

Congress of the United States
DON 5039
Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We appreciate the time and energy spent to date by the BRAC Commission to consider and evaluate the San Diego region, one of the world's largest military industrial complexes. Your hard work and dedication should go far toward maximizing efficiencies among the military's activities and facilities across the nation. We commend you for these efforts and your demonstrated willingness to collect and consider the input of affected communities.

During your public consideration of closure and realignment additions on July 19th, we appreciated hearing members of the Commission acknowledge past negotiations between the Navy and the many interests of the San Diego region with regard to the Broadway Complex. We were also pleased to note the Commission's stated desire to provide the Navy with latitude to negotiate the best option for itself when it comes to this valuable waterfront property. As Members of Congress who represent San Diego, we agree with you on these points wholeheartedly. While past negotiations over this property have not progressed as quickly as any of us would have liked, we must all keep in mind they represent a fundamental intent on behalf of the Navy and San Diego to capitalize together on the value and location of the Broadway Complex.

A separately negotiated land use agreement between the Navy and San Diego personifies what is standard practice and tradition for this strategically significant region. For decades, San Diego has thrived with the friendly and prosperous relationship it enjoys with the Navy. Indeed, the current need for a land use agreement at the Broadway Complex is largely a derivative of this longstanding relationship. On the one hand, San Diego's healthy growth continues, and the location of the Broadway Complex gives this property significant potential for development. On the other hand, the Navy has valid, unaddressed concerns with force protection for its personnel, and stands poised to benefit from the high value of its property.

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In response to your decision to add the Broadway Complex to the list of facilities for BRAC consideration, we would like to take this opportunity to impress upon the Commission the unique case the Broadway Complex presents for you. The overwhelming majority of the facilities you have selected to consider for closure or realignment are facilities for which local communities are fighting to maintain as they exist today. In stark contrast, the Navy and San Diego are in agreement that the administrative activities housed by the Broadway Complex should be moved. In fact, Congress agreed when it passed special legislation for this specific purpose years ago.

Thus, the authority, intent and analysis behind realigning the Broadway Complex precedes the BRAC process, and we are hopeful this additional attention from the Commission can help our community reach the most productive and beneficial agreement more quickly and decisively. Distilled to its essence, the Broadway Complex presents a situation where the San Diego community is in agreement on a desired end state. The means by which to reach that end state, however, have now been thrust into question. The BRAC Commission's vote on July 19th present us with two opportunities: (1) consolidate elsewhere the activities currently housed at the Broadway Complex and let the statutory BRAC process govern ultimate disposition of the property, or (2) allow the Navy and the City of San Diego to conclude a negotiated agreement by which each party shares a property interest that is mutually beneficial.

As Members of Congress who represent San Diego, we strongly urge you to consider the trade-offs for the Navy and San Diegans under each scenario, and to clearly communicate this analysis to us and to our communities. There is a substantial amount of confusion over whether realigning the Broadway Complex through BRAC would negatively impact the hard-won intentions of the Navy and San Diego by adding layers of bureaucracy and procedural complications that might not be present under a scenario whereby the land use agreement were agreed to separately.

As you continue your deliberations, please consider the possibility that a separately negotiated agreement may remain the best option for all parties involved, including the Navy, the City of San Diego and the United States taxpayer. We are hopeful you can sift through these scenarios with adequate care in the small amount of time you have left. In the interim, we offer ourselves as a resource for any information or questions you may have about the background and complex history surrounding the future best use of this important property.

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Respectfully,



Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senator



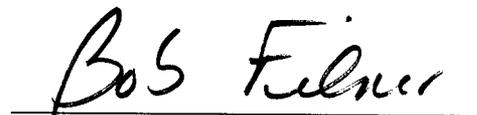
Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Randy "Duke" Cunningham
Member of Congress



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