



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

July 11, 2005

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BRAC Commission

JUL 13 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark St
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am writing to thank you for agreeing to meet with local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in California and concerned citizens and officials to hear their concerns over the Base Realignment and Closure process. As you know, many communities throughout California will be considerably affected by these proposed changes and meeting directly with the BRAC Commission provides them with an opportunity to share their thoughts and allows the Commission to ease general apprehension.

Included among the many closure and realignment recommendations by Secretary Rumsfeld to the BRAC commission was the closing of the office of Defense Finance and Accounting Services in San Bernardino. If the BRAC commission approves Secretary Rumsfeld's recommendations and the office of Defense Finance and Accounting Services in San Bernardino is closed, San Bernardino will lose 120 civilian jobs. The additional realignment of the March Air Force Base and the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Barstow will create a further loss of 111 and 419 jobs, respectively.

Though I believe in the merits of the entire closure and realignment process, I must respectfully disagree with the Department of Defense's recommendation. The closure and realignment of these bases will affect more than the military, it will affect our entire community, including the loss of jobs and revenues for surrounding families and businesses.

Few industries of any type impact California's economy more than the military. We previously lost Norton Air Force Base during another BRAC process and our community has yet to fully recover from the economic impacts of the closure. To mitigate the effects of the process, I introduced *AB 3* in the California State Assembly to create a local agency military recovery base area (LAMBRA) in San Bernardino. Though it became law, it is soon to sunset and Assemblyman Joe Baca Jr. has introduced language to extend this law and continue the economic recovery in the San Bernardino area. We believe in the importance of ensuring economic prosperity to our communities and alleviating unnecessary financial stress on our state.

California is unequalled in its military importance and provides a platform for our nation's armed forces to fulfill their all-encompassing duties. I thank you again for agreeing to meet with our local communities and hope that we can work together to have an efficient and mutually beneficial BRAC process.

Sincerely,

JOE BACA, Congressman
43rd Congressional District
jb/dr