



**CITY OF FILLMORE**

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Executive Correspondence

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Anthony Principi, Chairman  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

For the following reasons the City of Fillmore is hopeful that the BRAC Commission will agree with us and reject the Department of Defense's recommendations to move weapons, range, and electronic warfare functions from Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) to China Lake.

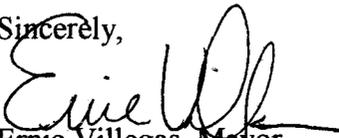
First, the Sea Range and its supporting functions at Point Mugu and Port Hueneme are unparalleled and cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the nation. Why would the Commission want to relocate the range and aerial target functions, plus supporting aircraft, to China Lake, 150 miles away from the primary operating Range, only to increase their response time to range tasking, reduce their on-range time, increase operating costs, and reduce safety?

Additionally, most of the people who have worked on these projects for many years and are detailed to move simply will not move to China Lake/Ridgecrest. Many of these people live in Ventura County and have indicated that they will not leave here for the desert. As a result, it will take years to reconstitute that expertise. In the meantime the projects they are working on will suffer greatly.

Finally, this loss of intellectual capital and interruption of work will be detrimental to our nation's Global War on Terrorism, and moving essential technology from its proximity to the Sea Range will be detrimental, as well.

Again, I am hopeful Mr. Chairman that you and the BRAC Commission will agree with us and reject the DOD's recommendations to move weapons, range and electronic warfare functions from NBVC to China Lake.

Sincerely,



Ernie Villegas, Mayor  
City of Fillmore, CA