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Assembly  
California Legislature



**TODD SPITZER**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-FIRST DISTRICT  
REPUBLICAN WHIP

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**BRAC Commission**

**AUG 08 2005**

**Received**

July 28, 2005

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear BRAC Commissioners,

California has held the distinct honor of playing a crucial role in our nation's rich military history. Our military bases and military research facilities have brought jobs and created revenue streams for our state. For this reason, I am concerned that twenty-five of the sixty bases on the proposed closure list are located in California.

Most notable is the closure of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division, located in my district. This facility has played and continues to play an integral role in testing the efficiency of weapons before the Navy purchases them in bulk. The closure of the facility would greatly impact both the surrounding community in Norco and those who are currently employed at the site. The closure represents the greatest number of jobs lost, totaling approximately 1,800 people.

As you may know, housing prices in Southern California continue to increase. Many employees at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division live in the City of Norco, where the median home price is \$393,000. If the facility is relocated to Point Mugu in Ventura County, where the median home price is \$584,000, many employees will be forced to either find employment elsewhere or make the 230 mile daily commute.

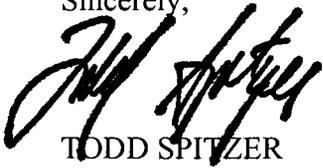
According to information I have received, the closure will result in savings totaling \$400,000 over 20 years. However, the Naval Surface Warfare Center was upgraded approximately ten years ago. Currently, there is no comparable facility at Point Mugu that provides the same services performed at the Surface Warfare Center Corona Division. This transfer to Point Mugu will require the construction of a weapons analysis site at an estimated minimum cost of \$40 million. This recommended facility closure is not only the least cost-saving recommended military closure; it will cost substantially more money to relocate to Point Mugu.

Since its purchase in 1941, the Norco base has played an integral role in the development of the surrounding area. During times of war, it is especially important that facilities such as the Norco base remain operational and without interruption.

While I understand the need for base closures, the inclusion of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division will force over one thousand people out of work. In addition, given the probability of having to build a \$40 million comparable facility at Point Mugu, there appears to be no cost savings if the facility closes. For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to reconsider the closure of this important facility.

Should you have any questions or like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact my District Director, Jason Vasquez, at our District Office number indicated above.

Sincerely,



TODD SPITZER

Assemblymember, 71st District

TS:ba

cc: Norco City Council  
Corona City Council  
Congressman Ken Calvert  
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Senator Diane Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer