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Assembly  
California Legislature



DISTRICT OFFICE  
4900 CALIFORNIA AVE., SUITE 140A  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309  
(661) 395-2995  
FAX (661) 395-3883

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0032  
(916) 319-2032  
FAX (916) 319-2132

E-MAIL  
assemblymember.mccarthy@assembly.ca.gov

WEBSITE  
<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/mccarthy>

KEVIN McCARTHY  
ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN LEADER  
THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

BRAC Commission

August 4, 2005

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Received

The Honorable Anthony Principi  
Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Secretary Principi:

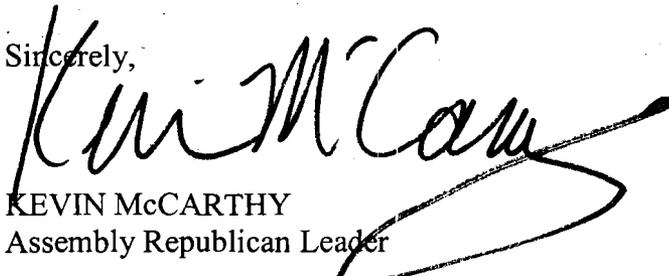
I write to support recommendations made by the Department of Defense to move over 2,000 personnel to Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division, at China Lake. Both China Lake and the nearby community of Ridgecrest are well prepared to accept new missions and the people to support them. I represent Ridgecrest in the California State Assembly, and I am proud of the work done at China Lake.

China Lake has the land and facilities to support new missions in the areas of research, development, acquisition, test and evaluation for weapons and armament and sensors, electronic warfare and electronics. China Lake's 1.1 million acres of land and use of the large R-2508 airspace are unique and allow the base to take advantage of mountains, desert, sea ranges, and synergies with nearby Edwards Air Force Base and the Army's Ft. Irwin.

In addition, the nearby city of Ridgecrest, California, is a welcoming community that strongly supports the United States Navy. Ridgecrest has infrastructure to support a larger community that includes schools, housing, water and wastewater. The city's reasonable housing prices, low crime, and a friendly, relaxed atmosphere make it an ideal environment for newcomers.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the Pentagon's base closure recommendations, and I urge you to retain the recommendations related to Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division, at China Lake.

Sincerely,

  
KEVIN McCARTHY  
Assembly Republican Leader