

Appendix 2  
Inland Fish and Game Association  
Proposed Recreation and Public Purposes Act Lease Renewal  
Results of Scoping Process

The BLM held a public open house March 2, 2004 to seek public input on issues to be considered in analyzing this lease renewal proposal. Numerous written comments were received from the 250 or so people that attended this open house. In addition, the BLM provided the opportunity for the public to submit comments by mail or e-mail through April 5, 2004.

The following is a summary of the comments received from the public pertaining to this proposal:

1. The IF&G Range was there first; local residents that have moved into the area were aware of the noise from the shooting range and have little basis for raising the noise issue.
2. There is a shortage of shooting ranges in Southern California for people to use; many have closed and there are very limited locations for new outdoor range facilities. Closing this range will result in the public having to use unorganized shooting areas, such as in the desert, that are not safe, impact wildlife and other land users, and result in impacts such as trash and refuse. The present location of the range is very convenient to shooters in the overall metropolitan area and is very affordable.
3. The IF&G Range is safe, well run and accident free; facility is neat and well maintained; and facility has a full-time range master to direct use.
4. As a service to the community, this facility provides a meeting place for numerous organizations including youth, religious and civic groups as well as law enforcement organizations.
5. The IF&G Range sponsors Boy Scout Troop #19 including providing funding, storage, meeting location and other support.
6. Many non-members use the facility from a dispersed area; provides overall public benefit over large area.
7. Facility offers vital training to the public in firearms and hunter safety.
8. Adjacent gravel pits create more noise, dust, traffic problems than the range does.
9. The Range provides employment for people including to run snack/lunch bar.
10. Facility is accessible to the disabled; providing one sport that is conducive to those with physical disabilities.
11. This facility is one of a very few offering a 200 yard rifle range.
12. The shooting range is incompatible with adjacent land uses that have developed over the years (residential neighborhoods, commercial, recreational and schools).
13. This shooting range is a temporary use (under 10-20 year leases) while adjacent uses are permanent (residential areas etc.). If use is inconsistent, then lease should be limited or conditional. Land use that used to be perfectly acceptable under prior circumstances, but has become less desirable due to the dynamics of the surrounding area, should not be continued (example: dairy farms near Norco).

14. Any inconvenience related to shooting noise is a good trade-off for the service that the club provides.
15. The noise is a real issue for local residents; if lease is renewed, then it should have stipulations for sound barriers and walls.
16. There are numerous meeting places in the Highland area for organizations, including non-profits, to meet. The positive benefits of this facility as a meeting hall are slight given other available locations.
17. The range should be relocated as means of eliminating noise issues: older adults and babies are disturbed by the noise.
18. Noise is especially impacting on Wednesday evenings, sometimes to 10:00pm, and on weekends. Noise impact on local residents is significant as range is in the low-lands and the local residential areas are on adjacent slopes resulting in the noise being heard for long distances.
19. There is a need to consider the impact on the two new schools being built in the area-located north of 5<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to Boulder Highway.
20. Noise is an issue that should be addressed. If lease is renewed, then the following mitigation should be required: 1. adjust hours of operation including closing facility at 8:00pm on Wednesday evenings; 2. do not allow magnum or hi-base loads, especially on Wednesday evening as they are significantly louder; 3. open one or two hours later on Saturday and Sunday mornings; and 4. close every other Sunday or restrict to ½ days (11:00am-3:00pm).
21. Need to complete noise decibel studies on Wednesday evenings and weekends along 5<sup>th</sup> Street and inside residential neighborhoods to determine if noise exceeds Federal guidelines or regulations.
22. Do not renew lease for 20 years; a shorter period, such as 5 years, is more appropriate to adjust or suspend use if necessary to address future issues.
23. This range provides opportunity for competitive shooting matches in addition to general shooting. Match shooting provides a needed recreational opportunity.
24. Interest in sport shooting has greatly increased along with population in Southern California: there is a need to accommodate this demand with this facility.
25. Residents in area made an informed decision to move into this area as they were advised of the noise issues related to the gun range, the then Norton Air Force Base, and the gravel operations. The city conditioned all tracts and master cc+rs for East Highland with an advisory about this gun range.
26. This shooting range has become part of long-standing (often multigenerational) family traditions that would be lost if closed.
27. Environmental conditions have changed in recent years including placement of two elementary and one middle school in proximity to the shooting range. The shotgun range directs gunfire at residential areas and schools. Most residential areas are at an elevation above the range that precludes possible screening. The range is open from 7:00am to 10:00pm at times with local residents hearing the gunfire, at times, from behind their closed windows. Elementary schools in area can hear the noise in their classrooms.
28. Physical appearance of the facility is an eyesore as seen from Orange Street; need vegetation screening such as found at the gravel pits located to the south.

29. The range is open all weekends and holidays such as Christmas and Easter; the church that meets at Arroyo Verde School on Sundays hears gunfire during Easter and Christmas services.
30. It is not fair that nonresidents of East Highland come in and burden the local residents with gun noise.
31. This club has used the site for 40 years for their private purposes.
32. There is plenty of other BLM lands available without compatibility issues involving adjacent land uses.
33. The sound of gunfire difficult for local residents to overcome in evenings, especially during summer when windows are open.