September 22, 2015

The Honorable Ted Lieu
United States House of Representatives
5055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 310
Los Angeles, California

Subject: United States Navy Defense Fuel Support Point, San Pedro, California
Draft Environmental Assessment for Complete or Partial Closure

Dear Mr. Lieu:

As a follow-up to the meeting held at your district office Thursday, September 17, 2015 regarding the United State Navy Fuel Depot in San Pedro, I am writing to first thank you and Mr. Joey Apodaca of your staff for your interest and assistance in this matter.

Second, based on the broadly shared concerns among constituent groups participating, it seems beneficial if you would consider sending a letter on the San Pedro Fuel Depot to Secretary of the Navy Mabus or another appropriate USN point-of-contact.

At this stage in the Navy’s environmental review, a letter from you could affirm the importance of the Fuel Depot within the 33rd District - and indeed nationally under the federal Endangered Species Act - and indicate on behalf of district constituencies your interest that the Navy be fully responsive to all issues and concerns specified in comment letters on the August 2015 Draft Environmental Assessment.

Finally, and as described on the attached “DFSP Issues Background” one-page, there may be value in a follow-up meeting convened by your office in the next 1-4 months. The district office review indicated that basic agreement may exist locally on the outlines of a final site use plan at the Fuel Depot. After the various interested groups confer, a follow-up meeting would be useful to discuss our joint vision for this property, together with some possible alternatives, as described further in “DFSP Issues Background”.

Thank you again for your own and your staff’s interest and assistance in this matter.

Very Truly,

Frank O’Brien
Navy Neighbors of San Pedro and Palos Verdes

cc:

City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Mayor Jim Knight, Mayor Pro Tem Susan Brooks and City Council
c/o Kit Fox & City Manager Douglas Willmore

Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
Diana Nave
cc: continued:

California Native Plants Society / South Coast Chapter
David Berman

California Native Plants Society / Los Angeles Santa Monica Mountains Chapter
Snowdy Dodson

Center for Biological Diversity
Lisa Belenky

EarthJustice
Adrian Martinez

Endangered Habitats League
Jess Morton

Natural Resources Defense Council, Santa Monica
Damon Nagami; Melissa Lin Perella

Navy Neighbors of San Pedro & Palos Verdes
Michelle Black, Chatten-Brown & Carstens LLP

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
Andrea Vona

Palos Verdes / South Bay Audubon Society
David Quadhamer

San Pedro Homeowners Coalition
Chuck Hart

Sierra Club Palos Verdes South Bay Group / Angeles Chapter
Eva Cicoria; Barbara Sattler; Al Sattler

Martin Byhower

Jeremiah Noel George, PhD

Mitch Heindel

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United States Navy Defense Fuel Support Point, San Pedro, California
DFSP Issues Background – September 21, 2015

The comment letters and discussion during the Wilshire Boulevard office meeting September 17, 2015 show wide interest and concern exist regarding current and future use of the San Pedro Main Terminal component (the “Fuel Depot) of DFSP San Pedro.

This interest and concern arise because the 300-acre San Pedro Fuel Depot contains one of the most important natural ecosystems in the urban LA basin. Site natural resources include federally-listed, rare, critically endangered and threatened plant and animal species.

In addition, future use of the site could have significant harmful or beneficial effects on quality of life in surrounding San Pedro and City of Rancho Palos Verdes communities.

Recent housing and other new development at nearby closed military sites along the San Pedro-City of RPV boundary are expected to create environmental and quality of life impacts, particularly the prospect of increased traffic and diminished air quality, congestion delay and related issues, making us now especially vigilant as to possible future uses at the Fuel Depot.

Fortunately there appears to be much agreement locally on the outlines of a final site use plan at the Fuel Depot. A final consensus plan would support the Navy’s military mission and address natural resource requirements and goals via a robust, expert-directed restoration and maintenance program.

The Fuel Depot site also has excellent education and scientific research potential along with the intrinsic worth of its biodiversity and aesthetic utility as open space.

A final plan should resolve community quality of life elements identified by City of Rancho Palos Verdes, Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council and others.

However our discussion indicated that these inter-related issues might not be resolved through the environmental compliance regime within which the Navy is now working.

Accordingly, there may be value in a follow-up project meeting at an appropriate point during the next 1-4 months to review site issues and options.

Such a meeting convened by the Congressional office could include the Navy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, City of Rancho Palos Verdes and Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council representatives together with the site’s other constituencies.

It would allow us to mutually understand constraints, requirements and goals and help resolve issues not considered within the environmental review process as such.

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Note: While this letter and background page have been emailed to those participating, it is not a consensus statement regarding the site itself. Each entity has a process for arriving at its respective position; these positions are currently expressed in the comment letters. Also, for information, “Navy Neighbors of San Pedro & Palos Verdes” in an unincorporated association formed to assist and coordinate on the project.