CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Permitting Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with § 21108 of the Public Resources Code

Project Title: NAWS China Lake, Burro Canyon Open Burn/Open Detonation Units, Approval of a Class 2 Permit Modification

State Clearinghouse Number: 2003081058

Project Location: 1 Administration Circle China Lake, CA 93555

County: Kern

Project Applicant: Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Environmental Management Division

Project Description: The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), pursuant to Division 4.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 20, has approved a Class 2 Permit Modification (Permit Modification) pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 25200 at the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake (NAWSCL) (Facility) located at 1 Administration Circle in China Lake, California 93555. The Class 2 Permit Modification is required for Unit 6 (open detonation treatment unit) in the Burro Canyon Treatment portion of the Facility. The modification is requested to address safety and compliance issues within Unit 6 (open detonation treatment unit) of the existing Burro Canyon Treatment Facility. There are no anticipated operational changes and no new ground disturbing activities proposed by the Facility. The treatment of energetic waste is essential to support the core mission of NAWSCL because the explosive hazardous waste poses a threat to public safety and is prohibited from transportation over public roads. The current boundaries of the existing open detonation work area require modification, as it is becoming physically difficult to access the area and is creating safety hazards for personnel. This Class 2 Permit Modification proposes to expand the boundaries of the existing Unit 6 open detonation work area to create a larger area to conduct open detonation activities, improving worker safety and ensuring the consistent and safe treatment of hazardous waste. While the open detonation area would be expanded, the previously permitted boundaries of the Burro Canyon Treatment Facility will not change. This Addendum to the previously certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared to address activities associated with the Permit Modification.

The NAWSCL Facility is located at the northwestern part of the Mojave Desert and approximately 150 miles northeast of Los Angeles, California. China Lake lies within Kern, Inyo, and San Bernardino counties. The China Lake land area consists of 1.1 million acres and is composed of two major areas. China Lake is the principal site for the naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division. The mission of the NAWS is to be the principal Navy research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) center for warfare systems and missile weapons systems. NAWSCL holds a hazardous waste facility permit from DTSC to store hazardous waste in containers and/or tanks in two hazardous waste management unit areas: the NAWSCL Hazardous Waste Storage and Transfer Facility (HWSTF) and the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) storage building (PCBSB) which provides the capability to safely receive, segregate, transfer, and store hazardous waste prior to final transport to an appropriate offsite disposal/treatment facility. A third permitted area is the Burro Canyon Treatment Facility (BCTF) which includes the Open Burn/Open Detonation units. NAWSCL treats the reactive waste generated from the China Lake RDT&E activities.

This project would not affect any aspect of the environment, and all additional activities will continue to be consistent with the Hazardous Waste Permit and there are no anticipated operational changes proposed and no proposed significant changes to ground disturbing activities. This project requires no significant construction. There are no proposed significant physical changes to the Facility that were not included in the previously certified EIR, for which the prepared addendum is updating.

As Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC approved the above-described project on November 23, 2026, and has made the following determinations:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of project approval by DTSC.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was not adopted for this project by DTSC.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project by DTSC.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA by DTSC.

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Permitting Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Additional project information is available on EnviroStor: www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/

Contact Person	Contact Title	Phone Number
Parampreet Basra	Senior Hazardous Substance Engineer	(916) 255-6413

Approver's Signature:

Ryan W Batty

Date: 11/23/2026

Approver's Name	Approver's Title	Approver's Phone Number
Ryan Batty	Supervising Hazardous Substance Engineer, I	(916) 255-3612

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Date Received for Filing and Posting at LCI: