

From: Marshall Chip Holloway Mayor Pro Tem [REDACTED]  
Subject: Ridgecrest

Message Body:  
Marshall "Chip" Holloway  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Ridgecrest

Full text from comments May 1st in Lancaster that I couldn't complete in two minutes.  
Thanks

The whole reason that Prop 11 passed in the first place is voters felt under represented and disenfranchised .

I challenge you that any many areas of the state this is true , hence you guys are here today. I will tell you in our current districts we don't feel that way.

You have heard many reasons today why we need to remain whole but I would like to speak to it from another perspective.

You have heard mention frequently of Edwards Airforce base as well as China Lake Naval Weapons Center but I would like to speak to it from the economic impact not only to our district but the entire state.

China Lake alone is responsible for 80% of all the jobs and revenue in the city

of Ridgecrest, over 2 billion in physical plant, 300 million dollars in payroll, Over \$150 million in Kern County purchases. The center consist of 50% of all the land holdings the Navy owns worldwide.

Every 7-10 years the Dept of Defense goes through a process known as BRAC (explain) it is a daunting process that pits communities against communities and more importantly states against states.

The economic value of defense spending in the state of California exceeds over \$80 billion dollars , it is currently the third largest industry sector in the state.

China Lake in the most recent BRAC was named the center of excellence for weapons RDTE & A, CL was the single biggest gainer in the entire state, it created jobs, secured long term viability for the center and we are finishing up over \$220 million in new construction as we speak.

This success did not happen by accident , it was a coordinated effort between local stakeholders, the Navy , the city and our elected leaders at all levels including the county, the state and the federal govt

I was Mayor during this process and I can tell you the success of our efforts was a direct result of the tremendous synergy between our elected officials, key staff and agencies at all levels, from the county to the state to Washington DC.

The BRAC process will happen again and the level of expertise we have developed in our elected's to this point cannot be quantified, it is an ongoing effort and requires a great deal of corporate knowledge and continuing education and updates.

Our success not only benefits our district but also the entire state .

While some of the proposals on the table clearly make some geographical sense, if enacted the competing interest would clearly dilute our past efforts and clearly couldn't possibly be expected to understand nor support the military mission at current levels. The time necessary to recreate the level of commitment we have now could possibly negatively influence future BRAC outcomes which would devastate our communities and do permanent damage to the state of Cal.

Keep in kind in most cases when jobs leave in The bRAC process they usually leave the state not simply move to another community, a state with a \$27 billion dollar deficit

cannot afford that.

We have invested tremendous effort in nurturing relationships that allow us to prosper on behalf of the entire state it would make no political sense nor economic sense to not keep us whole"

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