

JUNE 28, 1973

TESTIMONY BY JANE M. TOLMACH, MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF OXNARD, CALIFORNIA, REGARDING THE
PROPOSED SHORE ESTABLISHMENT REALIGNMENT
AS IT AFFECTS NAVAL OPERATIONS AT POINT MUGU
AND PORT HUENEME.

MY NAME IS JANE M. TOLMACH, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OXNARD,
CALIFORNIA.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR EXTENDING TO ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO
EXPRESS THE SERIOUS CONCERNS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND GENERAL
CITIZENRY OF THE CITY OF OXNARD REGARDING THE PROPOSED SER AS IT
AFFECTS THE NAVAL INSTALLATION AT POINT MUGU AND THE NCEL AT PORT
HUENEME. OXNARD IS A CITY OF APPROXIMATELY 80,000 PEOPLE AND IS
THE NEAREST AND LARGEST NEIGHBOR TO POINT MUGU. MANY OF THE
CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE EMPLOYED AT POINT MUGU
RESIDE IN OXNARD AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

ON APRIL 17 OF THIS YEAR, THE CITY WAS OFFICIALLY ADVISED
BY REAL ADMIRAL W. M. HARNISH, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE PACIFIC
MISSILE RANGE AT POINT MUGU, THAT A SHORT ESTABLISHMENT REALIGNMENT
WAS TO OCCUR THAT WOULD, IN EFFECT, REDUCE THE CIVILIAN WORK FORCE
BY 1,448 AND THE MILITARY WORKFORCE BY 225. SOME 150 ADDITIONAL
REDUCTIONS ARE ALSO PLANNED FOR THE NCEL AT PORT HUENEME.

WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE SER IS TO CHANGE
OVER FROM A GOVERNMENT OWNED AND OPERATED FACILITY TO A GOVERNMENT
OWNED-CONTRACTOR OPERATED PROGRAM. IT IS PURPORTED THAT THIS CHANGE-
OVER WILL REDUCE NAVY EXPENDITURES BY SOME \$1.5 MILLION ANNUALLY.

I HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY THE NAVY THAT THE COSTS TO THE
TAXPAYER FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SER WILL BE APPROXIMATELY
\$8.2 MILLION. OF THIS TOTAL COST, APPROXIMATELY \$7.2 MILLION WOULD
RESULT FROM THE SEPARATION OF PERSONNEL. THESE FIGURES ARE TAKEN
FROM A FACT SHEET PROVIDED TO ME BY ADMIRAL HARNISH LAST APRIL.
ASSUMING THESE FIGURES ARE CORRECT - ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SEEN NO
EVIDENCE TO DATE WHICH SUPPORTS THIS DATA - THE DESIRABILITY OF
THE SER SEEMS QUESTIONABLE FOR A COST-BENEFIT STANDPOINT INASMUCH
AS NO SAVINGS COULD BE REALIZED FOR AT LEAST FIVE TO SIX YEARS.

I HAVE BEEN FURTHER ADVISED BY ADMIRAL HARNISH THAT NEITHER HE
NOR ANY MEMBERS OF THE POINT MUGU STAFF HAD ANY OPPORTUNITY TO
PROVIDE INPUT TO THE DECISION MADE IN WASHINGTON TO INCLUDE POINT

MUGU IN THE NATION-WIDE SER. IT THEREFORE SEEMS APPROPRIATE TO QUESTION WHETHER A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF THE SER AT POINT MUGU AND THE NCEL AT PORT HUENEME WAS ACTUALLY EVER PERFORMED. CERTAINLY ON THE BASIS OF THE ESTIMATED COST VS. SAVINGS PROVIDED BY THE ADMIRAL'S OFFICE, THERE MUST BE A SERIOUS QUESTION AS TO THE FINANCIAL DESIRABILITY OF THE POINT MUGU AND NCEL CUTBACKS.

THE OXNARD CITY COUNCIL HAS REVIEWED THE POINT MUGU SITUATION ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. ON THE BASIS OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO THE COUNCIL, IT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS THAT THE THREAT OF REDUCTIONS AT POINT MUGU HAS HAD AND IS CONTINUING TO HAVE A VERY DETRIMENTAL IMPACT UPON EMPLOYEE MORALE. SINCE IT IS NOT KNOWN WHICH EMPLOYEES MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THE REDUCTIONS, THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT LONG-TERM EMPLOYEES WOULD BE REHIRED BY THE PRIVATE CONTRACTOR(S). THERE IS ALSO SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER WAGES PAID BY THE CONTRACTOR WOULD BE COMPARABLE TO CIVIL SERVICE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS. ANY REDUCTION OF WAGE SCALE AT THE TWO NAVAL FACILITIES COULD CERTAINLY HAVE AN IMPACT UPON VARIOUS TAX REVENUES WHICH SUPPORT THE BASIC SERVICE PROGRAMS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, UPON THE QUALITY OF HOUSING REQUIRED BY PRIVATE CONTRACT EMPLOYEES, AND UPON THE GENERAL BUSINESS CLIMATE OF OUR COMMUNITY.

PERHAPS OF GREATEST CONCERN TO OXNARD AND OUR SURROUNDING CITIES IS THE TRAMATIC EFFECT WHICH THE REDUCTIONS WILL HAVE ON THOSE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AT POINT MUGU AND THE NCEL WHO ARE MAKING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO CITY GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. MANY EMPLOYEES AT POINT MUGU HAVE GIVEN FREELY OF THEIR TIME AND TALENTS AS MEMBERS OF IMPORTANT CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS WHICH ASSIST CITY GOVERNMENT RESPOND TO LOCAL NEEDS IN SUCH AREAS AS PLANNING, PARKS AND RECREATION, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, AND PUBLIC HOUSING. CIVILIAN AND MILITARY EMPLOYEES FROM THE TWO FACILITIES ARE ALSO PARTICIPATING IN NUMEROUS YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE BOY SCOUTS, GIRL SCOUTS, BOYS CLUB AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES. COMMUNITY CHARITY DRIVES, SUCH AS MARCH OF DIMES AND THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, ALSO CONSISTENTLY RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THESE EMPLOYEES.

IN ADDITION, MANY OF OUR RESIDENTS WORKING AT POINT MUGU HAVE PARTICIPATED FREQUENTLY IN BENEFICIAL CIVIC, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS INCLUDING ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL NEEDY FAMILIES, CLEAN-UP DRIVES IN LOW-INCOME MINORITY CONCENTRATED AREAS, BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS AND STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY POINT MUGU EMPLOYEES ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE CITY OF OXNARD GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. CURRENTLY, EMPLOYEES ARE SERVING ON CITY COUNCILS IN OUR NEIGHBORING CITIES IN VENTURA AND SANTA PAULA. LIKEWISE, MANY MUGU EMPLOYEES SERVE OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY SERVING ON SCHOOL BOARDS AND SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

ALL OF THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES ARE INDICATIONS OF THE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY EMPLOYEES LIVING IN OUR COMMUNITY. OXNARD CITY GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY ENRICHED BY THESE CONTRIBUTIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE INTEREST OF POINT MUGU AND PORT HUENEME EMPLOYEES IS IN PART DUE TO THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION AND SUPPORT EXTENDED BY THE NAVY TO ITS NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES. THE NAVY HAS CONSISTENTLY ENCOURAGED ITS EMPLOYEES TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND HAS BACKED UP THIS POSITION WITH OUTSTANDING COOPERATION AND SUPPORT TO MANY LOCAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

THIS SPIRIT OF FRIENDLY ASSISTANCE HAS STRENGTHENED FEDERAL-LOCAL RELATIONS CONSIDERABLY AND HAS FOSTERED LOCAL SUPPORT FOR MANY MILITARY PROGRAMS WHICH MIGHT HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN OPPOSED LOCALLY.

THE CITY COUNCIL AND RESIDENTS OF OXNARD ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY ARBITRARY ACTION WHICH MIGHT AFFECT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NAVY AT POINT MUGU AND THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH POINT MUGU EMPLOYEES ARE MAKING IN OUR COMMUNITY.

NATION-WIDE, THE PROPOSED SER AS IT RELATES TO POINT MUGU MAY HAVE LITTLE IMPACT. BUT, IN OXNARD AND VENTURA COUNTY, THE REDUCTION OF UP TO 1,823 RESIDENTS WOULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT.

WE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, THEREFORE, LOOK TO YOU AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO RESPOND TO OUR CONCERNS BY INITIATING A COMPREHENSIVE REEXAMINATION OF THE SER AT POINT MUGU AND PORT HUENEME NCEL.

IN SUMMARY, WE ARE REQUESTING THAT YOU ORDER A RECONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER SO THAT LOCAL COMMUNITIES WHO MAY BE DRASTICALLY AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION WILL HAVE THE ASSURANCE THAT THE DECISION TO PROCEED WITH ANY SER AT POINT MUGU AND PORT HUENEME WILL HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE BASIS OF A THOROUGH COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS INCLUDING INPUT AND INVOLVEMENT BY LOCAL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL.

FINALLY, WE URGE THAT ANY RECONSIDERATION OF THE SER SHOULD INCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF THE ANTICIPATED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES INCLUDING THE CITY OF OXNARD.

I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE BY PRESENTING FOR YOUR REVIEW A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD RECOMMENDING THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS INITIATE A RECONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED SHORE REALIGNMENT PROGRAM AS IT AFFECTS NAVAL OPERATION AT THE POINT MUGU AND PORT HUENEME STATIONS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE CITY OF OXNARD WITH RESPECT TO THIS MOST IMPORTANT MATTER.