

As of mid-March 2026, U.S. federal and California state officials have addressed reports regarding potential drone threats to the West Coast, primarily tied to escalating tensions with Iran.

Key Findings on West Coast Drone Threats:

- **FBI Warning (March 2026):** The FBI issued a memo to California law enforcement agencies regarding unverified intelligence that Iran "aspired" to launch a surprise drone attack from an unidentified vessel off the California coast.
- **Threat Status:** Officials stress that there is **no specific, credible, or imminent threat** to California at this time.
- **Context:** The alleged threat was linked to potential Iranian retaliation for U.S. and Israeli strikes against Iran in late February 2026.
- **Response Measures:** California law enforcement is monitoring the situation, and Governor Gavin Newsom directed the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to elevate security postures.
- **Expert Analysis:** Experts have noted that such an attack would be challenging for Iran, given the distance, and that Iranian drones are often slow and detectable.
- **Other Threats:** A September 2025 bulletin, independent of the March 2026 alert, suggested that Mexican drug cartel leaders had considered using drones against U.S. personnel at the border.

Summary of Reported Risks:

- **Origin:** Unidentified vessels in the Pacific Ocean.
- **Targets:** Unspecified locations in California.
- **Targeted Entities:** Law enforcement and military assets.

While the threat is currently deemed unverified, state and federal authorities are maintaining vigilance and reviewing security measures for critical infrastructure, such as Travis Air Force Base.