DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE
SPACE LAUNCH DELTA 30

May 23, 2025

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is issuing this notice to inform the public of the availability of the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Authorizing Changes to the Falcon Launch Program at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB), California*. The Draft EIS was prepared to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with:

- The DAF's authorization of the redevelopment of Space Launch Complex (SLC)-6 to support Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy operations, including launch and landing at VSFB;

- The DAF's authorization of an increase in Falcon 9 launches and landings at VSFB and downrange landings in the Pacific Ocean; and

- The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) licensing Space Exploration Technologies Corporation's (SpaceX) Falcon operations at VSFB and approval of related airspace closures.

In preparing the Draft EIS, the DAF evaluated a Proposed Action, Alternative 1, and a No Action Alternative. The DAF is the lead federal agency, with the FAA and United States Coast Guard as cooperating agencies. The successful completion of the environmental review process does not guarantee that the FAA would license SpaceX operations or approve related airspace closures. The project must also meet all FAA safety, risk, and indemnification requirements for the appropriate license.

The DAF prepared a Draft EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and published a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register* on May 23, 2025, to announce the availability of the Draft EIS and to initiate a 45-day public review and comment period, which closes **July 7, 2025**. The purpose of public involvement during the Draft EIS public comment period is to inform the public of the potential effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives and solicit input regarding the results of the analysis presented in the Draft EIS. Public commenting allows the DAF to make more informed decisions. The Draft EIS and its corresponding appendices are available for viewing or download on the project website at **www.VSFBFalconLaunchEIS.com** and at **www.vandenberg.spaceforce.mil/About-Us/Environmental/EAS/**. Hard copies are available to view at the following information repositories:

- Avenue Library, 606 N. Ventura Ave., Ventura, CA 93001
- E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main St., Ventura, CA 93001
- Lompoc Public Library, 501 E. North Ave., Lompoc, CA 93436
- Ojai Library, 111 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai, CA 93023

- Santa Barbara Public Library, 40 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101
- Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, CA 93454
- South Oxnard Branch Library, 4300 Saviers Road, Oxnard, CA 93033
- Vandenberg Space Force Base Library, 100 Community Loop, Building 10343A, Vandenberg SFB, CA 93437

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The DAF is holding three in-person public hearings and a virtual public hearing to provide the public with the opportunity to learn more about the proposal and provide input. For more information about the in-person and virtual public hearings, please visit **www.VSFBFalconLaunchEIS.com**.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC HEARINGS (5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Pacific Time)

Tuesday, June 10, 2025	Four Points by Sheraton/Ventura Harbor Resort, 1050 Schooner Dr., Ventura, CA 93001
Wednesday, June 11, 2025	Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol, Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Thursday, June 12, 2025	Hilton Garden Inn, 1201 North H St., Lompoc, CA 93436

In-person public hearings will begin at 5 p.m., starting with an open-house information session to allow attendees to view informational posters, speak with project representatives, and sign-up to provide an oral comment. Written comments can also be submitted at the in-person public hearings. A Spanish interpreter will be available as needed.

The public hearing session will be called to order at 5:30 p.m. The DAF will provide a presentation about the proposal and the environmental impact analysis.

The formal public oral comment session will begin at approximately 6 p.m. Each speaker will have up to three minutes to provide their comment. Oral comments will be transcribed by a stenographer for the public record.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING (6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Pacific Time)

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 **www.VSFBFalconLaunchEIS.com**

The DAF will hold a virtual public hearing, consisting of a presentation and public comment opportunity in which individuals will have the opportunity to provide oral comments on Zoom. The virtual public hearing will be recorded and comments transcribed for the public record. For more information about participating in the virtual public hearing, please visit **www.VSFBFalconLaunchEIS.com.**

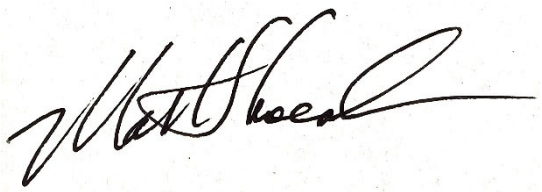
If you require accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please submit your request by calling the VSFB Public Affairs Office at (805) 606-3595 no later than one week prior to the applicable hearing date.

The public is invited to review the Draft EIS and provide substantive comments on the Proposed Action and the environmental analysis. The public is also invited to provide comments on the project's potential to affect historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Comments may be submitted at the in-person public hearings, the virtual public hearing, online via the project website at **www.VSFBFalconLaunchEIS.com**, or by U.S. postal mail to:

ATTN: VSFB Falcon Launch EIS
c/o ManTech International Corporation
420 Stevens Avenue, Suite 100
Solana Beach, CA 92075

To ensure the DAF has sufficient time to consider public comments during preparation of the Final EIS, please submit comments within the 45-day public review and comment period, which closes **July 7, 2025**. Please also help the DAF inform the community about the availability of the Draft EIS, public comment period, and public hearings by sharing this information with your community and constituents.

If you have any questions regarding the EIS process, please contact Ms. Hilary Rummel, NEPA Project Manager, at info@VSFBFalconLaunchEIS.com, or VSFB Public Affairs office at 805-606-3595. To learn more about this project, please visit **www.VSFBFalconLaunchEIS.com**.



MARK A. SHOEMAKER, Colonel, USSF
Commander, SLD 30