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Assembly
California Legislature

AUDRA STRICKLAND
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

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July 1, 2005

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 I am hopeful that you will 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. It would appear that relocating the range and aerial target functions, plus supporting aircraft, to China Lake - 150 miles away from the primary operating range – would only 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. As a result, it will take years to reconstitute that expertise. In the meantime the projects they are working on will suffer greatly. Many of these people live in Ventura County, are respected and integral parts of our community, and have indicated that they will not leave here for the desert.

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 that you will reject the DOD's recommendations to move weapons, range and electronic warfare functions from NBVC to China Lake.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments.

Sincerely,

Audra Strickland

Audra Strickland
Assemblywoman, 37th District

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