

CHAIR, BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
ON RESOURCES (NO. 3)

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California Legislature

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July 5, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I am proud to represent the 41st Assembly District, which includes Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and many of the base's military and civilian employees. I would like to take this opportunity to request that you reject the Department of Defense's (DOD) recommendations to move weapons, range, and electronic warfare functions from NBVC to China Lake.

NBVC uniquely combines a military-controlled airfield complex, a military-controlled deepwater seaport, military-controlled San Nicholas Island, and the largest instrumented sea test range in the world. While the DOD has wisely recognized the vital importance of NBVC, it does not make logistical or economic sense to relocate range and support operations to a location 150 miles away. Relocating personnel from their primary operating area to China Lake will increase response time to range tasking, reduce on-range time, increase operating costs, and reduce safety.

In addition, the DOD assumes that a large portion of NBVC's civil service and contractor employees would be willing to move to Ridgecrest or China Lake. That assumption is highly questionable. The likely loss of expertise and intellectual capital from employees unwilling to relocate would take the Navy years to reconstitute. As a result, the projects they work on will suffer and programs critical to our nation's Global War on Terrorism would be hindered.

I hope that you will recognize the overwhelming benefits to allowing weapons, range, and electronic warfare functions to remain at NBVC. Thank you for your outstanding service to our country.

Sincerely,



FRAN PAVLEY
Assemblymember, 41st District

FP:rs

