

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL

ASSEMBLYMEMBER ROCKY CHÁVEZ, CHAIR



EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.
GOVERNOR

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Lucian Niemeyer
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment
3400 Defense Pentagon, Room 5C646
Washington, D.C. 20301-3400

Dear Secretary Niemeyer:

On behalf of California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., we, the Governor's Military Council, write to you today to express our strong support for two projects that Beale Air Force Base recently submitted for funding under the Department of Defense's Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP).

Our bipartisan Council – comprised of retired flag officers, civic leaders, state legislators and senior policymakers – identifies important policy issues and advises the Governor and State Legislature on national security and military affairs. We serve to protect and enhance U.S. military and national security operations in California, as well as support our servicemembers, veterans and their families. We also coordinate the state's diverse advocacy efforts to underscore the unique national security value of California's military bases, national security activities, defense technology companies, and workforce to policymakers and the public, ensuring California speaks with a unified voice.

The energy projects we commend to you today are both critical for Beale AFB and meet the stated goals of the ERCIP to improve energy resilience and energy security, availability, reliability, as well as promise a significant payback in reduced energy costs. The first project is a direct interconnection to a 230 Kilovolt Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) line running adjacent to the installation. The second is a microgrid project to ensure energy security and mission resilience in the face of possible disruptions to installation power. Securing funding for these projects will ensure the continuation of high-priority Air Combat Command intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions that take place at Beale AFB, and will enhance the overall readiness of the nation's Air Force by allowing Beale AFB to focus on providing direct support to the warfighter. Since ERCIP is designed to fund projects to increase installation resilience, save and produce energy, or reduce the cost of energy for the Department of Defense, we believe it is the right funding source for these mission critical energy projects. Additionally, ERCIP supports construction of new, high-efficiency energy systems and modernization of existing ones. Projects in this program aim to improve energy resilience in a cleaner, more resilient, and cost-competitive manner. Both of these projects epitomize these goals.

The Council is pleased to note that the Air Combat Command (ACC) has consistently endorsed similar actions to ensure electrical power for Beale AFB, including sending an official memorandum to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Energy and the Environment on May 1st, 2018 that highlights the need for the specific WAPA interconnection project in the face of incoming additional loads to Beale AFB's aged energy infrastructure from new missions. The Council concurs with ACC's observation that new missions at Beale AFB are at substantial risk of disruption as a result of the lack of reliable energy to the base.

The Council applauds your prioritization of energy resiliency as one of the major components of our nation's modern national security posture, and looks forward to working with you to support Beale AFB's submission for ERCIP funding to upgrade its rapidly aging energy infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rocky Chávez in black ink.

Colonel Rocky Chávez, USMC, Retired
Chair, Governor's Military Council
Assemblymember, CA-76

Handwritten signature of Jody Breckenridge in black ink.

Vice Admiral Jody Breckenridge, USCG, Retired
Vice Chair, Governor's Military Council

CC: Ms. Lisa Jung, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Installation Energy
Congressman John Garamendi, 3rd District, California
Mr. John Henderson, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, IEE
Colonel Andrew Clark, USAF, Wing Commander, 9th Reconnaissance Wing
Janice Nall, Chairman, Beale Military Liaison Council