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Office of the Governor

October 15, 2019

Lucian Niemeyer, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment)
c/o George Tomala (george.tomala@navy.mil)

James B. Balocki, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Facilities)
c/o James D. Omans (james.omans@navy.mil)

United States Navy

Captain Evan L. Morrison, Commanding Officer c/o Edmund Rybold (edmund.rybold@navy.mil)
Naval Air Station Fallon
4775 Pasture Road
Fallon, NV 89496

Sara Goodwin, NRSW / NAVFAC SW Regional NEPA Coordinator Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest, Code EV21.SG 1220 Pacific Highway Building 1, Fifth Floor San Diego, CA 92132

RE: Comments to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Version 2 for the Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization

Dear Assistant Secretary Niemeyer, Deputy Assistant Secretary Balocki, Captain Morrison, and Ms. Goodwin:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) Modernization Final Environmental Impact Statement, Version 2 (FEIS). While I am respectful and supportive of the Navy's presence and mission in the State of Nevada, I remain concerned that many of the impacts from the FRTC Modernization upon the people and public lands of Nevada remain unresolved. This is troubling given how far along the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process is and given the amount of input and comment about the concerns of the Navy's effort that has been provided by State, local and Tribal representatives as well as private citizens and non-governmental organizations.

Since taking office my administration has been in communication with state agencies and various key stakeholders regarding the FRTC Modernization. This work has been a continuation of the previous administration's engagement, which also indicated concerns over several unresolved issues. Nearly every entity and citizen I have spoken to about this effort indicate a general support for the Navy; however, each one also has serious concerns with the impacts of the FRTC Modernization. In recent months, engaged state agencies and local governments have been working collaboratively to compile a list of outstanding concerns and suggested means of addressing those concerns. Those concerns and the proposed mitigations have been compiled into a draft consolidated proposal, which is attached for your review.

I would ask that the Navy carefully review this comprehensive proposal as well as any specific comments these agencies provide to the FEIS. The Navy has previously discussed the possibility of scheduling meetings the week of October 21-25, 2019, to discuss FEIS comments with individual State and local governments. I hereby request a single, consolidated meeting between Navy leadership and representatives from my office, Nevada's Congressional delegation, my state agencies, and all the signatories of the attached proposal to discuss the Navy's willingness and ability to address the remaining concerns and to incorporate the proposed mitigation.

My future position on the FRTC Modernization will be largely contingent upon the Navy's willingness to recognize and address the concerns and solutions included in the attached proposal. Further, I would ask that the Navy coordinate and work closely with the impacted Tribal governments in order to address their concerns as their input is extremely important to me.

I appreciate the Navy's time and attention to this matter, and I look forward to meeting with you to further discuss the FRTC Modernization.

Sincerely,

Governor Steve Sisolak State of Nevada

Attachment: Nevada's Consolidated Proposal

CC: Nevada Federal Congressional Delegation

Nevada Association of Counties