

Kathy Long

RDP-21 Position of Support
California Air Resources Board Meeting
Ocean-Going Vessels Fuel Rule Amendments
Sacramento, California 23 June 2011

- Offered by Kathy Long, County Supervisor from the County of Ventura and RDP-21 Executive Board member on behalf of RDP-21, the Ventura County Regional Defense Partnership for the 21st Century.
- RDP-21 is Ventura County's non-profit community organization to preserve and enhance the unique military value of Naval Base Ventura County. The organization is chartered and supported by the cities and County of Ventura to educate the business community, citizens and elected officials on the value of Ventura County's military to our national security and local economy. RDP-21 members include representatives from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, mayors and city council members of the county's ten cities, elected and retired federal and state political leaders, retired military and senior Navy and business executives and broad-based citizen representation.
- RDP-21 is supportive of the goals and intent of the Ocean-Going Vessel Fuel Rule. However, since its implementation in July of 2009 it is having the unintended consequences of ships leaving the long established Santa Barbara Channel shipping lanes and transiting across the Point Mugu Sea Range on leaving and entering the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. These ships are having negative impacts, through operational schedule delays and increased cost for range customers, on the efficient and cost effective operation of the Sea Test Range.
- The Sea Range is the key element ensuring the viability of Naval Base Ventura County. The site was established by President Truman in 1946 as a weapons test range and for close to seven decades the Sea Range has played an instrumental role in the research, development and test and evaluation of our nation's major weapons systems. The site was studied for possible closure during both the 1995 and the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) processes but was taken off the closure lists by the Navy due to the criticality of the Sea Range to the nation's defense. We feel that any regulatory consequences that jeopardize the ability of the Sea Range to accomplish its primary mission could bring into question the viability of the entire NBVC which is a major economic driver for Ventura County.
- More than 19,000 personnel (military and civilian) work for, or are stationed on, the base which includes the sites at Point Mugu and Port Hueneme.
- NBVC has long been the largest employer in the county. The base supports about 4.6 percent of all jobs in Ventura County. The base and surrounding community have become home to Navy personnel, civilian employees, contractors and their families. Between the personal spending of these people and direct spending by NBVC, the presence of the base has an undeniable fiscal significance to the county.

- In recent years, the base produced more than an estimated \$1.2 billion in goods and services that flowed into the county and other regions of the U.S. and the world. Of that total, almost \$950 million in spending was retained locally. This spending supported about 8,216 jobs in the region, with the estimated labor income associated with these jobs amounting to more than \$377 million.

- "...The base is by far the largest year-round employer in Ventura County, more than twice as big as any government agency or company." Ventura County Star May 30, 2008.

- As noted above, RDP-21 is supportive of the Ocean-Going Vessel Fuel Rule but, as implemented, it is not achieving the air quality improvement for which it was intended. It is having a significant negative impact to the operation of the Sea Range. For these reasons we feel it is indeed imperative that the Fuel Rule be amended to address these issues and make appropriate changes to the rule to incentivize the shippers to return to the established shipping lanes in the Santa Barbara Channel.

- We applaud the CARB for this amendment process and recommend a yes vote on amendments. We appreciate your consideration.