

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KNABE AND BURKE

November 25, 2003

The Los Angeles Air Force Base (Base) is located in the City of El Segundo and is being threatened by the upcoming 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, which could close up to 25 percent of the military bases in the United States.

The South Bay business community has been working for the past year to bring to fruition a complex plan for a land swap authorized by Congress that will result in a \$115 million modernization of the 50-year old out-dated Base. The Base will be a new state-of-the-art facility that will serve the military for generations to come and will eliminate concerns about current facilities not meeting earthquake standards and other needs for the Base personnel. There is no question that the Base is playing a major role in our nation's War on Terrorism and that its responsibility in this area will continue to grow.

The Base is an economic engine to the South Bay and the Los Angeles County region. There are 65,000 private-sector aerospace/defense workers. The Base employees 7,000 workers who manage \$60 billion of contracts, which pump billions of

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dollars into the region's economy on an annual basis.

The scientist and engineers of the Base oversee the development of the next-generation of ballistics missiles, rockets, satellites and military contract programs, which include the Global Positioning System and the satellite navigation system, the latest space-based radars, infrared satellites use to track enemy missiles and some of the nation's most secretive space weapons systems.

Not only does the South Bay business community have to fight off the BRAC process and avoid closure of the Base, it must also convince the upcoming BRAC Commission and leaders in Washington that three cities which are trying to lure the Base away including Colorado Springs, CO, Albuquerque, NM and Omaha, NE to merge with facilities in their states. It was estimated in the 1992 BRAC process that it would cost the military at that time \$375 million to move both the Aerospace Corporation and the Base to another state to be merged with their air force facilities. While current cost projections are being compiled, most knowledgeable sources predict the cost will be in the \$750 million range today. Clearly, modernizing and keeping the Base right where it is remains the most cost-effective choice for the Federal government.

It is the contention of the aerospace and defense industries as well as the local cities in the South Bay that the work of the Base is a top priority of our nation's current defense needs and will be for generations to come. The South Bay Council of Governments (COG), South Bay Area Chambers of Commerce (SBCC) and the South Bay Economic Development Partnership (SBEDP) have joined efforts to work to save the Base and keep it off the BRAC base closure list.

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The last round of Base closures heavily impacted the State of California and had a huge effect on our Southern California economy, today, with approximately 350 aerospace and defense companies and sub-contractors in our region tied to the ongoing operations at Los Angeles Air Force Base, every effort must be made to keep it here in California.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE, THAT the Board of Supervisors: (1) go on record to publicly oppose any efforts by other cities to move the Base out of California to another state; and (2) that the Board of Supervisors opposes any efforts to put the Base on the Federal base closure list; and (3) that we notify the County advocates in Washington, D.C. that the concerns expressed by the Board of Supervisors become a top priority issue and that staff be directed to work to implement the plan of opposition that is currently being formulated so that key Federal elected representatives, officials in the Administration and the Department of Defense be contacted and made aware of our position.

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