UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

September 24, 2012

Mr. Jesse Martinez
NAVFAC Southwest
1220 Pacific Coast Highway
Building 1
San Diego, California 92132-5190

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for Basewide Water Infrastructure at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California (CEQ#20120272)

Dear Mr. Martinez:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and provided comments to the Marine Corps on January 31, 2012. We rated the DEIS as Environmental Concerns – Insufficient Information (EC-2) due to concerns about potential impacts to waters of the U.S. and construction-related air emissions. We recommended that the Marine Corps work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to verify jurisdictional waters and to develop the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative. We also recommended that the Marine Corps implement measures to mitigate air emissions and provide additional information on the potential effects of climate change on the proposed projects.

The FEIS addresses our concerns regarding potential impacts to jurisdictional waters and construction-related air emissions. The EPA commends the Marine Corps for providing detailed responses to our comments regarding waters of the U.S.; meeting with the USACE to verify jurisdictional waters; demonstrating in the EIS that the preferred alternative is the least environmentally damaging alternative; and eliminating maintenance and recreation corridors in the P-1045 project adjacent to Stuart Mesa Road. Additionally, we are pleased that the Marine Corps added EPA-recommended mitigation measures and a discussion of climate change adaptation to Section 5.2.4 of the FEIS.

Please note that, starting October 1, 2012, EPA Headquarters will not accept paper copies or CDs of EISs for official filing purposes. Submissions on or after October 1, 2012, must be made through the EPA's new electronic EIS submittal tool: *e-NEPA*. To begin using *e-NEPA*, you must first register with the EPA's electronic reporting site - https://cdx.epa.gov/epa_home.asp. Electronic submission does not change requirements for distribution of EISs for public review and comment, and lead agencies should still provide one hard copy of each Draft and Final EIS released for public circulation to the EPA Region 9 office in San Francisco (Mail Code: CED-2).

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3521, or contact Jason Gerdes, the lead reviewer for this project. Jason can be reached at (415) 947-4221 or gerdes.jason@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office (CED-2)