

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING;
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE TRANSFER OF EXCESS
FEDERAL PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT OF AN OUTPATIENT CLINIC,
OFFICES, AND NATIONAL CEMETERY AT THE FORMER NAVAL AIR STATION
ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA**

AGENCIES: Department of the Navy (Navy) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), the Navy and VA announce the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the transfer of excess Federal property and development of an outpatient clinic, offices, and National Cemetery at the former Naval Air Station (NAS) Alameda, California. A 30-day public comment period is being held to receive written comments on the Draft EA. A public meeting will also be held to provide information and receive oral and written comments on the Draft EA. Federal, state, and local agencies and interested individuals are invited to comment on the Draft EA or attend the public meeting.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For additional information concerning the Draft EA or to send comments, please contact:

Douglas Roaldson
Environmental Program Manager
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs/VISN 21
201 Walnut Avenue, Room 1020
Mare Island, CA 94592-1107
Fax: 707-562-8369
Email: Alameda.EA@va.gov.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as interested parties, are invited and encouraged to review and comment on the Draft EA or attend the public meeting. Comments can be made in the following ways:

- (1) Oral statements or written comments at the scheduled public meeting; or
- (2) Written comments mailed to the VA address in this notice; or
- (3) Written comments faxed to the VA fax number in this notice; or
- (4) Comments submitted via e-mail using the VA e-mail address in this notice.

The Draft EA has been distributed to various Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as other interested individuals and organizations. In addition, copies of the Draft EA have been distributed to the following libraries and publicly accessible facilities for public review:

- City of Alameda Planning Division, by appointment only (2263 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, 94501);
- City of Alameda Public _____);
- _____ - _____);
- City of Alameda Public Library - West End Branch (788 Santa Clara Ave. _____);
- City of Oakland, Citywide Planning Main Office, by appointment only (250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3315, Oakland, 94612);
- City of Oakland Library – Main (125 14th St., Oakland, 94612);
- City of Oakland Library - Cesar E. Chavez Branch (3301 East 12th St., Oakland, 94601);

- City of Oakland Library - 81st Avenue Branch (1021 81st Ave., Oakland, 94621);
- City of Oakland Library - Dimond Branch (3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 94602);
- City of Oakland Library - Eastmont Branch (7200 Bancroft, Ste 211, Oakland, 94605); and
- San Francisco Public Library – Main (100 Larkin St., San Francisco, 94102).

An electronic copy of the Draft EA is also available for public viewing at the VA Website (<http://www.northerncalifornia.va.gov/planning/Alameda>); or the Navy BRAC Program Management Office Website (<http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil>). Single electronic compact disk copies of the Draft EA will be made available upon request by contacting the VA at the address in this notice.

To be considered, **all comments must be received by Friday, March 29, 2013.**

All comments will become part of the public record and will be responded to in the Final EA. Equal weight will be given to comments received at the scheduled public meeting and those forwarded directly to the Navy and VA. In the interest of available time, and to ensure all who wish to give oral statements at the public meeting the opportunity to do so, each speaker's comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. If a longer statement is to be presented, it should be summarized at the public meeting and the full text submitted in writing either at the meeting or mailed, emailed or faxed to the above address. To ensure the accuracy of the record, all statements presented orally at the public meeting should be submitted in writing.

PUBLIC MEETING DATE AND ADDRESS: Two public meetings will be held on the same day. Each meeting will be preceded by an open information session to allow interested individuals to review information presented in the Draft EA. Navy and VA representatives will be available during the information session to provide clarification as necessary related to the Draft EA. There will not be a formal presentation.

The public meeting is scheduled as follows:

Thursday, March 14, 2013
Session #1 (1:00 – 3:00 p.m.) and Session #2 (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)
USS HORNET Museum
707 W Hornet Ave, Pier 3
Alameda, CA 94501

VA and the Navy acknowledge the Aircraft Carrier HORNET Foundation's assistance in securing accommodations for the public meeting.

Requests for special assistance, sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired, language interpreters, or other auxiliary aids for the scheduled public meeting must be sent by mail or email to the VA address in this notice. All requests for special assistance must be received by Friday, March 8, 2013.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Navy and VA, as joint lead agencies, have prepared and made available for public review a Draft EA for the transfer of excess Federal property and development of an outpatient clinic, offices, and National Cemetery at the former NAS Alameda, California. The Draft EA evaluates the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the human and natural environment resulting from the Navy and VA Proposed Action to transfer excess Federal property at the former NAS Alameda and its subsequent reuse by the VA. The Navy's Proposed Action is to dispose of excess property at the former NAS Alameda via a Federal-to-Federal transfer to VA. The Navy's need for the Proposed Action is to comply with the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990, as amended (Public Law 101-510, 10 USC 2687 [1994]). VA's Proposed Action is to establish a single location for

combined services consistent with the National “One VA” goal, which advocates consolidating services wherever possible to ensure that the most centralized, coordinated, and efficient care is provided to Veterans in a local area. VA’s need for the Proposed Action is to serve, care for, honor, and memorialize San Francisco Bay Area Veterans in a manner that addresses the area’s current and future capacity needs and provides a greater range of services at one location.

The Draft EA analyzes two action alternatives that would involve a Federal-to-Federal transfer of excess Federal property at the former NAS Alameda. The land transferred would consist of approximately 549-acres under Alternative 1, or approximately 624-acres under Alternative 2. Both action alternatives would include the construction and operation of a VA outpatient clinic, outreach office, National Cemetery, and associated infrastructure on approximately 112-acres. The remaining acreage would remain undeveloped. Also evaluated is the No Action Alternative, in which the Navy would retain ownership of the property under caretaker status. Alternative 2 has been identified as the Preferred Alternative by the VA. This Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the NEPA (Pub. L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4370f) and the implementing regulations of the CEQ (40 CFR 1500-1508).