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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0543
May 18, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
BRAC 2005 Independent Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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Dear Chairman Principi:

I hereby transmit to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission a letter signed by 26 members of the California delegation who support a visit by two commissioners to the Naval Support Activity Corona, CA/Naval Surface Warfare Center Division for the purpose of examining the recent DoD decision to close the facility. In addition, we are requesting that a public BRAC hearing be held in either in Riverside or San Diego County.

In addition, it would be greatly appreciated if the Commission could schedule it's California public hearings and base visits on Mondays or Fridays so that travel between the west and east coast could be more easily accommodated.

Speaking for myself, I believe that nothing will be gained by closing NSWC, Corona and relocating its missions, and much will be lost. The relocation of Corona's missions and 11 functions to Point Mugu would result in an unacceptable loss of intellectual capital and considerably degrade the ability of the mission to be completed. The cost savings realized over 20 years, which would be \$20,000 per year, can not be rationalized when compared with the loss of capability to execute the mission and the cost and effort to rebuild a specialized workforce. In a transformed defense environment which will increasingly rely on spiral development (and other flexible Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation techniques), we must preserve the Navy's self-described "sole Independent Assessment agent." NAVSEA, Corona often is the only advocate for the war fighters in the fleet when it comes to the effectiveness of their weapon systems. To risk this asset for such ephemeral "savings" is a foolish bargain and should be a straight forward matter for the commission to resolve.

I appreciate the time and analysis that will be done in the coming weeks and months as additional information is made available, and I also look forward to working with the commission and their staff.

Sincerely,

KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress

KC:mb