

July xx, 2024

California Coastal Commission  
South Central Coast Division  
89 S California Street  
#200  
Ventura, CA 93001

RE: SpaceX Operations at Vandenberg Space Force Base

Dear Members of the California Coastal Commission:

First, I am writing with the official concurrence of the Arroyo Grande City Council.

We understand that the Coastal Commission has concerns surrounding both environmental impacts and beach closures due to increased launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base. We applaud the Coastal Commission's vigilance and mission.

That being said, as the City of Arroyo Grande's elected Council, we are writing to express our strong support for increasing the number of SpaceX launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base. The City of Arroyo Grande provides its residents with a high-quality of life, but our region has long struggled to create the type of head-of-household jobs that allow younger residents to afford to live here. As our economy continues to transition, we are dependent on new industries – like aerospace – continuing their growth to create the economic environment we need to thrive.

As a smaller community on the Central Coast, growing our regional economy and creating more head-of-household jobs is one of our top priorities. The continued and expanded presence of SpaceX at Vandenberg SFB presents a significant opportunity. The increased frequency of launches will not only bolster our standing as a leader in aerospace and innovation, but it will also bring numerous economic benefits. The direct and indirect job creation, increased business for local vendors, and enhanced infrastructure development are all positive outcomes that will flow from this expansion.

In addition to the economic impacts, the strategic importance of Vandenberg SFB for national security and space exploration cannot be overstated. Increasing the number of launches will enhance our capabilities in satellite deployment, scientific research, and national defense. This dovetails with California's vision of being at the forefront of technological advancement and space exploration. The benefits of this initiative are substantial and align with our region's broader economic goals, as well as our country's national security.

With regard to the goals of the Coastal Commission, we believe that the monitoring requirements already agreed to by SpaceX and the US Space Force will help limit the impacts of concern. As to

the beach closures, we understand that the proposed launch increase will not require more beach closures at this time.

In short, the regional economic benefits as stated above far outweigh the costs identified by the Coastal Commission. The increased launches do not eliminate the Coastal Commission's influence. Rather, it presents an opportunity to work together for the betterment of all.

The Arroyo Grande City Council urges the California Coastal Commission to approve the application for additional SpaceX launches at Vandenberg SFB. This initiative represents a vital step forward for our community, our state, and our nation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caren Ray Russom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Caren" being the most prominent.

Mayor Caren Ray Russom  
City of Arroyo Grande

DRAFT