

DCN 7483

VIRGINIA BEACH

Virginia Beach
Development Authority
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August 12, 2005

Defense Base Closure & Realignment Commission (BRAC)
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

AUG 15 2005

Received

Subject: Naval Air Station Oceana

Dear Commissioners:

On July 19, 2005, your committee voted to add NAS Oceana to the list of base closures. The Virginia Beach Development Authority, the City of Virginia Beach's development entity, respectfully requests the committee to remove NAS Oceana from the list of bases to be closed or realigned.

The 12,000 NAS employees impact our local economy greatly, and NAS is the city's foremost economic engine in our community. Over the past 10 years, the City of Virginia Beach has invested \$202 million in transportation improvements around NAS Oceana, relocated two elementary schools from the APZ, completed a Joint Land Use Study to accommodate the non-compatible uses, and the City has a long history of working with the Navy on issues of encroachment and transportation.

The Virginia Beach Development Authority urges your committee to consider the testimony of Vice Chief of Naval Operations. "Oceana continues to serve the Fleet well; the encroachment issue is manageable. Co-location of Oceana with the Fleet provides a significant advantage". Please vote to remove Oceana from the list of closures.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Jones
Chair

c: Virginia Beach Development Authority
Mayor Meyera Oberndorf
City Council Members
James Spore, City Manager