e.g., off-road travel, hiking)	Acceptable

Notes: (1) There are no unacceptable MEC risks under current and reasonably anticipated future land use scenarios.

REMEDIAL ACTION OBJECTIVES

Because no unacceptable risks to human health or the environment were identified at the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS under current and reasonably anticipated future land use, a feasibility study and development of **remedial action objectives** are not necessary.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NO ACTION DECISION

This Proposed Plan identifies that the lead agency has determined that no action with no long-term monitoring is necessary to protect public health or welfare or the environment at the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1. As no unacceptable risks to human health or the enviroment from MEC or MC were identified under current and reasonably anticipated future land use in the RI Report for the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 (USACE, 2025), development or evaluation of remedial alternatives was not warranted.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Public Comment

The USACE is the lead agency for investigating, reporting, making remedial decisions, and taking any necessary remedial actions at the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS. The RI Report (USACE, 2025) is a comprehensive document that describes the site history, details of previous investigations, the associated risk assessments, and their conclusions. The RI Report and this Proposed Plan are part of the FUDS Information Repository and are available for review at the locations listed below.

USACE considers public comments before making a no action determination. Written and oral comments on this Proposed Plan will be accepted throughout a public comment period between **09 February 2026** and **13 March 2026**. Correspondence should be postmarked no later than **13 March 2026** and should be sent to the attention of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District Public Affairs Office (see below). All comments will be considered if postmarked by the last day of the public comment period. If requested by the public, USACE will host a public meeting virtually during the public comment period to discuss the proposed No Action decision. USACE will consider comments received during the public comment period and at the public meeting (if requested) in determining whether to adopt the proposed no action decision with no long-term monitoring presented in the Proposed Plan.

Responses to comments received will be documented in the responsiveness summary section of the ROD and published in the Information Repository.

Contact Information

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Sacramento, CA 95814
916-557-5100
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Information Repository

Copies of the final RI Report, along with other project documents and reports for the El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 MRS can be found in the Information Repository at the following locations:

El Centro Library
1198 N Imperial Avenue
El Centro, CA 92243

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
1325 J St, Room 1640
Sacramento, CA 95814

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Anomaly: Measured response associated with one or more sources that can be distinguished from background.

Archives Search Report (ASR): A detailed investigation to report on past MEC activities conducted on an installation. The principal purpose of the Archives Search is to assemble historical records and available field data, assess potential ordnance presence, and recommend follow-up actions at a Defense Environmental Restoration Program – FUDS. There are four general steps in an Archives Search: records search phase, site safety and health plan, site survey, and archives search report including risk assessment.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986: A federal law that addresses the funding for and remediation of abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

Conceptual Site Model (CSM): A description of a FUDS and its environment that is based on existing knowledge. It describes sources of military munitions or HTRW at a property; actual, potentially complete, or incomplete exposure pathways; current or reasonably anticipated future land use; and potential receptors. The source-receptor interaction is a description output of a CSM. The CSM serves as a planning instrument, a modeling and data interpretation aid, and a communication device for use by the Project Decision Team.

Digital geophysical mapping (DGM): Data collection process that employs a metal detector system to digitally record sensor and position data for subsequent data analysis and presentation.

Feasibility Study: A study undertaken by the lead agency to develop and evaluate options for remedial action. The RI data are used to define the objectives of the response action, to develop remedial action alternatives, and to undertake an initial screening and detailed analysis of the alternatives. The term also refers to a report that describes the results of the study.

Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS): Real property that was owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the United States and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary at the time of actions leading to contamination by hazardous substances, or pollutants or contaminants. By the DoD policy, the FUDS program is limited to those real properties that were transferred from DoD control prior to 17 October 1986. FUDS properties can be located within the 50 States, District of Columbia, Territories, Commonwealths, and possessions of the United States.

High density (HD) area: Area within a MRS where the anomaly density has been determined to be greater than or equal to critical density. HD areas will be presumed to result from munitions use unless it can be demonstrated otherwise.

High Explosives (HE): An explosive substance designed to function by detonation (e.g., main charge, booster, or primary explosive).

High use area (HUA): High anomaly density area where munitions use has been confirmed.

Inventory Project Report (INPR): The INPR is the FUDS Program document that formally documents FUDS project eligibility or ineligibility.

Low density (LD) area: Area(s) within a MRS where the anomaly density has been determined to be less than critical density. LD areas can include both low use areas (LUA) and no evidence-of-use areas.

Low use area (LUA): Low anomaly density area where the potential presence of munitions has been confirmed or cannot be ruled out. Examples of LUA include buffer zones and maneuver areas.

Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP): Formerly known as the Ordnance and Explosives Cleanup Program, and a part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, the Military Munitions Response Program is the program category under which DoD carries out environmental restoration activities to respond to releases to the environment of unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions, or MC at MRSs.

Munitions Constituents (MC): Any materials originating from unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions, or other military munitions, including explosive and non-explosive materials, and emission, degradation, or breakdown elements of such ordnance or munitions.

Munitions Debris (MD): Remnants of munitions (e.g., fragments, penetrators, projectiles, shell casings, links, fins) remaining after munitions use, demilitarization, or disposal.

Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC): Specific categories of military munitions that may pose unique explosives safety risks, specifically composed of (a) unexploded ordnance, (b) discarded military munitions, or (c) MC present in high enough concentrations to pose an explosive hazard.

Munitions Response Site (MRS): A discrete location within a munitions response area that is known to require a munitions response.

Proposed Plan: A plan that identifies the preferred remedial alternative(s) for a site and is made available to the public for comment.

Risk Management Methodology (RMM): Qualitative methodology designed to provide information to support risk management decisions upon completion of site characterization, develop remedial action objectives, and provide a basis for assessing achievement of remedial action objectives relative to acceptable end states.

Record of Decision (ROD): Identifies the selected remedy for a site.

Remedial Action Objective: Cleanup objectives that specify contaminants to be cleaned up, the cleanup standard, and the area of cleanup for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment.

Remedial Investigation (RI): A process undertaken by the lead agency to determine the nature and extent of the problem presented by the release. The remedial investigation emphasizes data collection and site characterization. The remedial investigation includes sampling and monitoring, as necessary, and includes the gathering of sufficient information to determine the necessity for remedial action and to support the evaluation of remedial alternatives.

Site Inspection (SI): Activities undertaken to determine whether there is a release or potential release and the nature of associated threats. The purpose is to augment the data collected in the PA and to generate, if necessary, sampling and other field data to determine if further action is necessary to respond to a release of hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants or military munitions.

Unexploded Ordnance: Military munitions that have been primed, fuzed, armed, or otherwise prepared for action and have been fired, dropped, launched, projected, or placed in such a manner as to constitute a hazard to operations, installations, personnel, or material, and remain unexploded either by malfunction, design, or any other cause.

Visual Sample Plan (VSP): A software tool developed by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory that supports the development of a defensible sampling plan based on statistical sampling theory and the statistical analysis of sample results to support confident decision-making.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ASR	Archive Search Report
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CA	California
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
DGM	Digital geophysical mapping
DoD	Department of Defense
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Site
HD	High density
HE	high explosive
HUA	High Use Area
HVAR	High Velocity Aircraft Rocket
INPR	Inventory Project Report
LD	Low density
LUA	Low Use Area
MC	Munitions constituents
MD	Munitions Debris
MEC	Munitions and explosives of concern
MMRP	Military Munitions Response Program
MRS	Munitions Response Site
RI	Remedial Investigation
RMM	Risk Management Methodology
ROD	Record of Decision
SI	Site Inspection
TBD	to be determined
UFP-QAPP	Uniform Federal Policy – Quality Assurance Project Plan
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
VSP	Visual Sample Plan

PUBLIC COMMMENT SHEET
El Centro Rocket Target No. 1 (#92)
Imperial County, CA
PROPOSED PLAN

Please use the space below to submit your comments on the Proposed Plan for this site. If you need more space for your comments, attach additional pages. After completing this comment sheet, you may send it via mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Attn: SPK-PAO, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 (Telephone: 916-557-5100). Comments must be postmarked by **13 March 2026**. Comments may also be submitted via email to spk-pao@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions about the public comment period, please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District Public Affairs Office using the contact information provided.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip Code** _____