



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



August 5, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

LETTER OF INTEREST
MULTI-AGENCY AIRBORNE LAW ENFORCEMENT
SUPPORT FACILITY LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD

Instruct the Chair of the Board to execute a Letter of Interest that expresses the Board's interest and support of the concept to pursue the necessary Federal funding to design and construct a Multi-Agency Airborne Law Enforcement Support Facility at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, California.

2. Authorize the Sheriff's Department to work with representatives of the 47th Congressional District and other Federal, State and county agencies to further develop the concept of a Multi-Agency Airborne Law Enforcement Support Facility at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, California.

PURPOSE OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION

The recommended action is the initial step in the development of a Multi-Agency Airborne Law Enforcement Support Facility proposed to be constructed at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, California. The proposed concept is one of several options that the Sheriff's Department is considering to address the inadequacies at the current Aero Bureau facility at Long Beach Airport.

A Tradition of Service

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Background

In 1991, a needs assessment prepared by the Sheriff's Department determined that the size and needs of the Aero Bureau had outgrown the facility at the Long Beach Airport. The needs assessment confirmed that the Long Beach Airport facility was inadequate both in administrative and employee work spaces, the maintenance hangar, and the aircraft ramp area. The current configuration of land and structures at the Long Beach Airport site limit the potential for expansion.

On June 17, 2003, your Board approved a lease amendment with the City of Long Beach that provided additional ramp space for aircraft parking. The additional ramp space provided some short-term relief on aircraft parking, but fell short of resolving the ongoing inadequacies with the current facility. Furthermore, the current lease with the City of Long Beach will be eligible for an annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) Lease payment adjustment in October 2003. While the city has extended a very favorable offer to continue with the lease, it is still prudent for the Sheriff's Department to explore and consider the potential development of the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base as an option to address the short and long term needs of the Aero Bureau.

Potential Project

The concept of constructing a regional Multi-Agency Airborne Law Enforcement Support Facility offers a myriad of possibilities for enhancing the existing mutual aid agreements between the various State, county and local agencies. The proposal entails the construction of a 32,000 square foot maintenance hanger, 14,400 square feet of airplane hangers, 6,000 square feet of storage building, and 12,000 square feet of office space.

The cost to construct this facility is estimated to be approximately \$14.6 million. An opportunity may be available to obtain Federal funds through Homeland Security Grants this federal fiscal year to build the proposed facility. Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez has expressed the desire to upgrade the infrastructure systems at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base. Upon the presentation of the proposed concept, Congresswoman Sanchez endorsed the concept and is willing to include it as part of

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the proposed plans for the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base improvement project.

In order to secure the necessary Federal funds, Congresswoman Sanchez has requested a Letter of Interest from both the Los Angeles County and Orange County Board of Supervisors. If Federal funding is available to construct this Multi-Agency Airborne Law Enforcement Support Facility, the only cost to the respective agencies will be monthly maintenance and repair, security, and utility costs that will be shared proportionately.

If the proposal becomes viable and if Federal funding is secured, the Sheriff's Department, along with the Chief Administrative Office, will return to your Board with information regarding estimates of the one-time and ongoing costs to the Sheriff's Department, comparisons of all options currently under development, and recommended actions.

Implementation of County Strategic Plan Goals

Approving this Letter of Interest will allow the Sheriff's Department, in coordination with the 47th Congressional District office, to further explore the possibility of securing the necessary Federal funds to design and construct a Multi-Agency Airborne Law Enforcement Support Facility. This facility will house the air support functions of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Los Angeles Regional Drug Enforcement Agency. This action will meet the County's Strategic Plan Goal for Service Excellence as it provides steps necessary to obtain Federal funding to implement the proposed project.

FISCAL IMPACT / FINANCING

The recommended action will not have a significant fiscal impact at this time. Based on preliminary information provided by the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base, the proposed project may generate potential savings to the overall operational cost for the Sheriff's Department's Aero Bureau.

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FACTS AND PROVISIONS

Not Applicable

NEGATIVE DECLARATION / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS

The Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report will be addressed in future request for action by your Board.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that your Board prepare and forward the attached Letter of Interest to Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez expressing the Board's concurrence that this is a concept worthy of pursuing.

Please return one (1) adopted copy of this letter to the Sheriff's Department and the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Stonich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

WILLIAM T. STONICH
UNDERSHERIFF

Date

(SAMPLE)
(Board of Supervisors letterhead)

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress
47th District, California
1230 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sanchez:

LETTER OF INTEREST
MULTI-AGENCY AIRBORNE LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT FACILITY
LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA

On August 5, 2003, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department presented to the Board the concept of creating a Multi-Agency Airborne Law Enforcement Support Facility to be constructed at the Joint Forces Training Base at Los Alamitos, California. The proposed facility will house the law enforcement aviation units from both the Los Angeles County and Orange County Sheriff's Departments, as well as the Los Angeles Region Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), a Federal aviation law enforcement unit. The facility will also serve as a regional facility for Region I of the California Mutual Aid System, which may provide further support and enhancement to the operations of the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Based on the information presented by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, it appears that the proposed concept may offer many potential benefits to all of the agencies involved and the communities they serve. Therefore, this Board is interested and in favor of pursuing this concept further. We have directed our Sheriff's Department to work with your staff and others to develop this concept, including securing the necessary funds for this project. We look forward to a successful partnership between the respective agencies.

Sincerely,

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Supervisor, Second District

C: Each Supervisor
David Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff