

CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA

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July 8, 2005

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CITY COUNCIL

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

Brian Brennan, Mayor
Carl E. Morehouse, Deputy Mayor
Neal Andrews, Councilmember
Bill Fulton, Councilmember
James L. Monahan, Councilmember
Sandy E. Smith, Councilmember
Christy Weir, Councilmember

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Ventura to express our concern regarding the Department of Defense's recommendations to move weapons, range, and electronic warfare functions from Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) to China Lake. We believe that there are several compelling reasons related to the relocation of the Sea Range support operations that do not make logistical or economic sense.

The Sea Range and its supporting functions at Pt. Mugu and Port Hueneme are unique and not readily duplicated anywhere else in the nation. Most of the contractors and civil service employees involved in this program have worked on these projects for many years. They are detailed to move as a part of the relocation, and the preliminary indication is that many of them are not likely to relocate to China Lake/Ridgecrest. As a result, it will take many years to replace the collective knowledge that will be lost. This will more than likely have a detrimental effect on the continuation of the program.

Relocating the range and aerial target functions, plus supporting aircraft, to China Lake, 150 miles away from the primary operating Range, would result in an increased response time to range tasking, a reduction in on-range time, increased operating costs, and reduced safety.

We at the City of Ventura are hopeful that after consideration of these specifics, you will agree with us that the DOD's recommendation to move the weapons, range and electronic warfare functions from NBVC to China Lake is not in Country's best interest. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Brennan
Mayor