

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact:

Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of the Recreational Vehicle Park Expansion, Fort Irwin, California

The Recreational Vehicle (RV) Park at Fort Irwin serves soldiers and civilian contractors associated with training rotations, retired military patrons, permanent change of station personnel, temporary duty personnel, temporary additional duty personnel, and families of those residing at Fort Irwin. In addition to soldiers and civilians residing at Fort Irwin, training rotation support is provided by 75 contractor firms that provide a variety of services. There is a high utilization rate of the RV Park by civilian contractors during these periods, who often stay at the RV Park for extended time periods of longer than one month.

The current capacity for camp sites, services, and resources is less than adequate. The RV Park provides 50 RV sites, each with 30-amp electrical service. Water is provided to each site; however, there is no at-site wastewater service provided. Wastewater service is provided through two means, either pumping via truck service several times per month or use of a nearby vault latrine dump point. Long-term stays and overcrowding are challenges that the RV Park faces. RV sites often contain two RVs parked in one site with equipment to splice the electrical service for two units. In addition, the RV Park operates an informal overflow lot located at one end of the site. The overflow lot does not provide electrical or water service and is used as a parking area and for guests awaiting a formal site assignment. The overflow lot often has several occupants.

The Proposed Action is to expand, renovate, and modernize the existing RV Park. Fort Irwin has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) which provides an evaluation of the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Proposed Action. The actions considered in the EA are part of a major federal action, which must be evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA was prepared pursuant to the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 32, Part 651, and the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations (Title 40, U.S. Code, Parts 1500 through 1508) for implementing the procedural requirements of NEPA.

In preparation of the EA, two alternatives were selected for detailed and equal analysis: the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. One additional alternative was considered but was dismissed, as it did not provide additional cost benefits.

Description of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to expand, renovate, and modernize the existing RV Park. The Proposed Action is the preferred alternative and includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of the RV Park expansion with the following components:

- The existing 50 RV sites would be provided with 20-foot by 40-foot concrete parking pads and a 200-square-foot area of pavers to the right of the concrete pad would be used for outdoor living or to park a towed vehicle.
- Fifty-nine (59) additional RV parking sites would be constructed and would include concrete parking pads, utility connections, a combination fire ring/grill, and individual picnic tables.
- Allowances would be made for underground utility connection to utility primaries designed to accommodate peak season as follows: potable water, including fire water distribution (500 linear feet), a sanitary sewer line (5,000 linear feet), electrical line (3,000 linear feet) with appropriate transformers, and fiber optic communications line (2,000 linear feet).

- Improvements would be made to the expansion area to include enclosed dumpsters, xeriscaping, chain-link fencing, and construction of a 3,665-square-foot comfort station with showers, restrooms, a game room, kitchen/dining room, meeting room, and maintenance storage.
- A 1,000-gallon-capacity propane filling station and a 25-foot by 40-foot covered concrete pad with six concrete-filled pipe bollards would be installed.
- An approximately 200-square-foot premanufactured RV Park registration booth to provide check-in, information, video surveillance, general paperwork, and cashiering services would be installed.

Approximately 15 acres of land would be disturbed for expansion of the RV Park. Cement trucks and earth-moving equipment, such as bulldozers, backhoes and dump trucks, would be used for construction.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed RV Park expansion would not be implemented and current conditions would continue into the future. There would be no impacts from construction and operation of the expanded RV Park. Under the No Action Alternative, continuation of current conditions would not meet the demand for capacity of RV spaces for soldiers, civilian contractors, retirees, and their families. Increased revenue that would result from an expanded RV Park, which would help support the entire Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program, would not occur. Furthermore, existing patrons would continue to receive less than adequate services that are expected at facilities of this nature. The No Action Alternative is carried forward as a baseline for comparison with the Proposed Action.

Environmental Consequences

The EA evaluated potential impacts on land use planning and aesthetics, geology, soils, mineral resources, biological resources, water resources, air quality, noise, cultural resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice, transportation, utilities, human health and safety, aesthetics, and recreation.

As discussed in the EA, implementing the Proposed Action would result in temporary and less than significant negative impacts on flora, fauna, and special-status species, air quality, noise, transportation, health and human safety, and hazardous and toxic substances from construction activities with the use of mitigation. There would be permanent less-than-significant impacts on soils. There would be long-term less-than-significant impacts to aesthetics and utilities, including water treatment, wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and energy from additional utilities at each new RV site and comfort station. Measures would be implemented, as appropriate, to reduce impacts on these resources.

There would be long-term beneficial impacts to recreation from additional capacity for RVs, construction of a comfort station and upgraded utilities. There would be temporary beneficial impacts to the regional economy from jobs, income, and earnings from construction.

The draft Final EA will be placed at the Barstow Public Library, Fort Irwin Library and Fort Irwin Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, for public review. The public will be invited to comment through advertisements in the local papers.

For further information regarding the EA or this Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), please contact: Mr. Clarence Everly, Fort Irwin Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, Building 602, P.O. Box 105085, Fort Irwin, California, 92310-5085, or via e-mail at clarence.a.everly.civ@mail.mil.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis presented in the EA, I find that implementation of the Proposed Action would have no significant impact on the human or natural environment. Therefore, a FNSI is issued for the Proposed Action, and no Environmental Impact Statement is required.

Date

G. Scott Taylor
COL, AR
Commanding