



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER
NAVAL AIR STATION
700 AVENGER AVENUE
LEMOORE, CALIFORNIA 93246-5001

IN REPLY REFER TO:

16 November 2010

Honorable John Murray
Mayor
City of Lemoore
210 Fox Street
Lemoore, CA, 93245

Dear Mr. Murray;

On behalf of Navy, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on **RESOLUTION NO. 2010-35. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEMOORE ESTABLISHING AND IMPOSING STREETS AND THOROUGHFARES IMPACT FEES FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WEST OF 19 ½ AVENUE.** If passed, the resolution will support complete build out of the west side of the City, as projected by the 2030 General Plan.

NAS Lemoore supports smart growth but is concerned that the resolution will impact public health, safety, welfare and the viability of the installations by serving to facilitate incompatible development beneath a pre-established low level flight corridor.

Per the May 2008 adopted City of Lemoore Environmental Impact Report (EIR), projects that up to 23 percent of 7,000 new residents exposed to elevated noise will be "highly annoyed." The EIR characterizes future impacts as "significant and unavoidable" despite proposed mitigation measures. Also, per the City of Lemoore West Side Streets & Thoroughfares Impact Fee study dated October 19, 2010 denotes that at final build out, West Lemoore will support over 3,600 new single and multi-family residential units. Additionally that, *"Government clearly has a legitimate interest in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring that additional development does not adversely affect the quality and availability of essential public services provided to the community at large."*

Therefore, allowing residential development underneath an established Military Training Route exposes new residents to un-necessary **Health and Safety** risks. Furthermore, residential development is incompatible with flight operations when it encroaches onto an existing low level flight operations and training corridor.

The City of Lemoore and surrounding Communities have a long and productive partnership with Naval Air Station Lemoore. This partnership has led to significant investments in active installations, training and military operating air space military airspace, all of which contributes daily to the nation's military readiness and cannot be replicated elsewhere. Additionally, Naval Air Station Lemoore is an essential national asset within Kings and Fresno County. The Air Station fulfills a critical role in the nation's defense and in support of the local economy. As the home of half of the Navy's air strike power, it bases fifteen squadrons which support all of the West Coast Carrier Air Groups which deploy throughout the world. Per NAS Lemoore economic impact assessment, the

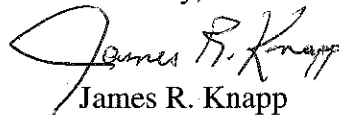
Air Station contributes an estimated \$1 billion a year in wages and contracts into the local economy, generated over 12,000 jobs and provides services to over 8,000 retired military veterans and their families.

There are many historical precedents in communities throughout the United States demonstrating the inevitability of conflict when residential areas are developed under flight routes. A very small percentage of an otherwise supportive community often has a disproportionately large impact, resulting in issues that will adversely impact both the Navy and the local governments. Thus, NAS Lemoore recommends that the City Council suspend its decision until the completion of the ongoing Joint Land Use Study. The study will provide an opportunity for the city, the Navy, potential developers, and private citizens to fully develop potential alternatives to the current proposal.

My staff and I appreciate your consideration. I am confident that together, we will find alternatives which will allow our community to grow, provide for the health and safety of our citizens, and allow our installation to continue operating in safe and hazard free operating environment.

My point of contact for this matter is Mr. Roman V. Benitez, who can be reached at (559) 998-2939 or roman.bentiez@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



James R. Knapp
Commanding Officer
Naval Air Station Lemoore