



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

Incorporated August 5, 1889
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May 28, 2019

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
Attention: John Mosher, NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager
3730 N. Charles Porter Ave.
Building 385, Admin, Room 216
Oak Harbor, WA 98278-5000

Re: Opposition to Sonar and Explosives Training and Testing in the Pacific Ocean off the Coast of Northern California

Dear Mr. Mosher:

The Fort Bragg City Council opposes sonar and explosives testing and training off the coast of Northern California.

There are a number of reasons why we oppose testing of this type. First and foremost, we are not convinced of the need to jeopardize and expose our living systems to Naval weapons testing. It is 2019, and technology has progressed well beyond the early technology of WWII. We believe testing today can be simulated in a controlled environment in labs and with giant water tanks. The US Defense Department should re-evaluate these outdated methods of testing.

Second, please understand we are a coastal town that depends on healthy oceanic ecosystems to support our fishing, tourism and marine science research industries. The importance of protecting our marine sea life cannot be understated. Our oceanic ecosystems continue to be compromised by warming sea temperatures from global warming, pollution, and overfishing. Sonar and explosive testing only further stresses this frail ecosystem.

Finally, every year in March, the City of Fort Bragg hosts a Whale Festival to champion and celebrate these complex mammals. The whales pass through Northern California twice a year during their migrations. These animals live not just off our coast but along the whole coast of North America.

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Again, both the Council and our Community oppose any kind of sonar or explosives testing that could harm marine life, including the whales.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter. Fort Bragg is proud of and supports the Navy and our military's work and commitment to keeping us safe.

Sincerely,

William V. Lee
Mayor

Bernie Norvell
Vice Mayor

Teresa K. Albin-Smith
Councilmember

Jessica Morsell-Haye
Councilmember

Lindy Peters
Councilmember