

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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Th9c

CD-0003-24 (Department of the Air Force – U.S. Space Force)

August 8, 2024

Correspondence

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2024

California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

We write today in support of increasing space launches from Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB). As you know, VSFB is the second busiest space launch facility in the world. Through the successful partnerships with commercial space launch providers the U.S. government has carried out missions at an increasing rate and in a cost-effective manner. These positive outcomes must continue if the U.S. is to maintain its leadership in this critical sector and ensure continued access to space national security missions.

California is home to some of the leading companies in the modern space industry. Working hand in hand with the U.S. government, the commercial industry continues to develop the most technologically advanced systems in the world. The innovation in California and the U.S. in recent years is the result of years of intentional policymaking and dedicated investment from both the government and private sector. This industry is a boon to our state and national economy, generating more than 771,000 high-paying jobs and more than \$190 billion of total annual economic activity in California alone.¹

Space launches from VSFB provide a critical national security capability for the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and intelligence community. As the 2024 DOD Commercial Space Integration Strategy noted, “the Department will benefit by making commercial solutions integral—and not just supplementary—to national security space architectures.”² The Strategy further states that integrating commercial launch services into the national security space architecture is “critical to enhancing U.S. resilience and strengthening deterrence in the 21st century.”³ Federal law and national policy also provide clear direction on this subject, including in the Commercial Space Launch Act and the National Space Policy.⁴

The collaboration between the U.S. private sector and U.S. government has led to billions in savings for launch services, with commercial providers successfully delivering missions for the U.S. and allied governments.⁵ Beyond these national security applications, commercial launches have additional public

¹ California Research Bureau, “2023 California Statewide National Security Economic Impacts Study”, November 2023. Available at: <https://www.library.ca.gov/crb/reports/?KeywordFilter=California+Statewide+National+Security+Economic+Impacts+2023>

² U.S. Department of Defense Commercial Space Integration Strategy, 2024. Available at: <https://media.defense.gov/2024/Apr/02/2003427610/-1/-1/1/2024-DOD-COMMERCIAL-SPACE-INTEGRATION-STRATEGY.PDF>

³ Ibid.

⁴ 51 U.S.C. § 50901, which states that “providing launch services and reentry services by the private sector is consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States,” and that is the purpose of federal law to “encourage the United States private sector to provide launch vehicles, reentry vehicles and associated services.” See also 10 U.S.C. § 2273 and 10 U.S.C. § 2276(a).

⁵ From the U.S. Department of Defense National Security Space Launch Selected Acquisition Report: “The total life cycle cost estimate reduction since the February 2013 program re-baseline now stands at \$28 billion. The NSSL program has returned approximately \$7 billion in procurement funds to the Air Force, Space Force, and National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), enabling

benefits. Low earth orbit (LEO) satellite systems support broadband connectivity for rural households, local and state governments, Tribal communities, remote school districts, and many other use cases. In California, Starlink satellite internet is used for wildfire and disaster response by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and many local first responders. This new technological capability is already being deployed in response to wildfires this year.

The U.S. Department of Defense (through the Space Force), the Federal Aviation Administration, and other federal agencies work closely with commercial space launch providers to conduct thorough environmental reviews and to keep critical national security and commercial missions on track. In continued development of the aerospace industry and commercial launch services in California is vital for our national security. The private sector and federal government partners have demonstrated their commitment to protecting the environment and local resources through mitigations and stringent monitoring for impacts.⁶ We are confident that this collaboration will continue to yield positive benefits for our national security and the people of California while also protecting the environment, wildlife, and local communities.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the people of California, we look forward to continuing our work together and to your response.

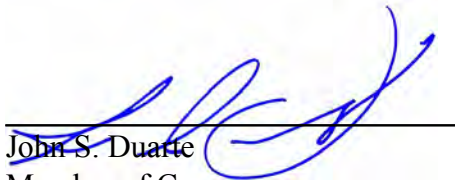
Sincerely,



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



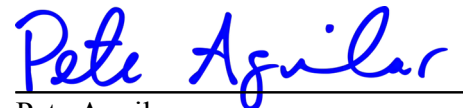
Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



John S. Duarte
Member of Congress



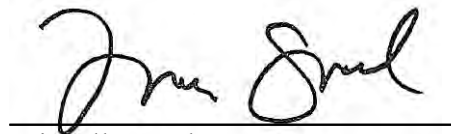
Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



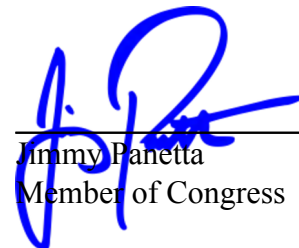
Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress

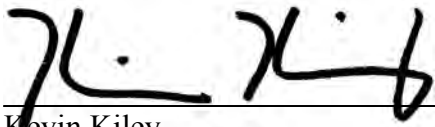


Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

them to fund additional capabilities.” Available at:

https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/FOID/Reading%20Room/Selected_Acquisition_Reports/FY_2021_SARS/22-F-0762_NSSL_SAR_2021.pdf

⁶ For instance, the Space Force has worked with launch providers to adjust trajectories, move to night-time launches, collect data to reduce the impact of sonic booms, and created a text alert service during launches, among other mitigations.



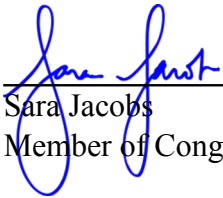
Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



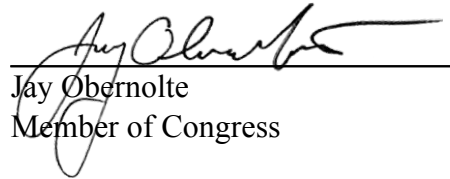
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress

STEVE LAVAGNINO
County Supervisor
Fifth District
steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org

CORY BANTILAN
Chief of Staff
cory.bantilan@countyofsb.org



SANDY AGALOS
Administrative Assistant
sandy.agalos@countyofsb.org

YESENIA CUEVAS
Administrative Assistant
yesenia.cuevas@countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

July 17, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart
Chairwoman, California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street
Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Chairwoman Hart:

I serve as County Supervisor for the Fifth District in Santa Barbara County, which encompasses the cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe, and the unincorporated community of Tanglewood. I have proudly served Santa Barbara County as Supervisor since 2010.

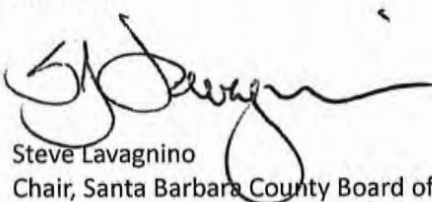
I write to express my profound support for Space X increasing its launch frequency at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB). VSFB brings immeasurable economic benefits to our region, and plays a critical role in safeguarding our national security. For decades, we have been neighbors and friends with VSFB personnel. You could not find a more supportive host community than north Santa Barbara County, and you could not find better "neighbors" than VSFB.

I believe that the vast majority of my constituents support launches at VSFB. This is evidenced by the number of them that come out to watch launches and by the pride we feel in hosting this critical facility on the Central Coast. Our community is very patriotic, and supporting our veterans is top priority. For years my office has organized "Veterans Stand Down," an annual event to connect homeless and near-homeless veterans with services they need to re-connect to the community. In so doing, I have witnessed many times how our entire community comes together to support veterans in need.

We welcome Space X's launches at VSFB and recognize their vital nature, in terms of both commercial space development and national security interests. Increasing the frequency of launches will enable VSFB to more fully realize its potential as a critical national security installation. I have no doubt that our community robustly supports this increase in frequency, and the fulfillment of VSFB's mission that it will enable.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Steve Lavagnino
Chair, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors



Heather Moreno
Mayor

July 24, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart
Chairwoman, California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street
Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Chairwoman Hart:

As the Mayor of the City of Atascadero, and the Supervisor-elect for San Luis Obispo County's Fifth Supervisorial District, I write to you today in strong support of the Space Force's proposal to increase the number of launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB).

The City of Atascadero, located in Northern San Luis Obispo County, has long been known for its commitment to our nation's military and veterans. In 2008, we dedicated one of the region's largest veterans' memorials, *The Faces of Freedom*, with more than 231 names of San Luis Obispo County residents who made the ultimate sacrifice between World War I and today.

My city is determined to support its veterans and our nation's national security, which is one of the reasons I am in strong support of increasing the number of launches at VSFB.

VSFB and the private space companies operating at or adjacent to the base – like SpaceX – play a critical role in our nation's national security. As the West Coast's only launch range, VSFB has given the Central Coast (and California, at large) the opportunity to drive the innovation necessary to protect our country and our allies. The base's unique location also makes it the only place in the United States to launch satellites into polar orbit, a crucial capability.

The Space Force's mission at VSFB is not only critical for our nation's national security needs, but for our Central Coast economy, as well.

Working together to **serve**, build **community** and enhance **quality of life**.

The private-sector's space race has greatly benefitted our regional economy, with increased investment from large space companies driving job creation and small business growth – helping to diversify our economic base and bringing more head-of-household jobs.

Increasing the number of launches at VSFb will bring continued and increased investment to the Central Coast and solidify VSFb's importance to our nation's national security mission. I encourage the Coastal Commission to support the Space Force's application for increased launch capability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Moreno". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H" and "M".

Heather Moreno
Mayor, City of Atascadero



CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE CALIFORNIA

July 24, 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 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.



CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE CALIFORNIA

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,

Mayor Caren Ray Russom
City of Arroyo Grande

California Legislature

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814



July 25, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart
Chair
California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street
Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Chair Hart,

California is leading the nation in the development of the public-private partnerships that have revolutionized the United States' space launch capabilities. Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB), the hub for California's space industry, is now the second-busiest spaceport in the world. Our State is charting the path for educating a world-class aerospace workforce, and is leading the world in the innovations that are driving opportunities for thousands of Californians and businesses of all sizes.

Our vital aerospace industry is generating significant economic activity for our Central Coast and the entire State. We ask that, as you continue the vital work of protecting California's coastal resources, you also ensure that the aerospace industry is allowed to flourish. To that end, we encourage you to support the United States Space Force's Proposed Action to increase the total number of SpaceX launches from Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB).

California is a global leader in aerospace, generating over 771,000 high-paying jobs and \$190 billion in annual economic activity. Our State is at the forefront of a new space industry model, where the U.S. government collaborates with commercial companies to ensure continued access to space with the most advanced technology. This success stems from years of strategic policymaking and investments by both the public and private sectors.

The integration of the U.S. Department of Defense with commercial space is vital for national security, leading to successful and efficient missions for the U.S. and its allies. California's thriving commercial space industry not only supports national security, but also drives economic growth and public benefits. Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites enhance broadband connectivity for rural Californians, local governments, tribal communities, remote schools, and other critical

users. For instance, Starlink internet aids wildfire and disaster response efforts by CAL FIRE and other first responders. In 2024, LEO satellite internet proved crucial during disasters like the New Mexico wildfires.

The private sector and federal government partners have demonstrated their commitment to protecting the environment, through investing in essential environmental mitigations and stringent monitoring of environmental impacts. The U.S. Space Force, the Federal Aviation Administration, and other federal agencies work closely with commercial space launch providers to conduct regular environmental reviews, and to keep critical national security and commercial missions on track. We ask that you join in these efforts to support California's space launch industry and protect our precious coastal resources.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued work on behalf of the people of California and the nation.

Sincerely,



GREGG HART
Assemblymember, 37th District



HEATH FLORA
Assemblymember, 9th District



MIKE GIPSON
Assemblymember, 65th District



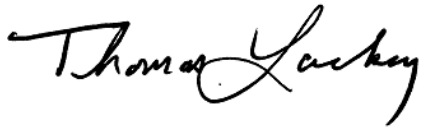
STEVE BENNETT
Assemblymember, 38th District



TOM UMBERG
Senator, 34th District



MEGAN DAHLE
Assemblymember, 1st District



TOM LACKEY
Assemblymember, 34th District



CARLOS VILLAPUDUA
Assemblymember, 13th District



PILAR SCHIAVO
Assemblymember, 40th District



BLANCA PACHECO
Assemblymember, 64th District

July 29, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart
Chair, CA Coastal Commission
455 Market Street,
Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Chair Hart:

I am a lifelong resident of Santa Barbara County, having been born and raised here. I had a 39-year career in law enforcement and am currently serving my third term on the Santa Maria City Council.

Over my lifetime I have watched the transition of Santa Maria from a small farm town into a thriving city of over 110,000 residents. I have also watched the transition of our economy from an agricultural economy to a more diversified economy, with many industries.

This transition is still underway, and it is vitally important to our future. Our children need opportunities and jobs to be able to afford to live here, especially given that we have coastal cost-of-living but often do not enjoy wages/salaries to continue to live here.

That is why the development of the commercial space industry, right in our backyard at Vandenberg, is so important to our community. SpaceX launches are the cornerstone of that industry for now, and I see tremendous potential there. Conversely, if the launch capacity is not allowed to grow, it would cause a measurable drain on our Central Coast economic base. This will negatively impact real people, and many of my constituents in Santa Maria, most of whom are Latino.

One cannot overstate the local support for these launches. They are important for us, not just economically, but culturally and socially. We have a long and proud heritage of supporting the activity at Vandenberg. The children of military service-members often go to school with our students. We shop at the same stores. We are a community that supports our military service-members wholeheartedly.

Please allow the commercial space industry to continue to thrive here. A rising tide lifts all boats, as they say. Or, in this case, rising rocket launches lift us all.

Sincerely,

Councilman Mike Cordero
City of Santa Maria



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

John Peschong *District One Supervisor*

July 30, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart
California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Chair Hart:

The United States Space Force's proposal to increase launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) is a significant opportunity for economic growth, educational advancement, and community development for the entire Central Coast region.

VSFB has long been a cornerstone of national security and scientific advancement. Enhancing its launch capabilities would strengthen our regional economy, get more local students interested in STEM and reinforce the Central Coast's position as a hub for aerospace innovation.

Economically, the benefits of increasing the number of launches from VSFB are immense. More frequent launches would attract further investment into the region, stimulating local businesses and creating new job opportunities. This growth would draw in talent, fostering a vibrant community of innovators and entrepreneurs, and ensuring sustainable economic development for years to come.

In addition to the direct economic benefits, increasing launch activities at VSFB would have profound educational impacts. The presence of a dynamic aerospace industry in the region would inspire students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Even in my community of Templeton (roughly 70 miles north of VSFB), I know of many students who have been awe-struck and inspired by seeing SpaceX rockets in the night sky.


Opportunities for internships, partnerships with schools and universities, and community outreach programs would provide students with hands-on experiences and real-world applications of their studies. This engagement would not only enhance their educational experiences but also encourage a new generation of STEM professionals, critical for the continued growth and innovation of the aerospace sector.

Katcho Achadjian Government Center County of San Luis Obispo

1055 Monterey Street | San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 | (P) 805-781-4491 | (F) 805-781-1350
info@slocounty.ca.gov | slocounty.ca.gov

Increasing launches at VSF B would be a major boost to our local economy, and help inspire the next generation of aerospace innovators and explorers. I urge you to support the Space Force's proposal.

Sincerely,



John Peschong
Supervisor District One

Bob Nelson
County Supervisor
Fourth District

Aaron Hanke
District Chief
Of Staff



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Fourth District Office
511 E. Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455

(805) 346-8407 Santa Maria
(805) 346-8498 FAX

August 1, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart
California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: US Space Force Proposal to Increase Launches at Vandenberg

Chairwoman Hart:

I write to you today in strong support of the US Space Force's proposal to increase the number of launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base. This initiative not only aligns with northern Santa Barbara County's unwavering support for Vandenberg, but also highlights the immense potential for innovation and progress within the aerospace community.

For decades, northern Santa Barbara County has proudly supported Vandenberg Space Force Base (formerly Vandenberg Air Force Base), recognizing its pivotal role in national security, scientific advancement, and economic growth. Our community has fostered a strong relationship with the base, its personnel, and its contractors. The base has contributed significantly to the local economy, providing jobs and stimulating growth.

As the only launch site in the Western Range, Vandenberg offers unique capabilities that are crucial for the continued advancement of space exploration and technology. The Western Range is vital for polar orbit launches, which are essential for a wide range of applications, including weather forecasting, environmental monitoring, and communication systems. By increasing launch frequencies, we enhance our capabilities to support these critical functions.

Increasing the number of launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base is a forward-thinking decision that honors Santa Barbara County's historical support for the base while unlocking new opportunities for innovation, economic growth, and scientific advancement. I urge the Coastal Commission to approve the Space Force's proposal.

Sincerely,

Bob Nelson
Fourth District Supervisor
Santa Barbara County



SANTA MARIA
**Smart City
Safe City**



CITY OF SANTA MARIA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL
Mayor, Ext. 2204
City Council, Ext. 2205
citycouncil@cityofsantamaria.org

110 EAST COOK STREET • SANTA MARIA, CA 93454-5190 • (805) 925-0951 • FAX (805) 349-0657 • www.cityofsantamaria.org

August 1, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart
Chair, CA Coastal Commission
455 Market Street,
Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Chair Hart:

I have served the City of Santa Maria in elected office since 2000, first as a City Councilmember. In 2012, I became the City's first elected female mayor. I am presently serving my 3rd four-year term as Mayor. I am a 3rd generation resident of Santa Maria, attending local schools, then Hancock College, then finishing my degree at San Jose State. I began my career as a public school teacher and then served for 16 years as a board member for the Santa Maria Joint Union High School district. My husband and I had a family business.

These various roles have given me a historical vantage point from which to view dynamics affecting the City of Santa Maria. Our City has a storied history, beginning as a small farm town and growing into a thriving city of over 110,000 residents. Agriculture is still the mainstay of our regional economy.

But we are undergoing a necessary transition. We need jobs for the next generation, and not just in agriculture, although that industry remains vital. We need to embrace other industries that have the potential to grow into additional pillars of economic stability.

Our youth need vision and direction. They need confidence that if they work hard and stay in school, there will be opportunities in the Santa Maria Valley for them to do interesting, fulfilling work. Such opportunities do not happen by accident. It takes a supportive environment to foster and grow such industries, and to connect those industries with our educational institutions.

It is for these reasons, among others, that I support the further development of commercial space activity at Vandenberg Space Force Base. SpaceX (and other companies, potentially) should be allowed to expand their launch capacity at Vandenberg. It is important for national security, for economic development for our region, and for the future of our kids in Santa Maria.

I believe that we are still in the beginning stages of watching this exciting new industry take root in our region. If we provide the supportive environment, and allow this industry to reach its potential, it will benefit all my constituents in Santa Maria and the surrounding region. Most importantly, it will benefit the next generation of Santa Marians, who will have opportunities to contribute to something of national and international importance, right here in our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alice M. Patino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

ALICE M. PATINO
Mayor



July 24, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart
Chairwoman, CA Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94105
SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Chairwoman Hart,

I write to you on behalf of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce in Northern Santa Barbara County to express our strong support for the United States Space Force's proposal to increase launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base. This proposal represents a significant opportunity not only for the base but also for our local community and the broader region.

The Santa Maria Valley Chamber is a catalyst for business growth, a convener of leaders and influencers, and a champion for a stronger Santa Maria Valley. We are a nonprofit association of businesses and organizations that work together to build a healthy, robust economy in the Santa Maria Valley.

Vandenberg Space Force Base has long been a cornerstone of our local economy, providing critical employment opportunities and fostering innovation in aerospace technologies. The proposed increase in launches aligns with our region's commitment to supporting advancements in aerospace and space industries, which are vital to our economic growth.

The economic benefits of increased launches are plenty, including job creation, increased investment, and heightened visibility for our region as a hub for cutting-edge aerospace activities and space exploration. These benefits extend not only to the Santa Maria Valley but also to the Central Coast region as a whole, which relies on Vandenberg's economic contributions.

Furthermore, the Space Force's operations at Vandenberg have a proven track record of environmental stewardship and compliance with regulatory requirements. We are confident that any expansion plans will continue to prioritize environmental conservation and responsible land use practices, ensuring minimal impact on our coastal ecosystems.

The Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce urges the Coastal Commission to support the US Space Force's proposal to expand launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base. This initiative represents a valuable opportunity to strengthen our local economy, promote technological innovation, and secure Vandenberg's position as a leader in space exploration.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Molly Schiff, the Chamber's Director of Advocacy, at molly@santamaria.com if you require any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Michael Boyer
President/CEO, Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce

Emily Kitts
Chair of the Board, Santa Maria Valley Chamber



SBCTAC
2151 S. College Drive, Suite 101
Santa Maria, CA 9355
(805) 708-9100
Mike@SBCTAC.org

July 17, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart
California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

SUB: Support for the Space Force Proposal to Increase Launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base

Dear Dr. Hart,

The Santa Barbara Taxpayer Advocacy Center (SBTAC) is a 501(c)4 dedicated to supporting policies that promote fiscal responsibility, economic prosperity, property rights and public safety. We are a local, grassroots organization that wants to improve Santa Barbara County residents' quality of life, grow our local economy, and keep our community safe.

With its mission of increasing economic prosperity in mind, SBTAC is proud to support the United States Space Force's application to increase the number of space rocket launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Vandenberg has long been an economic driver in Santa Barbara County, and is a critical asset to our nation's space and national security infrastructure. The strategic location and existing infrastructure of Vandenberg SFB offer unmatched advantages for increasing launch frequency, which we believe can drive significant economic growth and technological innovation both regionally and nationally.

Economic and Community Benefits

Job Creation: Each additional launch at Vandenberg SFB will create a surge in demand for highly skilled professionals, including engineers, technicians, and support staff. This demand will result in new job opportunities, providing stable and lucrative employment for local residents and stimulating the regional economy.

Boost to Local Businesses: Increased launch activities will have a positive ripple effect on local businesses, from suppliers and service providers to hospitality and retail sectors. The economic impact will create a more vibrant and resilient local economy, benefitting the entire community.

Attracting Investments: A higher frequency of launches can attract significant investments from aerospace companies and related industries. This influx of capital will foster an environment of innovation and development, further cementing Vandenberg SFB's role as a hub for aerospace activities and technological advancement.

Educational Opportunities: Enhanced launch operations can spur partnerships with educational institutions, leading to the creation of specialized programs and training initiatives. These collaborations will ensure a steady pipeline of qualified professionals to meet the growing demands of the aerospace industry.

Environmental Considerations

We understand the California Coastal Commission's commitment to protecting coastal resources, maintaining public access to our coast, and ensuring sustainable development. The Space Force proposal includes comprehensive environmental assessments and mitigation strategies to minimize any potential impact on the coastal environment. Increased launch activities can be managed in a way that aligns with environmental stewardship and sustainability goals while providing no increase in the number of days local beaches are closed compared to the present day.

Conclusion

SBTAC believes that supporting the increase in launches at Vandenberg SFB will yield substantial economic, technological, and strategic benefits. We are eager to support this initiative and collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to realize this vision. Together, we can drive economic growth, foster innovation, and strengthen our nation's position in the global aerospace sector while maintaining our commitment to environmental sustainability.

Thank you for considering our support for this proposal. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further and to work closely with the California Coastal Commission to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Stoker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Stoker
President/CEO



Jim Dantona
President/CEO
895 Monterey St.
San Luis Obispo,
CA 93401
805.786.2761
slochamber.org

July 26, 2024

California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Increasing SpaceX launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I am writing to express the strong support of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce for SpaceX's increased launch and landing activities at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB). As the largest and oldest voice for business on California's Central Coast, we firmly believe that expanding launch operations at VSFB is crucial for both economic vitality of our region and our national security.

Vandenburg is the second-busiest spaceport in the world, playing a pivotal role in our nation's space endeavors. The continuation and enhancement of launch activities at this site are essential to maintaining our strategic capabilities. Moreover, the impact on our local economy cannot be overstated.

The emergence of the private sector space industry has added a dynamic new dimension to our economy. Local businesses and residents are experiencing significant benefits from this growth. Increased investment and development in support of the space industry has led to job creation and the establishment of new businesses throughout the Central Coast.

In our economic vision, Imagine SLO, "Empowering Innovation" stands as a key pillar for the future success of our region. Given the rapid expansion of the space industry and the private sector's ongoing interest in investing and innovating here, our community stands to gain immensely from an increase in the number of launches permitted for Space X at VSFB.

I strongly urge you to support the increase in launch activity allowed out of Vandenberg Space Force Base. This support will drive economic growth and innovation on the Central Coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Dantona", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Dantona
President/CEO



July 26, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart
California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force)

Dear Dr. Hart,

The Tri County Chamber Alliance represents the legislative advocacy efforts of the Buellton, Greater Conejo Valley, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara South Coast, Santa Maria, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, SLO South, Moorpark, and Ventura Chambers of Commerce along with the West Ventura County Business Alliance. Our mission is to bring a unified voice for thousands of businesses throughout the counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo.

With its mission of increasing economic prosperity in mind, TCCA is proud to support the United States Space Force's application to increase the number of space rocket launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Vandenberg has long been an economic driver in Santa Barbara County, and is a critical asset to our nation's space and national security infrastructure. The strategic location and existing infrastructure of Vandenberg SFB offer unmatched advantages for increasing launch frequency, which we believe can drive significant economic growth and technological innovation both regionally and nationally.

Economic and Community Benefits

Job Creation: Each additional launch at Vandenberg SFB will lead to a significant increase in demand for highly skilled professionals, such as engineers, technicians, and support staff. This surge will create new job opportunities, providing stable and well-paying employment for local residents and boosting the regional economy.

Boost to Local Businesses: The rise in launch activities will positively impact local businesses, including suppliers, service providers, as well as the hospitality and retail

sectors. This economic boost will foster a more vibrant and resilient local economy, benefiting the entire community.

Attracting Investments: An increased frequency of launches has the potential to attract substantial investments from aerospace companies and related industries. This influx of capital will cultivate an environment of innovation and development, further establishing Vandenberg SFB as a central hub for aerospace activities and technological progress.

Educational Opportunities: Enhanced launch operations can promote partnerships with educational institutions, resulting in the development of specialized programs and training initiatives. These collaborations will ensure a continuous supply of qualified professionals to meet the growing demands of the aerospace industry.

Environmental Considerations

We acknowledge the California Coastal Commission's dedication to protecting coastal resources, maintaining public access to our coast, and ensuring sustainable development. The Space Force proposal includes thorough environmental assessments and mitigation strategies to minimize any potential impact on the coastal environment. Increased launch activities can be managed in a way that aligns with environmental stewardship and sustainability goals, while maintaining the current number of days local beaches are closed.

Conclusion

TCCA believes that supporting the increase in launches at Vandenberg SFB will bring substantial economic, technological, and strategic benefits. We are enthusiastic about this initiative and are ready to collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to achieve this vision. Together, we can drive economic growth, foster innovation, and strengthen our nation's position in the global aerospace sector while maintaining our commitment to environmental sustainability.

Thank you for considering our support for this proposal. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further and support the California Coastal Commission in making this vision a reality.

Sincerely,



Jim Dantona
Tri-County Chamber Alliance Chair

From: [Marcy Winograd](mailto:Marcy.Winograd@CoastalEnergy.com)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Oppose VSF Launch Increases (9)-Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force).
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 9:17:33 PM

Dear California Coastal Commissioners;

I write to you as Co-Chair of the Central Coast Antiwar Coalition, a Santa-Barbara based organization embracing ecological sustainability and demilitarization in the face of an existential climate crisis.

Our organization opposes Coastal Commission approval (Thursday, Aug. 8th agenda item 9) of a proposed six-fold increase in kerosene-fueled rocket launches for Elon Musk's Starlink satellites in low-earth orbit. When LEO rockets blast off, they burn large amounts of propellant, releasing chlorine and alumina particles that can destroy ozone molecules. Scientists point out the rockets also release ozone-damaging chemicals when they burn up at the end of their 5-year life span. We thought we had banned ozone-depleting chemicals, but apparently not, and now we face the thinning of the ozone that protects us from the sun's ultraviolet rays.

In addition to other issues—potential space traffic collisions and falling space debris—the increase in rocket launches threatens the well-being of area wildlife. Santa Barbara Independent editor Nick Welsh writes, “All those sonic booms piled on top of each other will become a perpetual drum roll pounded out of the heavens. With each new beat, harbor seals within earshot run for their lives. Any pups they might be nursing at the time are at risk of getting squashed and trampled in the stampede.”

This is a nightmare scenario.

I visited Lompoc recently, where a local resident shuddered when I asked what she thought about increased rocket launches. “I am afraid of falling space debris,” she said, shaking her head in disapproval. While some might laugh or shrug at the notion that satellite and rocket parts—propellers, cables, engines—pose a threat, all one has to do is read reports of the mountain bikers in Orcutt who barely dodged falling chunks of black carbon as big as a VW bug!

I encourage the Coastal Commission to order rigorous environmental assessments of rocket launch increases on wildlife, water, noise and ozone—and to do everything in the commission's power to not only go on record with disapproval but also lobby Governor Newsom to abandon his \$200 million in grants and tax credits to expand aerospace, with particular attention to VSF expansion that threatens to deplete our ozone layer while adding unnecessarily to our greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for your time, consideration and public service.

Respectfully,

Marcy Winograd, co-chair, Central Coast Antiwar Coalition
424-443-9338
2633 State Street, S-1
Santa Barbara, CA. 93105



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 31, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart
Chair, California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street,
Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Chair Hart:

I am writing to you on behalf of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly SLO), to express our enthusiastic support for the proposal to increase the number of launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base. This initiative holds significant promise not only for the aerospace industry but also for the academic and economic landscape of our region.

Vandenberg Space Force Base has long been a cornerstone of space exploration and defense, and its strategic importance continues to grow. As President of Cal Poly SLO, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact that the aerospace sector has on our students and the broader community. Increasing the frequency of launches at Vandenberg will catalyze further development in this high-tech industry, necessitating a robust and well-educated workforce that our university is uniquely positioned to provide.

Cal Poly SLO has a storied history of producing highly skilled graduates in engineering, computer science, and related fields. Our "Learn by Doing" philosophy ensures that students gain practical, hands-on experience that directly translates to the demands of the workforce. The expansion of launch activities at Vandenberg will create numerous opportunities for our graduates, offering them exciting career paths and helping to retain top talent within California.

Moreover, the increased activity at Vandenberg will foster deeper and more impactful partnerships between our university and the companies involved in these launches. Collaborative projects, internships, and research initiatives will not only enhance the educational experience for our students but also drive innovation within the industry. Our faculty and students are eager to engage in cutting-edge research and development projects that will advance space technology and contribute to national security.

The symbiotic relationship between Cal Poly SLO and Vandenberg Space Force Base is a testament to the potential that lies in closer cooperation between academia and industry. By supporting the expansion of launch activities, the Coastal Commission will be investing in the future of our students, the growth of the aerospace sector, and the economic vitality of our region.

We strongly urge the Coastal Commission to approve the proposal for increased launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base. This decision will not only benefit the aerospace industry but also provide invaluable opportunities for the next generation of engineers, scientists, and innovators.

Thank you for your consideration.



Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President



Ideas + Action for a Thriving Central Coast

June 7, 2024

California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: REACH comments on Vandenberg Space Force Base and the growth in launch cadence

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding your discussion on the growing launch cadence at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

As the regional economic impact organization serving the Central Coast and the Governor's Military Council's appointed defense community support organization for Vandenberg, this is of significant importance to our mission and the work of thousands of others in our region, state, and nation. As we wrote in comments last month (attached), Vandenberg plays an indispensable role in our national security and the Central Coast's prosperity. Ahead of your upcoming meeting, we wanted to highlight several considerations as the Coastal Commission and Space Force look to move forward in a constructive way that advances our national security and the base's long-standing environmental stewardship:

- 1. Vandenberg plays a critical role in the livelihoods of the people of the Central Coast, and the opportunity to uplift our state's residents is tied directly to the increasing launch cadence.** As we noted last month, there is no comparable economic engine with the same potential to benefit the lives of the residents in this part of our state, which is essential given the vast number of struggling families and preponderance of low-wage jobs in this region.
- 2. The Central Coast and State of California have been working for many years, at all levels of government and all facets of the community, to support growth in the launch cadence and the jobs, investment and other positive community benefits that flow from that.** The Space Force and the launch operators at Vandenberg are critical partners, community members, and neighbors in this work. The state has also been a vital partner, with the Governor's launch of the Space Industry Task Force and the recent [letter](#) by nearly the entire California congressional delegation on the growing launch cadence at Vandenberg and space opportunities for the state. We appreciate the collaboration of state agencies including the Coastal Commission with Vandenberg over many years as these efforts have advanced and matured.
- 3. Vandenberg plays an important role in our state and nation's climate efforts.** In addition to being the launchpoint for many Earth observation satellites that enable greater understanding of climate change and other critical environmental issues, Vandenberg is chosen for launches precisely because it is the most fuel-efficient launch location in the country for reaching certain orbits. If launches moved away from Vandenberg to less ideal locations, that could directly result in increased emissions impacts.

4. **It is essential that the Space Force be able to continue its mission uninterrupted on the Central Coast of California including growing the launch cadence, while continuing to build on the long-standing state-federal agency collaboration that has upheld our national security and environmental goals.** We look forward to supporting this critical collaboration for our region, state and nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa James
President/CEO
REACH
melissa@reachcentralcoast.org

Cc:
Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
Governor's Military Council



Ideas + Action for a Thriving Central Coast

May 3, 2024

California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: REACH comments on Vandenberg Space Force Base and its importance to the Central Coast

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding your discussions on operations at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

By way of background, REACH is a nonprofit, economic impact organization with a mission to increase economic prosperity on the Central Coast – serving San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties – through big thinking, bold action and regional collaboration. The north star of our work is collaboration with business, education, government and nonprofit partners to create good paying jobs and provide current and future generations the opportunity to thrive.

Vandenberg Space Force Base plays an indispensable role in our national security and the Central Coast's prosperity. We greatly appreciate the Coastal Commission's engagement on such an important topic for our region and are eager to support dialogue and collaboration. We understand recent discussions have taken place on the community connections to the growth in launch activity at Vandenberg. As REACH [serves](#) as the Governor's Military Council's appointed defense community support organization for Vandenberg, we appreciate the opportunity to share background on the importance of the base and the growth in launch activity to our region and state, as well as to our nation's security:

- **Vandenberg is an asset vital to the Central Coast community and economy.**
 - In 2021 REACH released an [economic impact report](#) with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo finding that the base supports 16,000 jobs and an annual economic impact of \$4.5 billion in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, with the potential for that impact to grow to more than \$6 billion over the next decade, adding nearly 2,000 jobs in that timeframe. It is one of the largest employers in our region and slated for significant job growth in the coming years through a combination of public and private investment to support the increased launch cadence and related operations.
 - These jobs and investments are vitally needed to counteract the significant economic hardships on the Central Coast particularly in the communities near the base. In Santa Barbara County alone more than 70 percent of children are growing up in families struggling economically, according to a [report](#) we published this March. Low-wage agricultural roles predominate in the communities near the base. The job growth at Vandenberg tied to increasing launch activity offers the single largest opportunity by far to create better paying quality jobs for local residents and diversify the economy.
- **The Central Coast region is committed to and organized in support of growth at the base.**
 - Recognizing this enormous potential for our region, the community has come together over several years to maximize the positive impacts of Vandenberg for the Central Coast and wider state. The [REACH 2030 plan](#) – our regional economic strategy – was launched

in 2020 after extensive community engagement and prioritized building a thriving space enterprise at Vandenberg as one of several flagship regional economic initiatives.

- Pursuant to this plan, an [MOU](#) including Vandenberg, the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, REACH, Cal Poly, and Deloitte was launched to coordinate efforts in support of the base. This MOU was later expanded to include the County of Santa Barbara and regional colleges and universities and the surrounding cities.
- A [commercial space master plan](#) funded by the County of Santa Barbara and developed through the MOU was launched in 2021 outlining key infrastructure and other needs to support a thriving spaceport, which has guided extensive and ongoing community work by the MOU and partners to support the base and growth in launch activity.
- The increase in the launch cadence has spurred significant regional interest in space, science and technology. Few activities have the potential to bring friends and neighbors outside to look up into the sky as a rocket launch from Vandenberg. There are active community discussions underway to identify launch viewing areas to help more residents and visitors witness the excitement of a rocket launch, similar to how launch viewing in Florida has galvanized public interest since the Apollo era in science and space. Teachers on the Central Coast have taken the opportunity of more frequent launches in recent months to expose students to space, and there are active efforts with the workforce and education community to enhance career pathways for local residents into jobs in the burgeoning aerospace economy.
- **The State of California is building on the work at Vandenberg and its indispensable role in supporting aerospace innovation.**
 - Recognizing the sector’s importance to the state, Governor Newsom [launched](#) a Space Industry Task Force in August 2022 at the California Defense Leadership Summit, building on this model for collaboration championed by the Central Coast community at Vandenberg and underscoring that “we are committed to taking the nation’s space program to the next frontier.” As was noted in the announcement, the industry supports 500,000+ high paying jobs statewide and the state has provided direct support to space companies with a goal to expand manufacturing and launch sites at Vandenberg.
 - The Governor’s Military Council and Space Industry Task Force [visited](#) Vandenberg over the course of several days in March 2023, bringing together state agency leadership and community leaders to discuss the transformation of the base and growth in launches.
- **There is significant federal commitment to Vandenberg and the growth in commercial launch activity to advance our national security.**
 - Almost every member of California’s congressional delegation highlighted the growing launch activity at Vandenberg and the opportunities this offers for jobs, innovation, and national security in a [letter](#) to Governor Newsom this March, noting that “*Supporting the commercial industry will also directly translate to increased capabilities for both our national security and civilian space programs, ensuring we always have assured access to space.*”
 - The vital national security importance of the growing launch cadence at Vandenberg was affirmed by the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Space Operations in recent congressional testimony, as explained by General B. Chance Saltzman:
“The more we use the infrastructure the more we can offset and defray some of the costs...as we use the commercial launch facilities they continue to develop the rocket and launch technologies...we enhance the experience and competencies of all those that operate the range... in the end, the real benefit is the

more you launch the more we are driving the cost per pound to orbit down, and this is one of the most beneficial things that the commercial industry has done for us in the launch enterprise...so that we can start to explore different kinds of constellations in different orbits and to do different kinds of missions.”

Vandenberg is a critical member of the Central Coast community, and the base continues to lean into community conversations, showing up at events, explaining the growth in launch activities, answering questions, understanding and responding to concerns, collaborating on community issues, and continually working towards a stronger community partnership. Indeed, the collaborative MOU model that Vandenberg has helped lead with REACH and other partners is an example that other communities hosting federal installations in California and nationwide have looked to as a model for creating a successful partnership, and we have had many conversations with other communities seeking to work towards a similar approach.

Thousands of Central Coast residents as well as numerous local government, educational, community and industry partners work every day to support Vandenberg, advance its critical national security mission, and maximize the vital benefits that the growth in launch activity provides for our workforce, economy, and community. Thank you for your engagement on these critical issues for the Central Coast and we look forward to collaborating with the Coastal Commission in these important efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa James". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Melissa James
President/CEO
REACH
melissa@reachcentralcoast.org

From: [Helena Pasquarella](mailto:Helena.Pasquarella@CoastalEnergy.com)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Central Coast Antiwar Coalition opposes 9 (C) on 8/8/24 agenda: Increased Starlink launches from Vandenberg
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:30:27 PM

Dear Coastal Commissioners:

The Central Coast Antiwar Coalition opposes item 9 C on the Coastal Commission agenda for Thursday, August 8th.

We stand in opposition to Vandenberg Space Force Base's request to increase from six to 36 rocket launches of Starlink Satellites into low earth orbit above the stratosphere. The rockets that launch the LEO satellites--used for internet connectivity, as well as surveillance for the US government--are fueled by kerosene and burn large amounts of propellant, releasing chlorine and alumina particles that can destroy ozone molecules in the stratosphere. After five-years the satellites die and burn up, spewing over 1,000 tons of aluminum oxide scientists say may further deplete the ozone layer that protects us from the sun's ultraviolet rays that cause skin cancer.

According to the LA Times, SpaceX, Elon Musk's corporation plans to launch 90 rockets from Vandenberg by 2026, tripling the number of blasts jarring our coastal community — and raising concerns about the effects on marine life.

There is a lot we do not know about the environmental and coastal impacts of these satellites, so we ask that the Coastal Commission marshal its resources to oppose this request, not only because of environmental concerns but also because it would constitute a give-away of public land for private profit.

Respectfully,
Helena Pasquarella
Veterans for Peace Chapter 112 Secretary
714.310.5429



*Protecting the beauty & natural
resources of our valley since 1964*

Carpinteria Valley Association

PO Box 27, Carpinteria, CA 93014

carpinteriavalleyassociation@gmail.com

California Coastal Commission
Submitted via email to: ExecutiveStaff@coastal.ca.gov

Submitted: August 1, 2024

**Re: August 8, 2024 Hearing
Agenda Item Th9c: CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force)**

Members of the Commission:

The Carpinteria Valley Association (CVA) has been protecting the beauty and natural resources of the Carpinteria Valley since 1964.

We would like to comment on the assertion made by the United States Space Force that the project is consistent with the California Coastal Management Program (CCMP). **We understand that a conditional concurrence with Consistency Determination CD-0003-24 is valid and is provisional on modifications with recommended conditions provided in your Staff Report, and we urge the Commission to adopt the staff recommendation.**

This is required at this time only to avoid the default of full concurrence that would result from failure to respond. However, we also do not expect that the On-Base Enhanced Biological Monitoring Program is sufficient to identify the effects that sonic booms exert on the environment of the mainland central coast and Channel Islands.

A specific example is the effects of sonic boom on the colony of harbor seals that are indigenous to a specific site on a Carpinteria beach.

SpaceX launch and landing sonic booms and consequent vibrations create a dramatic startle response and flee into water (flush) followed by subtle and long-term effects on each of their annual activities. This colony is highly valued as a recreational and economic boon to the City of Carpinteria, but it is experiencing a decline that is currently under analysis by a City committee. It is unlikely that without factoring this into the multivariate statistical analysis, any augmented decline in population will be attributed to the SpaceX activity.



Additionally we are experiencing the onset of an outbreak of a Toxic Algal Bloom (HAB) which is affecting sea lions. Both the HAB and sonic booms are contributing to the stressors the changing climate is bringing to this region. These factors too are unlikely to be significant in the reports the Executive Director receives from the Department of the Air Force as the Conditions recommend.

Therefore, while we support a vote of Yes to the Conditional CD with conditions, we do urge the Commission to remain vigilant in dealing with SpaceX considering ongoing adverse impacts to biological resources with limited avoidance and minimization of sonic booms that impact biological productivity of coastal waters.

CVA is acutely aware of environmental perturbations in this section of the California Coast. Pinnipeds are indicator species. Seeing a decline in harbor seals and sea lions afflicted with Domoic Acid Toxicity tells us we must strive to better protect our ocean. Sonic booms, noise, and ocean debris generated by increasing SpaceX Falcon 9 launches does not seem to us to be a justifiable government activity.

Thank you,

Mike Wondolowski
President
Carpinteria Valley Association
carpinteriavalleyassociation@gmail.com

From: [Santa Barbara DSA](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Cc: dsa-sb@googlegroups.com
Subject: DSA-SB opposes 9(c) on 8/8/24 agenda: increased Starlink launches from Vandenberg
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 10:52:39 PM
Attachments: [DSA Sv2 BANNER-red_full.png](#)



DSA–Santa Barbara
PO Box 41045
Santa Barbara CA 93140
dsasantabarbara@gmail.com
July 31, 2024

California Coastal Commission
EORFC@coastal.ca.gov

Re: DSA-SB opposes 9(c) on 8/8/24 agenda: increased Starlink launches from Vandenberg.

Dear Coastal Commissioners:

The Santa Barbara chapter of Democratic Socialists of America opposes approval of item 9(c) on the Coastal Commission agenda for Thursday, August 8, 2024. We stand in opposition to Vandenberg Space Force Base's request to increase from 6 to 36 rocket launches of Starlink Satellites into low earth orbit above the stratosphere. The rockets that launch the low earth orbit (“LEO”) satellites – used for internet connectivity, as well as surveillance for the US government – are fueled by kerosene and burn large amounts of propellant, releasing chlorine and alumina particles that destroy ozone molecules in the stratosphere. After five-years the satellites die and burn up, spewing over 1,000 tons of aluminum oxide that scientists say may further deplete the ozone layer that protects us from the sun’s skin-cancer-causing ultraviolet rays. National Institutes of Health/National Library of Medicine study: “Impact of Rocket Launch and Space Debris Air Pollutant Emissions on Stratospheric Ozone and Global Climate” (June 2022) (authors: Ryan, Marais, Balhatchet, Eastham)
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9287058/>

According to the Los Angeles Times, SpaceX, Elon Musk's corporation plans to launch 90 rockets from Vandenberg, 64 miles from us in Santa Barbara, by 2026, "tripling the number of blasts rocking the coastal community — and raising concerns from neighbors and environmental groups about the effects on marine life." Moreover, Mr. Musk’s Falcon 9 rockets emit so much black carbon that they alter the atmospheric radiative balance of Earth, meaning the incoming radiation exceeds the radiation leaving the planet, turning up the Earth’s thermometer to increase global warming. (ibid.) It must also be remarked that the satellites being launched are of dubious national security value, and are serving primarily to further increase SpaceX's business and contribute to Mr. Musk's excessive wealth.

There is a lot we do not know about the environmental and coastal impacts of these satellites, so we ask that the Coastal Commission use its resources to oppose Vandenberg's request.

Respectfully,
DSA-SB Steering Committee
for the DSA-SB membership



August 1, 2024

To: Caryl Hart, Chair, California Coastal Commission

Cc: Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission
Cassidy Teufel, Deputy Director, California Coastal Commission

Re: Department of the Air Force's Proposed Expansion of the Space Exploration Technologies Corporation's (SpaceX) Falcon 9 Space Program, CD-0003-24

Dear Chair Hart and Honorable Commissioners:

The Surfrider Foundation (Surfrider) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, made up of a network of passionate grassroots activists dedicated to protecting our ocean, waves, and beaches for all people to enjoy. In furtherance of this mission, Surfrider has five core initiatives: coastal preservation, beach access, clean water, ocean protection, and plastic pollution prevention. SpaceX's proposed program expansion has the potential to reduce public beach access, increase marine debris, and produce harmful noise and sonic booms. As a result of these risks, the protective measures proposed by the Commission staff are necessary to ensure the protection of our coast.

Surfrider submits these comments on behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in California, as well as our U.S. network of nearly 200 chapters and clubs, and more than 350,000 supporters, activists, and members. Surfrider previously submitted comments on this issue at the Commission's April and June meetings, expressing concern about the rapid increase of launch frequency. Given the potentially significant impacts of SpaceX's proposed program expansion on beach access, water quality, and coastal species, we urge the Commission to adopt the Commission staff's recommended conditional concurrence to the consistency determination by DAF for the proposed expansion of the Space Exploration Technologies Corporation's (SpaceX) Falcon 9 Space Program at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) in Santa Barbara County. If DAF and SpaceX do not agree to all the protective measures proposed by Commission staff, we urge the Commission to object to the consistency determination. Specifically, we strongly support the 30 day requirement for several of the conditions for monitoring and mitigation plans as this will help inform future requests for launch increases, expected before the Commission as early as October 2024.

Previous SpaceX launches have resulted in closures of critically important public beaches and beach campgrounds. While changes to launch times and evacuation criteria have helped to reduce the need for these closures, the dramatic increase in

rocket launches that DAF is proposing could further significantly reduce access to these important beach areas. It is critical that the number of beach closures is strictly limited, particularly since SpaceX has disregarded and exceeded closure limits in the past (for example, by closing Jalama Beach 15 times in just the first seven months of 2023, despite an annual limit of 12 closures). It is also important that closures are communicated to impacted individuals, such as those who have campground reservations, well in advance and that efforts are made to reduce the need for reservation cancellations caused by launch activities. Additionally, because DAF has agreed to address beach closure concerns by increasing nighttime launches, we are glad to see that the Commission staff is recommending a lighting management plan to ensure that artificial lights associated with nighttime launch activities do not have unintended environmental consequences.

Marine debris from SpaceX launches (including fairings, parachutes, and weather balloons) continues to pose a threat to marine habitats and species. We support the Commission staff's recommendations for addressing this problem. It is critical that SpaceX be transparent with the Commission about the amounts and types of debris that they are releasing into the ocean, so that the Commission and the public can better understand the scale of this issue. SpaceX must also take steps to reduce their marine debris—especially debris containing hazardous materials—and to fund the clean-up of marine debris and hazardous materials. We are glad to see the Commission staff including these requirements in the conditions for concurrence.

We agree with the Commission staff that DAF should aim to avoid sonic booms hitting the mainland and Channel Islands. Sonic booms and other launch-related noises can cause serious problems for both people and sensitive wildlife. Acoustic and biological monitoring must be implemented in all potentially impacted areas to obtain better data about sonic booms and their impacts on wildlife. This monitoring data is particularly important, especially because DAF has already submitted another consistency determination that would allow SpaceX to conduct even more launches per year.

We are happy to see that Commission staff have proposed a number of common sense protective measures that are achievable, and would still help ensure the protection of our coasts. We urge the Commission to adopt the Commission staff's recommendation and conditionally concur with DAF's consistency determination.

We strongly support Commission staff's analysis that this matter should be subject to a coastal development permit, given that most of the SpaceX activities fulfill private commercial purposes. The DAF's claim that all activities are federal because some agency activities utilize SpaceX technology would open a Pandora's box of permitting loopholes for a wide variety of activities. We strongly urge the Commission to enforce this requirement and SpaceX to submit a permit application for activities moving forward. It is inappropriate to consider these activities strictly under the Commission's federal consistency authority when the full weight of the California Coastal Act should apply, especially given the rapid increase in launch activities expected over the coming

years and the potential for cumulative impacts yet to be considered with multiple private companies expected to realize commercial launches at Vandenberg.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Imm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jennifer Imm
Legal Intern
Surfrider Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mandy Sackett". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being the most legible part.

Mandy Sackett
Senior California Policy Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation



August 2, 2024

California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Vandenberg Space Force Base Federal Consistency Item Th10c (Consistency Determination No. CD-0003-24, SpaceX)

Dear Chair Hart and Honorable Coastal Commissioners,

The Gaviota Coast Conservancy (GCC) is a California public benefit organization committed to permanently protecting the rural character and environmental integrity of the Gaviota Coast for present and future generations. Along with rural character and environmental integrity, public access and recreational opportunities is the “third pillar” that together fulfills GCC’s mission. Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) encompasses an important and substantial portion of the Gaviota Coast and its biodiversity, so protecting its environmental integrity and the recreational experience at adjacent public beaches is of paramount importance to GCC.

GCC recognizes the potential benefits of a robust space program, including supporting our national security, and economic competitiveness. It is important however that activities at VSFB are carried out in a manner that preserves the ecological integrity of the base, and the Gaviota Coast and surrounding coastal areas more broadly. We appreciate the thoroughness with which the Commission and Commission Staff has approached this proposal, and the conditions contained in the Staff Report help address many of our concerns. **The proposed conditions articulated in the 7/25/24 Staff Report, in our view, represent the bare minimum that should be required.**

GCC previously raised concerns in comments to the Commission over the potential impacts of more frequent launches and sonic booms on protected wildlife species including marine mammals, Western snowy plover, California least tern, and California red-legged frog. We appreciate that the Space Force has provided additional information on this topic including a review of the limited existing scientific studies on wildlife responses to sudden noise events (Exhibit 17), however substantial additional information and analysis is needed to determine the magnitude of the impact to protected species present at VSFB including population-level impacts. The additional requirements for analyzing and reporting monitoring data recommended in Condition 1 (parts b and c) is essential. In addition, SpaceX should be required to develop and implement protective measures to respond to any documented harm. Such measures could include reducing launch

frequency during time periods when sensitive species are most likely to be impacted, and choosing launch trajectories that minimize the impacts of sonic booms.

Importantly, the environmental effects of 36 annual SpaceX launches must be thoroughly studied and understood *before* any additional increases are considered. We have real concerns that the proposed ramp-up to 50 and then 100 SpaceX launches by 2025 will occur too rapidly for the effects of the increased launch cadence to be studied. GCC favors a more cautious approach to increasing launch cadence such as that outlined in the Staff Report (p. 38):

Under a more controlled and cautious scenario, such a significant increase in launch cadence would be spread out over a longer period of time with defined, stepwise increases in cadence along with thorough monitoring and evaluation to assess adverse impacts. At a minimum, this approach would provide sensitive species in the area a greater opportunity to adjust to the increase in launches. Crucially, this more measured approach could also be structured to provide sufficient time for monitoring to assess how species are reacting to the increase in disturbance and whether the increase is resulting in any significant adverse impacts. If significant impacts are detected, project changes and/or mitigation measures could be implemented and analyzed to determine whether they are effective, before continuing to increase the cadence.

The response from the Space Force as to why this more cautious and measured increase in launch cadence is not feasible (that the escalation is “driven by the contracted manifest”, id.) is woefully insufficient based on the severity of the potential impacts from the proposed exponential increase in launch frequency.

Finding a way to harmonize the needs of the Space Force with the protection of coastal resources is essential and appears readily feasible. The approach to limiting beach closures at Jalama, involving collaboration with County Parks, is an example of how this can be done. We hope that Vandenberg Space Force Base leadership and SpaceX fully cooperate with the Coastal Commission, and work collaboratively with local, state and federal agencies as well as the local community to safeguard our shared coastal resources.

Sincerely,



Ana Citrin, Esq.
GCC Legal and Policy Director

CC: Cassidy Teufel, Deputy Director
Walt Deppe, Environmental Scientist

From: Barbara Walsh <parker2050@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 13, 2024 9:07 AM
To: Huckelbridge, Kate@Coastal <Kate.Huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: Vandenberg Space Force Base and Rocket Launches

Dear Ms. Huckelbridge,

My name is Barbara Walsh. I am a resident of Lompoc, CA. Residents of Lompoc live about 3-10 miles from the launches.

We are concerned. The launches are now going off two times a week. This is the list of what is happening to us:

1. Our peace of mind and quality of life is compromised because the launches are like earthquakes.
2. We are concerned about our homes now. The launches rattle the windows, doors, pipes, gas lines, and we are talking about the cracks in our walls in our home/investment.
3. The animals go through extreme anxiety. Friends of mine have to sedate their dogs, then a launch is cancelled, then they have to go through it all over again.
4. The “sonic boom” that is happening now with the return of the part that comes back to earth is unexpected. We are going about our business and suddenly there is a deafening boom from the sound barrier. It’s very scary.
5. Ocean life: Cannot imagine how this affects our whales and other ocean life.
6. Pollution: The gases released from these rockets is massive. The ocean west wind carries in all the toxic release from the rockets and it’s my understanding these toxic gases do not dissipate as soon as we thought. They linger.
7. I called AAA yesterday to ask about insurance. The reason I called was because the last launch on 7/11 was so scary, I thought for sure my windows were going to crack. AAA said home insurance would cover anything that came from a launch, but we have to pay our deductibles. Insurance is already out of sight in cost for all of us and I have to wonder if Lompoc will now be considered a “high risk” area because of these shattering launches.

8. I understand Musk has multiple lawsuits all over the country. Why is that. Because he is rich does not mean he should be able to compromise our peace of mind and our properties and our animals and our environment.

9. I know that Chumash has recently teamed up with NOAA to carry out protections on our coastline here. What do they have to say about these launches and how it affects our area/ocean/marine life?

I understand Musk wants even more launches. Please tell him no. There are already too many. It's a hazard and a health risk to us here in town.

Also, wanted to bring to your attention a documentary I saw called, "52." About the loneliest whale in the world. The documentary does touch on our world today and the noises the whales have to endure.

Thank you greatly for your valuable time. We are hoping we have someone in our corner to protect us from the big money.

Barbara Walsh
800 W Nectarine
Lompoc, CA 93436
805-588-2050
parker2050@comcast.net

From: [l donahue](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Cc: [l donahue](#)
Subject: Space X launches
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 11:27:03 AM

I support Space X's plan to modestly increase the number of launches from Vandenberg Space Force Base. And the federal approvals are not a problem. So please do not stand in the way of improving this vital industry in our community.

**Leslie Donahue
Templeton CA**

From: [Ronald Jensen](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Support
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 11:33:03 AM

Please support additional space launches -- this is important for our understanding and use of space.

A citizen -- Cynthia M. Jensen

From: [Rodney blackner](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Space X
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 11:59:47 AM

My name is Rod Blackner and I live in Paso Robles. I want you to know that myself and many others support increasing the launches of the Space X program. Please allow them to continue for the good of all. Thank You, Rod

From: [Becky Mansfield](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: SPACE X
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 12:32:48 PM

Hello

I definitely support the Space X project as one of the most important projects of the 21 Century. Without private enterprises in our country, we will never progress to our full potential as a society. Don't mess with a good thing!

Rebecca Mansfield

From: [MICHELE NORWOOD](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Vandenberg Launches
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 12:57:29 PM

Dear Sirs:

It amuses me to think that so many years after Vandenberg's completion that all of a sudden, her rocket launches are now posing a threat to anyone or anything at this late date. In the 1960's my father helped set up the communications for the Thor and Atlas missile sites. Before that program, there were many other defense missiles being launched and tested. If there was significant damage to the public or to the environment, it would have been dealt with long ago. This base not only provides jobs that help drive the economy of the Central Coast, but serves as a major defense mechanism for the United States. Please do not usurp your authority over Vandenberg and SpaceX over a handful of questionable complaints and a few sea lions who can move on along our vast shoreline. My husband and neighbors enjoy watching every launch we can from our patios. We thank God that we live in a country who leads in the creation of technology designed to protect us from foreign enemies.

Thank you.

Michele Norwood
649 Matthew Way
Arroyo Grande, Ca 93420

Michele

From: [Gary Stemper](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: More launches
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 2:56:06 PM

Please coastal commission let more launches fire from Vandenberg. Great for jobs, economy & future air space.
Great for Calif & being a leader state

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gary Kirkland](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Vandenberg Launches
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 3:16:06 PM

Dear Coastal Commissioners:

Thank you for your service.

The U.S. Government built the Vandenberg launch site many decades ago. The organisms, including most people, weren't there when the government built the site. These organisms chose to move there. So, the site should continue to be a launch site as often those who need it.

Also, if an American enemy, such as North Korea, launches nuclear missiles at our West Coast it will fall to the U.S. Air Force and Navy to fend off this attack. The military needs to launch as many missiles as necessary to maintain readiness.

Thank you.

Sincerely;
Gary L. Kirkland
gary.l.kirkland@gmail.com

From: 18661873
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Missile Launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 4:22:02 PM

Sirs:

I am writing to let you know that I am very much in favor of increasing the missile launch schedule at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

The Surfrider Foundation's environmental concerns are not based on measurable science fact but on phantom fears. Why hobble the development of civilian space technology because environmental activists fear vague and unspecific damage to the environment?

Allow Space X and other civilian missile concerns to grow their space launch programs at Vandenberg.

Sincerely,

Steven Oetzell
1632 Havemeyer Lane
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

From: sandensea@aol.com
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 4:42:30 PM

To Executive Staff,

As a resident of the Central Coast I would like to encourage you to support and approve any additional launches from Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Sincerely,
Carol Sanden

From: ahseastrand@aol.com
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Cc: ahseastrand@aol.com
Subject: SUPPORT FOR THE INCREASE OF SPACE X LAUNCHES AT THE VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE!
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 9:15:28 PM

July 15, 2024

**To Executive Staff
California Coastal Commission**

**Please note that I fully support the increase of Space X launches at the
Vandenberg Space Force Base!**

**Need to strongly support the continuing development of commercial space at
Vandenberg Space Force Base on the Central Coast of California!**

Thank you!

Upward and onward,

**Andrea Seastrand
Former California Congresswoman**

**Andrea Seastrand
ahseastrand@aol.com**

From: [Elizabeth Potter](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Space X launches
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 7:07:46 AM

I support the increase number of launches from our local launch site!
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Anne Bennett](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Space X launchings
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 9:45:10 AM

I am in support of Space X launching from Vandenberg. Can we count on you to do the same?

Sincerely,
Anne Bennett
Cambria, CA

From: [Debbie PUNCHES](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Vandenberg Space Force
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 5:09:29 PM

I am writing to urge the Coastal Commission to vote in favor of more launches for Space X at the base. Keep us moving forward in this effort.

Thank you,
Debra PUNCHES

From: apenn23@yahoo.com
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Supporting an increase launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 11:41:37 AM

Dear Commissioners:

I write in support of increasing rocket launches at Vandenberg. I work and live on the central coast with my family and have lived here my entire life. I also coach high school soccer at a local high school, and have two high school aged kids.

It goes without saying that launches at Vandenberg are important to our national security. But they are important for our community on the Central Coast. More than just the economic benefits, these launches drive interest in space exploration and careers related to space and technology for kids of all ages. I have seen that firsthand with my own kids and the kids I coach -- they are awed when we occasionally stop whatever we are doing to watch the incredible sight of a rocket launch. We have even driven to particular locations just to see some of these launches and experience the joy. It has always put a smile on my kids' face and a twinkle in their eyes. Particularly now, I think kids need more things that awe and inspire them.

I hope SpaceX and other companies continue to partner with Vandenberg and increase the launch frequency to its full capacity.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Aaron Penner

From: [Virginia Roush](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Vandenberg Space Force Base
Date: Thursday, July 18, 2024 8:51:08 AM

We need a strong Vandenberg. Please don't rule against it.

Thank you,
Virginia Roush

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Virginia Roush](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Vandenberg increasing launches
Date: Thursday, July 18, 2024 8:55:05 AM

Please vote for increasing launches from Vandenberg.
Thank you,
Virginia Roush

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brian James Sobell](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Supporting an increase to launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base
Date: Thursday, July 18, 2024 10:24:54 AM

Dear Commissioners:

I am a recent graduate from Cal Poly, and a Central Coast native. I grew up in Santa Barbara County, my family still resides there. I now reside in San Luis Obispo where I finished my degrees at Cal Poly in Business Administration and MS Business Analytics.

I have come to learn that Space X wants to increase the number of rocket launches at Vandenberg, which moved me to write this comment in support of that mission.

As a recent college graduate, the health of the local economy and job opportunities on the central coast are very important to me. Our economy is shifting, and we need more head-of-household jobs here. Maintaining a positive relationship with Space X will provide opportunity for people like me, who were born and raised here, educated here, and want to remain here. I think that increasing launches will drive additional investment on the Central Coast and generate the high-quality jobs that our region needs. I am certain that SpaceX launches out of Vandenberg are important for other reasons as well, such as national security and research.

Vandenberg has been a critical part of our Central Coast community for my entire life, I went to school with kids from the base and count many of them among my friends to this day. We are proud to have it here, and support its mission in every way.

I appreciate your consideration of this comment, and please support the increase in rocket launches so that SpaceX and Vandenberg can continue to fulfill its vital mission and provide opportunity for people that live here.

Thank you,

Brian Sobell

MSBA

Orfalea College of Business, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

bsobell@calpoly.edu

805-944-7213



From: [Steven Heuring](mailto:Steven.Heuring)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Support for increasing launches at Vandenberg
Date: Friday, July 19, 2024 5:04:12 PM

Dear Members of the Coastal Commission,

For a number of reasons I offer my support for increasing the number of space launches from Vandenberg Space Force Base.

During a 7.5 year (1987 -1995) tour of duty with Headquarters USEUCOM, Stuttgart Germany, I was made aware of the critical importance of our Space assets and the need to have a reliable means to get those assets in orbit. I returned to the States in January 1995 and I was assigned to the 30th Communications Squadron, Vandenberg AFB in 1995. I retired from active duty in 1999 after serving 26 years at the rank of (E-8) Senior Master Sergeant. Eighteen months after retirement I was recruited to return to Vandenberg AFB as a Department of the Air Force civilian working as a Visual Information Specialist (Graphic Arts, briefing aids, and informational products) supporting senior staff. I retired from civil service on December 31, 2022. Currently, I service as a Board Member on the Vandenberg Village Community Services District (elected 2022), I am also a board member of: the Vandenberg Village Association, Vandenberg Village Lions Club, and the Vandenberg Village Park & Playground Coalition.

The following are some of my reasons I believe that launches from Vandenberg should be allowed to **increase** as needed.

- My wife and I have lived in our current home since February 2001. After all these years we (to include my son and his family) are still excited to view the launches from VSBFB. It appears that most of our neighbors feel the same as we see them out in their yards also viewing the launches. Friends and Family that live in various parts of the United States are also aware of Vandenberg Space Force Base and often ask about the launches We constantly share launch videos and photos with them. People from all parts of the country come to Santa Barbara County in hopes of viewing a launch.

- Beyond the critical strategic nature of what these launches mean, these launches also provide tremendous employment opportunities throughout Santa Barbara County. Again, many of my neighbors can afford to live here because of these jobs. And don't dismiss the non-space tertiary jobs that have been created because of the space related employment.

- It is an understatement to say that Vandenberg SFB is an important part of our community, it is a **critical** part of our community and of our nation.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my opinion about supporting increased launches from Vandenberg SFB.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Heuring
3920 Rigel Avenue
Lompoc - Vandenberg Village CA 93436
Steven.heuring@gmail.com

From: [Kevin Nakiso](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Supporting an increase launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base
Date: Saturday, July 20, 2024 7:22:41 AM

Hello Commission:

My name is Kevin Nakiso and I am a lifelong resident of the Central Coast. I recently became aware that there have been discussions around limiting or even potentially putting a stop to these launches. Because of that, I wanted to write this email to support the increase in rocket launches from the Vandenberg Base.

I love living in a place that has deep-rooted connections to our military. I recently became a father. I cannot wait to watch rocket launches in our sky with my son when he's old enough to appreciate it. I think it will inspire him and feel him with pride, just like it does for me.

Thank you for considering this letter.

Kevin Nakiso

From: [Mike Tannler](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Increasing SpaceX launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base
Date: Saturday, July 20, 2024 2:35:42 PM

Dear California Coastal Commission,
As a citizen of California in Morro Bay, I am urging you to support commercial space at Vandenberg Space Force Base on the Central Coast of California.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Sandra Tannler
Resident of Morro Bay, California
Sent from my iPad

From: [JoAnnBowen](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: I support Space X at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc, Ca
Date: Saturday, July 20, 2024 7:10:51 PM

Sent from my iPhone

From: [JoAnnBowen](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Please keep Space X at Vandenberg Air Base. I disagree with the Coastal Commission.
Date: Saturday, July 20, 2024 7:13:31 PM

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ben Swan](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Support for an increase in launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base
Date: Sunday, July 21, 2024 9:43:27 PM

Dear Commissioners:

I am a Cal Poly professor in the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences and department head for the Agricultural Education and Communication Department. My wife and I are parents of four kids, ranging from college-aged to elementary school. We volunteer in our community in numerous ways: coaching youth sports, serving on a local school board, and serving on nonprofit boards.

From these vantage points, I interact with many people in our area. I believe that the rocket launches from Vandenberg are something that unites our community, regardless of education level, socio-economic status, or any other factor. We are proud of our service members at Vandenberg, and proud to "host" the unique and amazing effort that is launching rockets and payloads into space.

From my perspective as a college professor at Cal Poly, I can tell you that my college students are energized and interested by what SpaceX is doing at Vandenberg to usher in the next generation of technology and more completely interconnect our world. There are parts of the world where it is not feasible to reach them with traditional means of internet connection. StarLink has the potential to do so, and the impact on our global community will be enormously positive. Without an increase in launches at Vandenberg, such global interconnection will be delayed at best, and impossible at worst.

Imagine being able to share modern methods of sustainable farming, instantly, with someone starting a farm in a remote part of the world. Such opportunities will have global impact, reduce poverty and starvation, and yield tremendous environmental benefit for our planet. We have many challenges ahead and this advancement can certainly be vital to the solutions required for a brighter future.

Plus, seeing rockets in the sky after a launch is one of the best parts of living on the Central Coast.

Please allow SpaceX (or any other company) the opportunity to do more of them. The local and global benefits to doing so will be immense.

Sincerely,

Benjamin G. Swan, Ph.D.

Department Head & Professor
College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences
Agricultural Education and Communication
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA

office 805.756.2401
aged.calpoly.edu

From: [Leigh Collier](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Space Force Base Launches
Date: Monday, July 22, 2024 10:05:45 AM

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for increasing the number of launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base. This initiative presents numerous benefits for both our local community and the broader field of space exploration.

As a parent, watching launches with my kids has been an extraordinary experience. These events provide a unique and tangible way to teach them about space and science, sparking their curiosity and inspiring a passion for learning. Witnessing a launch firsthand is an invaluable educational opportunity that simply cannot be replicated in a classroom.

Moreover, increasing the number of launches at Vandenberg means substantial investment in our local Santa Barbara community. This not only leads to more head-of-household jobs but also fosters growth and development for our small businesses. The economic benefits of additional launches are significant, providing financial stability and prosperity for many families in our area.

Vandenberg Space Force Base is a vital part of our county's identity. The base's operations have always been a source of pride and importance for our community. By supporting an increase in launches, we ensure that Vandenberg continues to thrive and contribute positively to our region.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support the proposal to increase the number of launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base. This initiative promises educational benefits for our children, economic growth for our community, and the sustained importance of Vandenberg in our county's identity.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter.

Sincerely,

Leigh Collier
805-310-7490

From: [Mark Schmitt](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Cc: ahseastrand@aol.com
Subject: Space X Launch Capacity
Date: Monday, July 22, 2024 2:56:23 PM

As competition for dominance in space and technology grows tighter on the world stage, it becomes **more** imperative that the U.S. maintains its lead. It is only through robust testing, and implementing the latest advances in space technology, that the U.S. will retain its position ahead of other developing nations, and remain the space pioneers we have always been. By securing our position as the world leader in space travel and technology we secure our domestic and military future.

What our country needs is an **INCREASE**, not a decrease in launch capacity at Vandenberg Space Force Base to remain the “tip of the spear” in space travel and technology. Space is the “Final Frontier.” It is crucial that the United States establish itself as the most powerful force in space. As the saying goes, he who controls the “high ground” controls the battlefield, should the unthinkable come to fruition.

From a purely peaceful perspective, advanced satellite technology can only serve to benefit our nation when it comes to enhancing our communications capabilities and monitoring the numerous weather and environmental factors affecting our nation, and the planet.

I strongly urge the California Coastal Commission to “**STAND DOWN**” on any attempts to curtail the launch capacity of the Space X Program at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Mark Schmitt,

Central Coast Resident and Concerned Citizen

From: [Kristen Lewis](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: IMG_1992-preview.pvt
Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 12:46:36 PM
Attachments: [IMG_1992.HEIC](#)

This is being sent around by the republicans. They actually want 700 launches as apposed to 2-3 a month. This would be devastating to our environment, infrastructure and community. Please, please, please do not let this happen.

Kristen A. Lewis, Ph.D

Sent from my iPhone

ACTION NEEDED NOW!

Increasing SpaceX launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base

Email California Coastal Commission
ExecutiveStaff@coastal.ca.gov

Deadline: August 2, 2024 by 5pm

SpaceX is trying to modestly increase the number of launches from Vandenberg Space Force Base. The federal approvals have not been a problem thus far.

However, the California Coastal Commission has agendized a hearing on this issue for early August.

We on the Central Coast need to express support for Space X continued and increased launches.

ACTION NEEDED NOW!

*Email the California Coastal Commission in support of Space x increasing its launches.
ExecutiveStaff@coastal.ca.gov

*Solicit others to do the same!
ExecutiveStaff@coastal.ca.gov

Need to show our robust support for commercial space at Vandenberg Space Force Base on the Central Coast of California!

From: fromero.solutions-plus.net
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment IN SUPPORT of Item #9.c Increased Launch Activity: CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force) at VSFB
Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:47:46 PM

Dear Members of the Coastal Commission:

I am writing to you today in support Item #9.c Federal Consistency determination for CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force) requesting the increase of Space Exploration Technologies' (SpaceX) Falcon 9 launch and landing activities at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) from six to 36 per year as well as the addition of offshore landing locations in the Pacific Ocean Vandenberg Space Force Base, Santa Barbara County. I'm the former Mayor of Guadalupe & an Honorary Commander Emeritus (VSFB) which informs my support of this project due to its positive impact on the northern region of Santa Barbara County. While I've had the good fortune as a former Mayor & Honorary Commander to attend several launches on site at VSFB, I have a pretty good view from my home in Guadalupe too, cloud cover permitting. The positive impact to our region through the provision of head of household jobs and numerous other support positions in Santa Barbara County is vital to our economy. Probably more important, is the role that VSFB plays in its vital mission to protect the national security of United States due to its unique location and their support of the satellite infrastructure for both military & civilian use that must be launched & tracked.

Please vote in support of this consistency determination, it is vital for our region and Country.

Warm regards,

*Frances Romero
Guadalupe, CA*

"Activity is not accomplishment"

From: [Rani Shah](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: For the love of science, space and technology for good!
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:38:37 AM

Hello!

As a resident of SLO County since I graduated Poly back in 1997, I am a firm believer in the fortitude of science...specifically Space science. I feel lucky to now have the ability to learn about space and see our explorations take place at Vandenberg...our "backyard," so to speak.

Everytime a rocket launches, excitement fills my heart at the amazing feats we are accomplishing as a human race. Please do not take that away! Below are some bullet points of some economic impacts of keeping the rocket launches going along with the space program at Vandenberg.

Thank you for your time!

-Rani Shah

Los Osos, Resident

Working in SLO

Always looking towards space!

- I support the Central Coast space industry, and support SpaceX's application to increase the number of launches out of Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB)
- VSFB is the second-busiest spaceport in the world. Continued (and increased) launches from this site are not only critical to national security, but to our regional economy, as well.
- The Central Coast's economy is rapidly shifting. We have long been one of the state's leading energy producers with a large agriculture and tourism economy. However, with the emergence of the private sector space industry, our local economy, small businesses and residents are reaping the rewards.
- Increased investment and development to support the burgeoning space industry has led to more jobs and new businesses throughout our region.
- Given the rapid growth of this industry – and the private sector's continued interest in investing and innovating here on the Central Coast – we strongly believe that our local residents and businesses will benefit greatly by increasing the number of launches SpaceX is allowed out of VSFB.
- We encourage you to support SpaceX's application to increase the number of launches allowed out of VSFB.

From: relias@pacificagritec.com
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Letter to the California Coastal Commission in Favor of Increased Vandenberg SFB Launches
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 6:03:39 PM

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I very much support an increase in the number of launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Having this facility in our community provides extraordinary experiences about space and science. The economic benefits are significant, providing financial stability and prosperity for many families in our area. Vandenberg Space Force Base is a vital part of our community, County, State and National identity. The base's operations have always been a source of pride and importance. By supporting an increase in launches, we ensure that Vandenberg continues to thrive and contribute positively to our region.

I wholeheartedly support the proposal to increase the number of launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Sincerely,

Ramon and Melissa Elias
1340 Dolcetto Ln
Santa Maria CA 93458
relias@flash.net
805 748 7470

From: [gary white](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Increasing SpaceX launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:59:17 AM

This is an important operation that benefits all, and harms nothing.
SpaceX needs to be allowed to expand and grow for the benefit of all America.

Gary White

From: [Mahoney, Timothy](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Yes for Space X and VSFB
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 10:33:37 AM

Dear Calif Coastal Commission – As a resident of Santa Barbara County, I support increasing the number of launches for Space X satellites at Vandenberg Space Force Base, Lompoc CA. We need more space exploration, satellites, launches and activity at VSFB. Thanks, Tim Mahoney, 805-681-7930.

From: [Jerry Rounds](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Vandenberg/SpaceX
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 10:37:24 AM

California Coastal Commission
Dr. Caryl Hart

Dear Dr. Hart.

I live about 29 miles from the launch site at Vandenberg.

I support increased launches.

It is good for the community.

I am an avid birder and go to Surf Beach often. I have no problem with supposed environmental impacts.

Regards, Jerry Rounds

Santa Ynez

From: [R.Vance](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Support for Space Force Proposal to Increase Launches at Vandenberg
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 10:39:01 AM

I'm a Santa Barbara homeowner and I support the Vandenberg Space Force Base increasing their launch rate.

I see and hear these launches from my yard by the way.

For that matter, I truly doubt whether a state organization such as the Coastal Commission has any say in telling the US military what to do or how to do it on federal property.

How about you just call the charade off and quit wasting everyone's time and money.

I'm old enough to remember what the state was like before your organization existed.

We did fine without you. Hint, hint.

Sincerely,

R. Vance

From: [Katie White](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: SpaceX program
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 9:53:45 AM

The SpaceX program at Vandenberg Space Force Base is an important operation that benefits us all.

Please allow it to expand and grow.

Thank you.

Katie White

From: [Aaryn Abbott](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 10:52:06 AM

Dear Commissioners,

As a local resident and business owner on the Central Coast, I strongly support SpaceX's application to increase the number of launches allowed out of VSFB.

This is an important industry for both economic growth and national security. With the unique geographic location facilitating safe launches for polar orbit, it's in the best interest of our local economy and national interests to fully support the expansion of launches and services out of VSFB.

Not to mention, my family love to watch the launches, learn about the science, and get inspired about the engineering feats being achieved in our own backyard.

Thank you for supporting this incredibly important resource!

Aaryn

AARYN ABBOTT | Vice President



1308 Monterey Street, #210. San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805.215.2872 **MOBILE** | 805.543.7277 **MAIN OFFICE**

DRE Officer ID# 01878241
www.abbottreedinc.com

From: [Lori Silva](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Comment on Thursday 9c-CD-0003-24
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 12:04:36 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am reaching out to show my support of the Central Coast space industry and SpaceX's desire to increase the launches here at Vandenberg Space Fore Base.

Being a fifth generation resident of SLO county, my family has seen a lot of changes in our area. I feel the launches have have had a positive impact for our family as well as our community! These launches have had a positive impact by increasing the local economy. It's amazing how many people come from near and far to view the launches! These people are staying in our hotels and buying from our retailers and eating in our restaurants. For me personally, our family often all gathers at one of our homes to watch the launch and then after separation we hop on the live feed to watch the booster land. It's so amazing to experience!

I feel very fortunate to have VSFB, right here in our backyard and hope that you will allow SpaceX to increase their number of launches out of VSFB.

Thank you for considering this,

Lori Silva

From: [Maggie Torres](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force).
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 1:04:49 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

As a local Central Coast resident, I want to express my support for the Vandenberg Space Industry and Space X's application to increase the number of launches out of Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB). Not only are the launches a way to bring the local community together when they happen (even discussions the following days), but it has been a large boost in the economy. With the impending closure of Diablo Power Plant, it has been great to see the increase of jobs and new businesses in this area and am hopefully to continue to see this grow in the coming years.

Thank you,

--

Maggie Torres
ntorres85@gmail.com

From: [June McIvor](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force)
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 1:16:58 PM

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for the space industry on the Central Coast generally and specifically for SpaceX's application to increase its number of launches from Vandenberg Space Force Base. This industry and these launches bring important economic benefits to our region, have no apparent downsides, and, it must be said, are very cool!

I encourage you to support SpaceX's application to increase the number of their launches here.

Sincerely,
June

June R. McIvor
San Luis Obispo, CA
(805) 748-6039

From: [Val Vaz CA-SAN LUIS OBISPO](mailto:Val.Vaz@Coastal)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force)
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 1:37:44 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I currently serve on the board of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce and am writing to you on behalf of our board and as a resident of San Luis Obispo County.

- I fully support the Central Coast space industry, and support SpaceX's application to increase the number of launches out of Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB).
- VSFB is the second-busiest spaceport in the world. Continued (and increased) launches from this site are not only critical to national security, but to our regional economy, as well.
- The Central Coast's economy is rapidly shifting. We have long been one of the state's leading energy producers with a large agriculture and tourism economy. However, with the emergence of the private sector space industry, our local economy, small businesses and residents are reaping the rewards.
- Increased investment and development to support the burgeoning space industry has led to more jobs and new businesses throughout our region.
- Given the rapid growth of this industry – and the private sector's continued interest in investing and innovating here on the Central Coast – I strongly believe that our local residents and businesses will benefit greatly by increasing the number of launches SpaceX is allowed out of VSFB.
- I encourage you to support SpaceX's application to increase the number of launches allowed out of VSFB.

Thank you, Val

--

Val Vaz

Board Member, San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce

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From: [Beth A Marino](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force).
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 2:23:13 PM

Coastal Commissioners:

I write to support the Central Coast space industry, and SpaceX's application to increase the number of launches out of Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB). Launches from this site are critical to our regional economy.

With the emergence of the private sector space industry, our local economy, small businesses, and residents are reaping the rewards. Increased investment and development to support the burgeoning space industry has led to more jobs and new businesses throughout our region. I know this from personal experience. Our oldest son will be graduating from University of Colorado, Boulder in May 2025 with an aerospace engineering degree. For the past two summers, he has returned to San Luis Obispo to intern for a local aerospace company, started by former Cal Poly grads, and which now employs 100+ people. His plan is to return for full-time employment next summer and to obtain his master's in aerospace engineering from Cal Poly, SLO. I never thought it would be possible for our sons to return to SLO immediately after college for work. However, given the rapid growth of this industry – and the private sector's continued interest in investing and innovating here on the Central Coast – our economy has been reinvigorated with good high paying jobs. This is an incredibly exciting time for this region.

I have seen firsthand how local residents and businesses have benefited by this industry and I strongly encourage you to support SpaceX's application to increase the number of launches allowed out of VSFB so we can continue the momentum.

Thank you for your time,

Beth A. Marino | Partner
GLICK HAUPT MARINO LLP

1315 Santa Rosa Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Telephone: (805) 544-2450 ext. 4
www.ghmlaw.com

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From: [Jessica Kolbe](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Re: Hearing Notice - United States Space Force Consistency Determination No. CD-0003-24
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 2:58:32 PM

Hello,
this is the second time I have tried to express my opinion at the email given to us on this Hearing Notice. Below is the same response that I received last time. I am not on the list.

Why include this in the email if we are not on the list and cannot respond? This was my message

To those in charge,

Please do not add more launches from Vandenberg. The sonic booms are startling, jarring, upsetting and disrupts the peace. Our whole house shakes. I do not find the launches exciting. I don't know who is benefiting or profiting from these launches at the public's expense. Our lives are certainly not enhanced or improved by these disruptions.

My husband and I are very against these invasions of our peaceful environment.
Please, NO MORE!
thank you,

Jessica and Ray Kolbe
Carpinteria, CA

"The group [energy](#) only accepts messages from people in its organization or on its allowed senders list, and your email address isn't on the list."



Jessica Kolbe
Classes, Workshops, Private Healing, DVDs, Group De-Stress
Faculty: Institute of Integral Qigong and Tai Chi
Award winning TV Show, [Qigong with Jessica Kolbe](#)

[On line classes](#)

[Study trips to China](#)

website: www.QigongSB.com

Jessica@JessicaTaiChi.com

805-705-3426

On Jul 26, 2024, at 10:59 AM, Energy@Coastal <EORFC@coastal.ca.gov> wrote:

Dear Interested Parties,

Attached please find the August 8th agenda notice for the Coastal Commission's August 2024 Meeting when the Commission will hear the consistency determination by the United States Space Force to increase Space Exploration Technologies' (SpaceX) Falcon 9 launch and landing activities at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) from six to 36 per year as well as the addition of offshore landing locations in the Pacific Ocean Vandenberg Space Force Base, Santa Barbara County.

<Hearing Notice CD-0003-24.pdf>

From: patmullen805@gmail.com
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Agenda item 9c - CD-0003-24 US Space Force
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 5:51:45 PM

Honorable Commissioners and Staff:

I am writing to express my support, and urge your support, to approve the application for additional launches from Vandenberg Space Force Base. It is in our national interest, our environmental interests, our community interests and the overall public interest to approve this application. Allowing additional launches also allows additional new technologies like Starlink and others which leapfrog older more environmental damaging technologies like stringing cable, fiber, copper and other impactful infrastructure. I urge you to consider this along with the benefits to our national security, our international competitiveness and the global business environment.

Please support and approve this application.

Sincerely,

Patrick W. Mullen, Trustee Dist. 3
Cuesta College Board of Trustees
2234 Flora Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

From: [John Sherwood](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force).
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 6:00:22 PM

You need to hold them to whatever agreement you reach. They launched far more than were allowed this year. What's the point if they don't follow the rules?

John Sherwood
633 Greenleaf Canyon Road
Topanga, CA 90290
310/455-2771

From: [Melanja Jones](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Re: FW: Hearing Notice - United States Space Force Consistency Determination No. CD-0003-24
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 7:05:37 PM

Thank you for the notice

I am actually very impressed by the work the coastal commission has done on this.

My specific interest lies with the sonic booms in the Santa Barbara south county, especially affecting the seal rookery in Carpinteria. From what I can tell in this report they are working on a plan to limit the effects of those on the mama and baby seals which is positive.

Reading further down the report I still have a lot of concerns about the ever increasing number of launches and urge the Coastal Commission to continue to monitor and limit the effect of pollution from the launches.

On Fri, Jul 26, 2024 at 11:00 AM Energy@Coastal <EORFC@coastal.ca.gov> wrote:

Dear Interested Parties,

Attached please find the August 8th agenda notice for the Coastal Commission's August 2024 Meeting when the Commission will hear the consistency determination by the United States Space Force to increase Space Exploration Technologies' (SpaceX) Falcon 9 launch and landing activities at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) from six to 36 per year as well as the addition of offshore landing locations in the Pacific Ocean Vandenberg Space Force Base, Santa Barbara County.

From: [Gary Thies](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Space X launches
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 9:23:00 AM

Calif. Coastal Commission;

Please allow more Space X launches at Vandenberg SFB !

Thank you,

Gary and Mary Thies

From: [Lynn Arneill-Brown](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Increased Space X Launches
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 11:32:16 AM

I am against increased launches from Vandenberg. I have written in the past notifying you all that past sonic booms in Ventura, California have been ridiculously strong.

Since everyone started writing and complaining about this issue and the Coastal Commission asked them to explain themselves...strangely all the sonic booms have stopped. That leads me to believe that just like any corporation, Space X, will try to get away with whatever they can to further their profit and agenda.

So, I don't trust them.

Keep a close watch on them and don't let future landing sites and noise impact S. California residents.

Thank you,
Lynn Arneill-Brown
Ventura, CA.

From: [peter.hunt](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Vandenberg Space Force Base and SpaceX
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:31:12 PM

As a native Californian and voter, I support SpaceX at Vandenberg Space Force Base and their efforts to increase the number of launches of satellites.

I've lived on the Santa Barbara coast for over 50 years. Only on two occasions have I heard a blast off. Both were significantly of less volume than a Motorcycle or newer hot rod Car going by on the street. BTW, there are far more noisy motorcycles every day than an a SpaceX satellite.

From: [John Novi](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force).
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 1:19:53 PM

I wish to express my opposition to increasing the allowed number of Space X launches from Vandenberg air base. As a resident in Oxnard, I hear and feel the sonic boom from rocket launches. It is disruptive and should not be our burden to bear for two private businesses to make more money. Unless the launches are a requirement for military payloads, we shouldn't have to endure these additional sonic booms for Elon's inflated net worth. If he wants to move to Texas so badly, let him send his sonic booms into the Gulf of Mexico and leave California alone.

-John Novi
1026 Harbor Blvd
Oxnard, CA 93035
619-246-2855



Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

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Suzanne Levy, Ed.D.

July 29, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart
Chair, California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Chair Hart:

I write to offer my perspective on the proposed increase in rocket launch frequency at Vandenberg Space Force Base. Since 2013, I have had the pleasure of serving as Superintendent/President of Allan Hancock College, the largest higher education institution in the Santa Maria Valley. We serve all of northern Santa Barbara County, including Vandenberg Space Force Base. Allan Hancock College prides itself on being the community's college – more than 95 percent of our students are from our district or within 15 miles of our district boundaries.

Allan Hancock College boasts a robust program in science and technology education. We offer degrees and certificates in STEM fields that include physics, chemistry, math, and biology, along with programs that lead to careers in engineering, engineering technology, electronics technology, computer science, and a host of related fields. I cannot overstate the importance of having a burgeoning industry like commercial space in our backyard. Not only is it unique and awe-inspiring, but it is also a beacon for local students seeking careers that allow them to remain in our region.

Moreover, further development of commercial and governmental rocket launches has the potential to be a major driver of local jobs. Increased space launch activity requires new construction, facilities upkeep, and other support positions that are beyond the immediate jobs that require a science and engineering background. Because nearly all of our students come from the local area, and many want to remain here, it is critical to our students that the northern Santa Barbara County economy continues to diversify. Historically, this region has been strong in legacy industries like agriculture and energy production. Commercial space has the highest potential to become another pillar of our local economy.

For these reasons, I strongly support the increase in launch frequency at Vandenberg, which I believe will produce considerable benefits to the region generally, and to our students at Allan Hancock College specifically.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin G. Walthers", with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the page.

Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

Santa Maria Campus
800 South College Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93454-6399
805-346-1001
www.hancockcollege.edu

From: [Tom Baker](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Space Force Propoal
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 1:44:32 PM

Commissioners:

I strongly oppose the proposal to increase launches to 36 per annum. This would increase pollution dramatically, endanger wildlife, and harm the environment. Taxpayers moreover do not wish to pay for any cleanups required as a result of these launches.

Sincerely,
Thomas H. Baker
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Michael Rivera](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Space X Space Launches
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 2:18:54 PM

I support Space X's efforts to continue and increase launches from VAFB. The economic impact this has on the Central Coast is significant and needs to continue.

Please allow this great asset to our economy to continue.

Regards

Michael Rivera
Resident of the City of Paso Robles
Past Chairman of the Santa Barbara County Private Industry Council

From: [Andrew Hackleman](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Support for Item 9c, Vandenberg Space Force Base Launches
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 4:48:00 PM
Attachments: [Our national security depends upon SpaceX launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base Guest Commentary Opinion lompocrecord.com.pdf](#)

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Please find attached (and [linked here](#)) a support letter for the subject item.

Thank you,

Andrew Hackleman

<https://santamariatimes.com/tncms/asset/editorial/4714c59a-3e1f-11ef-b84e-63a10045e163/>

EDITOR'S PICK

Guest Commentary

Our national security depends upon SpaceX launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base | Guest Commentary

Jul 10, 2024

As a long-time Central Coast resident, and a retired United States Air Force lieutenant colonel, I know expanding the frequency of space launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base is of vital importance.

The capability to launch rockets with government and commercial payloads from the West Coast of the United States is an absolutely essential component of our national defense and national security.

Vandenberg is one of only two federal ranges in the United States that carries out national security space launches, and it's the only range on the West Coast.

To better understand why Vandenberg is so important as a launch location we need to look back at recent history and how the U.S. procures space

launch services.

Near the end of the 20th century and with the wind-down of the Cold War, the U.S. government adopted a new model for how it procures space launch services.

Rather than building government-owned and operated rockets, the U.S. would use multiple private sector entities to develop vehicles that could fulfill the full range of government missions.

This model has enjoyed remarkable success, and today this system is overseen by the U.S. Department of Defense's Assured Access to Space Directorate.

Thanks to the competitive process the U.S. government uses to purchase launch services, the U.S. military and intelligence community now have reliable, safe, and sustainable access to space.

Not only has the capability expanded, but the use of commercial operators like SpaceX has driven innovation and resulted in billions of dollars in savings for U.S. taxpayers.

Today, Vandenberg Space Force Base is an integral part of our national security infrastructure. SpaceX is now launching nearly every week from VSFB with reusable rockets.

These missions include launches for the U.S. Space Force and other U.S. Department of Defense customers, U.S. civil agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for climate and environmental monitoring, and for commercial customers, including allied governments.

Similar to the successful partnership with commercial operators for launches, the U.S. government also relies on commercial companies like SpaceX for global low Earth orbit satellite systems.

These systems, including U.S. government owned and operated satellites, require frequent launches, which are only possible with multiple launch sites across the United States.

The pace of launch that Vandenberg provides isn't the only vital aspect of VSFB as a launch site. Vandenberg is also the only feasible site in the U.S. for launches into polar orbit.

These orbits are critical for the deployment of both U.S. government-owned satellites as well as commercial satellites used by allied governments around the world.

Simply put, VSFB gives us the ability to rapidly deploy systems that support U.S. government missions globally.

Expanding launch capability in California is essential for national security missions and is essential to maintaining strategic readiness to respond to evolving global threats.

Eventually, we will need heavy-lift vehicles for national security missions to higher orbits, which currently is not possible on the Western Range.

As both a military veteran and Central Coast resident, I am grateful to VSFB and its launch partners for its indispensable contribution to national security.

They deserve our continued support.

Andrew Hackleman is a resident of Arroyo Grande, and is a retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Colonel, a member of the Governor's Military Council and the Governor's Space Industry Task Force.

[Learn more about your privacy options](#)

From: [Eric Greening](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Eric Greening comments on Item 9c for Thursday, August 8th
Date: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 11:37:58 AM

The first question that needs to be asked is whether the proposal to massively increase the frequency of rocket launches by a private party is being handled as a federal consistency determination, rather than as an exercise of direct permitting (or denying) authority by your commission. Although the activities are happening on federally owned land, they are a source of private profit. (The whole question of whether such activities are an appropriate use of a military base--especially given that the owner of SpaceX has indicated an intention to plow a significant share of profits from the enterprise into supporting a candidate for President--may be beyond the scope of the Coastal Act, but add to the need to avoid damaging precedents for misuse of the federal consistency process to cover activities by non-federal private interests.) Didn't your commission exercise direct permitting authority, for example, relative to management plans involving private interests on Point Reyes National Seashore? Aren't the Farallons federally owned? You did not dilute your responsibilities on those matters by submitting them to the federal consistency process.

In any event, your staff report, and recommendation of conditional concurrence is based on your assessment of SOME of the LOCAL impacts of the intensified launch activities. It would be irresponsible to ignore and neglect the GLOBAL impacts, which can harm coasts, oceans, and lands worldwide, including those of California.

In my oral testimony in Morro Bay two months ago, I recommended (and still recommend) going online to arXiv--Physics to read the paper by S. Solter-Hunt entitled: "Potential Perturbation of the Ionosphere by Megaconstellations and Corresponding Artificial Re-entry Plasma Dust."

Some additional recommended readings: at "AGU--Advancing Earth and Space Sciences" under "Geophysical Research Letters," two relevant papers are: "Ionospheric Disturbances Triggered by the Launch of a SpaceX Falcon Heavy," and "Concentric Traveling Ionospheric Disturbances Triggered by the Launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket."

At Space.com: see Tereza Pultanova's paper entitled: "Air Pollution from Reentering Megaconstellation Satellites could Cause Ozone Hole 2.0"

Also, under "Scientific Reports:" a paper by Aaron C. Boley and Michael Byers entitled: "Satellite Megaconstellations Create Risks in Low Earth Orbit, the Atmosphere, and on Earth."

It is also worth investigating the impact of electromagnetic radiation beamed from space, and the highly emissive terrestrial technologies these beams enable, on the health of humans and all life forms worldwide. A good starting point for research on these impacts is the website "Safe Tech International."

It is the height of arrogance to perform an uncontrolled experiment of this magnitude on the whole Earth and its inhabitants. LITERALLY uncontrolled, as there is not a spare alternate Earth that is NOT being subjected to these impacts. The utmost caution and humility is needed.

Please take no action on this item today, except to ask staff to research the legal path toward removing it from the federal consistency process and returning it to your commission as a direct permitting (or denying) matter. In the meantime, please do as much research as you can on the impacts, global as well as local!

Many thanks,

Eric Greening

From: [Hans Steinmann](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Support for Item 9c , VB spaceforce base Launch
Date: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:05:09 PM

To whom this may concern, I fully support Item 9c
Hans Steinmann, at htsgec3@yahoo.com or 960 Balboa Street Morro Bay Ca, 93442 .
Thanks
[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Mary Bahnken](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Space X Launches
Date: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:07:50 PM

I am a resident of Lompoc and I am writing to state that I DO NO support increased Space X Launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base!

They are extremely annoying - whole house shakes - animals freak out. Just very disturbing altogether.

Thank you,
Mary Bahnken
Lompoc, CA

From: [Veronica Bradway](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Vandenburg
Date: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:28:04 PM

Greetings:

I understand there is a hearing happening regarding an increased schedule of launches from VSFB. I live in Lompoc.

I would like to put my vote against increased launches.

The noise is awful. I meet many of the out of town staff/scientists/experts brought in for launches, as I work in the service/tourism industry. I have heard straight from them how they are told to go visit Solvang, Los Olivos, SB. There is “nothing to do” in Lompoc.

Much of the rural area around Lompoc has not been approved to have Starlink as an internet alternative.

If indeed there is a big financial benefit from increased launches, I have yet to see it.

Thank you,
Veronica Bradway
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Emily Reyes](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Support for Vandenberg Space Force
Date: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:34:31 PM

Hello,

My name is Emily from Orcutt, Ca and I support the increase launches at Vandenberg. My son is 3 years old and because of the launches, my son has grown interest in space exploration. I think it's great to motivate small children into space exploration careers. I also teach in Orcutt Junior High and my students always ask to go outside and watch the launches if they are during school hours. Again, their interest grows and I love tying in math and science into their observations. Students ask me questions and we do research online about Spacecraft.

Thank you,
Emily Reyes

From: [Paul Kaselionis](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Support for Item 9C, Vandenberg Space Force Base Launches
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 10:01:19 AM

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my support for increase launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base. We need to continue to support our national security with space based deterrence and awareness. We need multiple locations to continue this very important mission sets.

Thank you for your time in hearing my voice.

Thank You,
Paul Kaselionis
Templeton, CA

From: [Jason Byard](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Please Support The VSFB Launch Increase
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 12:23:24 PM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jason Byard. I'm a resident of Lompoc, CA. Vandenberg Space Force Base is essential to our local economy. The increase in launches will lead to the increase of employment and other economic benefits to our city.

I respectfully ask that you support their request for an increase in the frequency of launches from base.

Jason Byard
(805) 574-5102

From: [Monica Swift-Hjerrild](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Support for Item 9c, Vandenberg Space Force Base Launches
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 1:40:52 PM

Good afternoon,

My name is Monica Hjerrild and I understand that there is a hearing on the Space Force application to increase launch frequency.

I think this fantastic for our community. My husband and I have driven down to watch these launches and my husband did it with our boys when they were home visiting during launches. I know that it has to bring in revenue to the town, people wanting to go out to eat either before or after a launch, gassing up to go home, etc. And really, it's just so darn cool to have something like this locally. I really hope that the launches will increase.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Monica Hjerrild



Virus-free www.avg.com

From: [brandon - Dragonette Cellars](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force).
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 4:16:21 PM

Dear Mr. Horn and members of the Coastal Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in regard to the proposed increase in SpaceX rocket launches from Vandenberg Space Force Base.

As a resident of the Santa Ynez Valley, I have many major concerns to raise with ANY increase in frequency, and I support Staff's recommendation that the Commission object to SpaceX's consistency determination request. In fact, I urge the Commission to significantly restrict future launch quantities, and limit the time of day of launch windows.

One issue which appears to have been overlooked so far is the problem of noise. Rocket launches create a tremendous amount of noise and vibration which disturb humans and wildlife. The extreme levels of noise and vibration often violate all local noise ordinances, and I see no reason why a private company should not be obligated to comply with the noise ordinance. For a full review of Santa Barbara County's noise ordinance, link

here: <https://cosantabarbara.app.box.com/s/3yex3g6a5vex3cjpkx1bxg1pgvzp9k1y>

At the very least, SpaceX should comply with the time limits the County applies to construction:

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., weekdays

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Saturdays

Prohibited on Sundays and legal holidays*

Nighttime launches in particular need severe restrictions due to their noise and vibration impacts. Rocket launches from Vandenberg are extremely disturbing to both humans and animal wildlife in the local area, regardless of time of day, but they cause excess harm if they are launched at night. Nighttime launches disturb the sleep of thousands of citizens, and cause stress, anxiety, and lack of sleep in dogs, coyotes, deer and countless other animals. This needs to be considered seriously when looking at any proposed launch schedule, and nighttime launches should be forbidden for ALL private launches (reserved only for necessary US Government reasons).

I would also like to note that these launches threaten the habitat within both the Gaviota Coast and the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. These areas provide critical habitat, provide a sanctuary for humans and must be protected. The safety of both commercial and recreational fishing needs to be addressed more seriously, and launches limited to cause minimal disruption in these areas, and also at Jalama Beach where closures are becoming more and more of an issue with visitors and locals alike.

Finally, further studies of the level of pollutants and their impacts on local residents need to be completed prior to any further launch activity. How do the propellants used impact the health of local residents and wildlife? How will the impacts of the pollution associated with one-time use weather balloons be dealt with.

It is critical to note the history of neglect and disrespect which both SpaceX and Mr. Musk have shown. Given the level of impunity which already been exhibited, much stricter regulations should be imposed, along with meaningfully severe punishments. Mr. Musk himself has mocked regulatory agencies publicly both on his social media platform X and on various podcasts, including the recent Lex Fridman Podcast episode #400. Fines and consequences need to be high enough to impact billionaire behavior. No one should be above the law in California, nor the USA.

While I object to increased military launch frequency (particularly if at night), I recognize the potential benefit for both national security and economic benefits to the community and country. The commercial launches simply must be held to a higher level of scrutiny and standards as they are solely for the benefit of private interests, and are often at odds with public health.

There are many open questions to investigate, and all of these point to a need to halt launch expansions at Vandenberg.

Sincerely,
Brandon Sparks-Gillis
Solvang, CA

From: [Don Idler](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Vandenberg Space Force Base! just
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 4:30:52 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I just want to express my support for allowing additional launches at the Vandenberg Space Force Base. My name is Don Idler and I live in Atascadero CA. This activity supports not only our national security but contributes greatly to our local economy.

Don Idler

President



2361 Theatre Dr.
Paso Robles, CA 93446
Ph. 805-238-6020
Fax. 805-369-1025

From: [Elvin Kauffman](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Space X launches
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 8:25:05 PM

Please continue to support Space X launches.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gary Kirkland](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Space X launches from Vandenberg
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 8:49:03 PM

Dear Coastal Commission members:

Thank you for your service.

For eons humans have endeavored bravely and imaginatively to explore and better the world. The launches of Space X are a continuation of these human efforts. Trying to stop change is what fearful and unimaginative people do. Many call these people "Luddites." Magellan's crew would have never sailed around t

he earth if the Coastal Commission had their way. I'm sure those sailors disturbed birds and upset the Philipinos to the point they killed Magellan. What other great actions by humans would the Coastal Commission stop?

Please allow Space X, other companies, and the Air Force to launch as many satellites as the need to achieve their goals. The world will be better for their efforts.

Sincerely,
Gary L.Kirkland
gary.l.kirkland@gmail.com

From: [Jan Meslin](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Cc: [Jan Meslin](#)
Subject: public comment on expanding frequency for rocket launches, item 9c for Thursday, August 8th
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 9:35:06 PM

We do not need more rocket launches from Vandenberg!
We already have more than enough!
You are considering increasing them tenfold!

My friends in Orcutt already dread the loud noises and booms every day. Please don't increase them! Think about the people who live near Vandenberg. Think about the people who live where the rockets and their parts land. Think about ocean animals. Think about our environment that is getting exploited and ruined.

Isn't Vandenberg a government organization? Isn't it on federal land?
Why are there private organizations involved anyway?
Is this only about making more money for them?
I'm also concerned about another public/private partnership, REACH. Rather than a war economy, our world needs to move to a peace economy. We need green jobs that work toward sustainability.

This all seems irresponsible. The impacts would be dire for our precious world. We have only one earth and we must protect it!

Please take NO action on this item. Ask staff to research the legal path toward removing it from the federal consistency process and returning it to your commission as a direct permitting matter. Meanwhile, please do as much research as you can on the local and global impacts.

Thank you. - Dr. Janyce Meslin, Cayucos, SLO County

From: mmengler@aol.com
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Please allow more Space X launches
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 11:14:08 PM

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Please allow the additional Space X launches to take place. Everyone on earth benefits from them.

Thank you!

Mike Engler

Santa Barbara

From: [Dan Engler](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Please do not curtail the SpaceX launches
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 11:18:24 PM

Dear Coastal Commission,

Please let the SpaceX launches proceed, for the sake of all they contribute to our Santa Barbara County's economy, and in the name of science and progress.

All the best,

Dan Engler
Santa Barbara

From: [Curtis Reinhardt](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Allow more launches at Vandenberg
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 11:50:23 PM

Hello CC Decision Makers,

I support allowing additional launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Additional Base activities support our local economy. Furthermore, I find it hard to believe that there would be anymore than a negligible effect on local air quality or other coastal concerns.

Thanks in advance for allowing additional operations at the Base.

Curtis Reinhardt
805-773-4173
curtis@curtisreinhardt.com
Grover Beach, CA 93433

From: [Jan Meslin](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: public comment on expanding frequency for rocket launches, item 9c for Thursday, August 8th
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 2:41:11 AM

We do not need more rocket launches from Vandenberg!
We already have more than enough!
You are considering increasing them tenfold!

My friends in Orcutt already dread the loud noises and booms every day. Please don't increase them! Think about the people who live near Vandenberg. Think about the people who live where the rockets and their parts land. Think about ocean animals. Think about our environment that is getting exploited and ruined.

Isn't Vandenberg a government organization? Isn't it on federal land?
Why are there private organizations involved anyway?
Is this only about making more money for them?
I'm also concerned about another public/private partnership, REACH. Rather than a war economy, our world needs to move to a peace economy. We need green jobs that work toward sustainability.

This all seems irresponsible. The impacts would be dire for our precious world. We have only one earth and we must protect it!

Please take NO action on this item. Ask staff to research the legal path toward removing it from the federal consistency process and returning it to your commission as a direct permitting matter. Meanwhile, please do as much research as you can on the local and global impacts.

Thank you. - Dr. Janyce Meslin, Cayucos, SLO County

From: [Robert B](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: SPACE X
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 5:43:28 AM

Dear CCC -

Please support an increase to launches from Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Thank you.

--

Robert Ballo

From: [Stephanie Moret](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Do not increase Space X rocket launches
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 8:43:03 AM

Hi,

I'm writing to ask that you do not allow an increase in Space X rocket launches. While I personally enjoy watching these launches I also teach Conservation Planning at UCSB and am concerned about the impact of increasing the launches on wildlife.

- Increased launch activity cannot come at the expense of the environment.
- Slow down the pace of launch increases until their impacts can be studied and understood.
- Develop contingency plans to avoid or lessen any impacts that are identified.
- Cooperate with the Coastal Commission, County Parks, and the local community to help safeguard our coastal resources.

Best,
Stephanie Moret, PhD
Environmental Scientist

From: [dougarland GARLAND](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Space X flights at Vandenberg
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 9:47:36 AM

Dear Staff:

I live in Pismo Beach and do not see any logical reason to limit Space X flights. I do not think they harm the coast. I support many more.

Many thanks for considering my request.

Doug Garland

From: [Jeffry Radding](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Support for Item 9c, Vandenberg Space Force Base Launches
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 10:19:57 AM

This is Jeff Radding from San Luis Obispo, writing in support of increased launches at Vandenberg. They place the Central Coast at the center of the future, scientifically, economically, etc. And they are extraordinary to watch.

Thank you.

- Jeff Radding

From: [Yvon Gresser](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Support Space X launches
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 10:35:52 AM

Dear members of the California coastal commission:

I'm writing in support of the Vandenberg Air Force Base space X launch program. This program is vital to the United States and should be expanded. I live in the region where I can see and hear launches which are amazing to behold. One of the alumni from Cal Poly University is on the is on the space shuttle. We need to encourage our youth to aim for careers in space exploration. Vandenberg Air Force Base is crucial to the local economy as well because it provides many head of household jobs.

Yvon Gresser

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Robin VanTassell](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force).
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 11:18:25 AM

- Increased launch activity cannot come at the expense of the environment.
 - Slow down the pace of launch increases until their impacts can be studied and understood.
 - Develop contingency plans to avoid or lessen any impacts that are identified.
 - Cooperate with the Coastal Commission, County Parks, and the local community to help safeguard our coastal resources.
-

Please include stronger environmental studies and protections for our coast as well as our neighborhoods. When certain launches occur, it is deeply disturbing for the citizens living along the coast and central valley. My home shakes, my windows rattle and I expect that at some point we will all pay the price of unseen damage to our underground utilities and our home foundations. I'm surprised none of my windows have cracked yet. How are we to deal with these situations? Homeowners insurance policies are not set up for this type of damage. Our way of living is being altered by the rocket launches. There are already too many. The studies need to be more inclusive as well as comprehensive.

Thank you,
Robin Van Tassell
2425 Whitney Ave
Summerland, CA 93067
415-299-3657

1944 Cleveland Street, Eugene, OR 97405

August 2, 2024

“The base is home to more than 850 plant species and various wildlife species, including 53 mammals, 315 birds, 17 reptiles and 10 amphibians.” [Source: Vandenberg.Spaceforce.mil/About-Us/Environmental/](https://www.vandenberg.spaceforce.mil/About-Us/Environmental/)

California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE:SpaceX proposal for increased annual rocket launch/landing activities, Vandenberg Space Force Base

Commissioners:

I support the California Coastal Commission staff's recommendation. I encourage you to agree with DAF consistency determination No. CD-0003-24 and find that this project, with the recommended conditions, aligns with the California Coastal Management Program.

A strong space program is important for our national security and economy. However, the increase in rocket launches from Vandenberg raises serious environmental concerns. These include loud noise and sonic booms affecting sensitive wildlife, public beach closures, and marine debris. While past launches possibly had less impacts* due to their lower frequency, the proposed increase could potentially lead to more significant and harmful impacts.



Before allowing more launch and landing activities, we need to fully understand the environmental impacts* of the annual SpaceX activities already happening. Current monitoring plans for sensitive species are apparently not enough to protect important wildlife habitats, as suggested by the analysis and reporting of monitoring data recommended in the Commission staff report, (Condition 1),

Further, we must create and implement protective measures to address any harm that is documented. The Coastal Commission has raised valid concerns about the increase in rocket launches, and it is crucial for SpaceX and Vandenberg Space Force Base leadership to recognize the following:

- Launch increases should be put on hold until we understand their current impacts*.
- Plans must be developed to avoid or reduce any identified impacts.
- Cooperation with the Coastal Commission, county parks, relevant federal and state agencies, and the local community is vital to protect our coastal resources.

By following these guidelines and all the conditions suggested by the Commission staff, we can support our space program while also working to protect our precious coastal environment and all its wonderful wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments in this important matter.

Respectfully,

Albert J LePage, M. Ed. Science, B.S. Biology
Member, *Society for Conservation Biology*

From: [Rebecca Stebbins](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Comments requesting DENIAL for upcoming Coastal Commission re: Space-X proposal to increase launches
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 2:16:39 PM

Dear Coastal Commission,

I am writing in regard to the proposal to dramatically increase the number of Space-X launches allowed at Vandenberg Space Force Base. I am directly impacted by these launches, as the sonic booms shake my house and cause severe distress to my dogs at any time of the day or night. There are SIX launches scheduled for the month of August alone, and this pace is unacceptable.

While I can mitigate the impact on my dogs with pressure shirts, drugs, and providing a calm and comforting space, I am **far more concerned with the millions of wild animals who are impacted with potentially devastating consequences.**

I am also **very concerned that Space-X has not been truthful regarding the impact of their activities**, both at VASB and elsewhere .

I draw your attention to this article published last month in the New York Times:

“Wildlife Protections Take a Back Seat to SpaceX’s Ambitions

A New York Times investigation found that **Elon Musk exploited federal agencies’ competing missions** to achieve his goals for space travel.”

https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/07/us/politics/spacex-wildlife-texas.html?unlocked_article_code=1.00.d1DC.ILN3Vh81aWI9&smid=url-share

I particularly draw your attention to the following paragraphs from the article:

“Most disturbing to one member of the entourage was the yellow smear on the soil in the same spot that a bird’s nest lay the day before. **None of the nine nests [recorded by the nonprofit Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program](#) before the launch had survived intact.**

On **at least 19 occasions** since 2019, SpaceX operations have **caused [fires, leaks, explosions](#) or other problems** associated with the rapid growth of Mr. Musk’s complex in Boca Chica. These incidents have caused environmental damage and reflect a broader debate over how to balance technological and economic progress against protections of delicate ecosystems and local communities.

An examination of Mr. Musk’s tactics in South Texas shows how **he exploited the limitations and competing missions of the various agencies** most poised to be a check on the ferocious expansion of the industrial complex he calls Starbase. **Those charged with protecting the area’s cultural and natural resources — particularly officials from the Interior Department’s Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service — repeatedly lost out to more powerful agencies**, including the Federal Aviation Administration, whose goals are intertwined with Mr. Musk’s. In the end, South Texas’ **ecology took a back seat to**

SpaceX's — and the country's — ambitions.

These [records](#) reveal [how](#) SpaceX [over](#) time [expanded](#) its rocket manufacturing and launch operations in South Texas to a scale far grander than Mr. Musk had first promised. **“They kept saying, ‘No, we are not going to do that, we are not going to do that,’ and then they came back and said, ‘Yes, we are,’”** said [Mark Spier](#), who served as the top local official for the National Park Service when the SpaceX project got underway. **“We were being misled.”**

“We’ve got a lot of land with nobody around and so if it blows up, it’s cool,” Mr. Musk [said at a 2018 news conference.](#)”

I am afraid that **the Space-X proposal for Vandenberg is also designed to deceive local and state authorities** such as the Coastal Commission, as well as residents of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles counties who are impacted by these launches.

There is a lot of very detailed information in the staff report on this topic, and enough, I believe, to deny Space-X their requested increase in launches.

Several items are missing, however, including:

1. **No mention of dolphins and whales**, who would also be impacted as sound DOES travel in water, and **water conducts sound very effectively; these marine mammals are known for their acute auditory sensitivity**. Why are they excluded from the required study of potential impacts?
2. No mention of the fallout of the program – literally. Scientists at the USC Department of Astronautical Engineering warned that **the massive increase in low-earth orbit internet satellites could lead to damaging chemical reactions in the atmosphere**. There are more than 8,000 internet satellites in low-earth orbit, of which about 6,000 are Starlink ones. All are made with large amounts of aluminum and **designed with a short, roughly five-year lifespan**, it added.

When the **satellites fall into Earth's atmosphere to burn up**, producing aluminum oxide, the scientists said, **triggering a chemical reaction that's highly destructive to the ozone**.

The study, published this summer in the peer-reviewed [Geophysical Research Letters journal](#), found that the presence of the oxides increased roughly eightfold between 2016 and 2022 — and could surge far more with current satellite launch plans. SpaceX has plans to launch [another 42,000](#) Starlink satellites, [according to Space.com](#). Worse, the oxides aren't consumed by the action, so **the effect could last for decades as the particles drift down**, they added.

I see no discussion of this potentially devastating environmental impact, nor any discussion of mitigation, and while it's obviously not specific to Vandenberg, this fallout will still impact us in this area.

As for the proposed mitigation efforts, they will not prevent damage, only document it, and some

are just ridiculous. Posting a sign at the intersection of Hwy 1 and Jalama Road is a joke (and what will be the environmental impact of that sign?). Preventing a family from having to drive the last 45 minutes into Jalama Beach County Park, when they've already driven hours from anywhere to get there, is meaningless. What they should post is a billboard stating that people might be forcibly relocated in the middle of the night if an evacuation is necessary. I know that I would have NO interest in setting up camp with my family if there was a possibility that I would have to wake up children in the middle of the night and take a shuttle to where? More than 45 minutes away? That's a nightmare, not a vacation.

Other notable parts of the staff document include:

- **vegetation management activity has expanded well beyond what was previously reviewed and concurred with** and now extends an estimated 300 feet beyond the launch complex fence line. **IS THERE NO PENALTY FOR THIS?**
- After a launch, approximately 9,000 gallons of deluge water per Falcon 9 launch would remain in the existing retention basin after evaporation. Samples of the deluge water would be collected and analyzed. **If the water is clean enough** to discharge to grade (currently 90-95% of launches), it would be discharged from the retention basin via the spray field. That's a big IF – **WHAT IF THE WATER IS NOT CLEAN ENOUGH TO DISCHARGE?**
- Each of these locations is known to host or provide habitat for a number of sensitive species. Aside from these known biodiversity hotspots, any number of sensitive species may be migrating or inhabiting other portions of the coastline from Santa Barbara County down to northern Los Angeles County.
- The proposed project has the **potential to adversely impact marine resources**, including the biological productivity of marine waters and marine areas and **species of special biological significance such as marine protected areas, national marine sanctuaries, and marine mammal breeding and haul-out sites**, due to marine debris and noise from rocket engines and sonic booms. The proposed project also has the potential to **negatively affect water quality** in Spring Canyon and the Pacific Ocean due to the use of deluge water during launch events and the ocean disposal of the rockets' fairing and weather balloons.
- The proposed project has the **potential to contribute to the depletion of groundwater supplies** and interfere with surface water flow due to its water supply needs. Finally, the proposed project also has the potential to adversely affect marine resources due to artificial night lighting from rocket engines and illumination of the SpaceX launch complex
- **The more frequent the disturbance, the more substantial the effect or risk.** Although **very few studies have been carried out** on the long-term effects to marine mammals and habitat areas of exposure to sonic booms. Studies on the pinnipeds of the southern California Channel Islands, engine noise or other elevated, short duration sounds, research into other sources of disturbance demonstrates that **a threshold exists beyond which the animals and/or colony will abandon the area.**
- **The monitoring reports consistently conclude that there are no impacts on pinnipeds from**

launch activities, despite observations showing pronounced behavior responses. The 2023 Annual Report provided to Commission staff includes video observations of 19 SpaceX Falcon 9 launches in 2023. The report concludes that there was no impact to harbor seals, California sea lions, or elephant seals from any of the launches. However, **the report does not include a discussion as to why it determined no impact when on multiple occasions some or all of the harbor seals fled the beach during a launch and didn't return until some time after.** Also, elephant seals routinely reacted with head lifts and in some instances erratic movement, but this reaction is not analyzed as a response to launches. In particular, **during the surveys conducted for the April 2, 2023, launch, observers noted dead harbor seal pups that didn't exhibit any symptoms of emaciation.** As such, it appears unlikely they were previously abandoned and died of starvation. The report documents harbor seals flushing during the launch when these dead seal pups were noted, so **it is possible they were injured or killed during flushing. However, the report provides no in-depth analysis regarding the death of these pups.**

- **There simply has not been sufficient monitoring at the current cadence or a lesser one above the historic average to adequately assess how these species may, or may not, be reacting to launches,** and the extent to which their habitats are being disrupted. This issue is reflected in the findings of the 2023 monitoring report for western snowy plover and California least tern. 2023 monitoring suggests that **there could possibly be a correlation between launching the Falcon 9 rockets and reactions from these two species, including startling, flushing, damage to eggs, and abandonment of nests.** Under a higher launch cadence, more frequent behavioral responses of this sort could conceivably lead to lower nesting success and, over time, population level impacts.
- With SpaceX's proposed launch schedule, bat habitat in Honda Creek would receive engine noise from launches and static fire tests for a total of up to 90 minutes per year. 90 minutes of engine noise across the 10,000 minutes that pass in a week means that engine noise would not be generated for a majority of the time. **THIS IGNORES THE FACT THAT THE IMPACT DOES NOT END IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LAUNCH.** I can assure you that my dog is a mess for hours after a sonic boom, and bats, who depend on their extremely sensitive hearing for echolocation for not only finding food but for any traveling, including flushing from the excessive noise and light, could be severely damaged.

In sum, I sincerely hope you will **DENY** this proposal. We have suffered enough, and our endangered flora and fauna have as well and will continue to suffer, even without the increase in launches. Enough is enough.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Stebbins
Carpinteria, California

From: [Paul Bareis](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Increasing SpaceX launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 2:17:18 PM

To whom it may concern;

By this email I wish to emphasize my concern that the coastal commission has taken upon itself to affect the national security of The United States...please stay in your lane.

I support the modest increase of launches of the SpaceX vehicles and the jobs that support this endeavor.

Paul Bareis, Atascadero California.

From: [Dolores Howard](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force)
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 3:00:11 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force).

There are innumerable concerns with this proposal, including the following local and global impacts:

- **Sonic boom effects on human and non-human inhabitants in the local area**
- **Chemicals released as satellites burn in the atmosphere leading to damage to Earth's protective ozone layer:** Large amounts of propellants used in kerosene fuels, releasing particles that can destroy ozone molecules in the stratosphere. After about five years the satellites die and burn up, releasing more than 1,000 tons of aluminum oxide which scientists say may further deplete the ozone layer, our protection from the sun's ultraviolet rays that cause skin cancer, cataracts and impaired immune systems.
- **The effects of rocket crashes on the marine environment are largely unknown:** Concerns about the potential marine impacts of debris falling from rocket launches were first raised at the London Convention and Protocol Scientific Groups meeting in 2018. These include:
 - Potential impacts on the marine environment arising from such debris
 - Physical disturbance of seabed/organisms
 - Input of toxic substances
 - Input of litter
 - Input of anthropogenic underwater noise
 - Collision risk

Allowing increased rocket launches at Vandenberg would be to disregard the sensitivity of the Earth's upper atmosphere. We cannot know the consequences of such an experiment.

In addition I wish to express strong disagreement with the project's characterization as a federal agency activity, as it involves commercial space launch activities carried out by SpaceX. Please take no action on this item on August 8, 2024, except to ask staff to research the legal path toward removing it from the federal consistency process and returning it to your commission as a direct permitting (or denying) matter.

Sincerely,

Dolores Howard

From: [Susie McElroy](#)
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: Support Increasing Space X Launches
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 3:25:03 PM

Dear Executive Staff:

Please support our local economy by supporting MORE Space X launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Killing our local economy with excessive & unreasonable regulations & red tape to preserve the coastline is counterproductive.

Thank you,
Susie McElroy

From: 19vermont68@charter.net
To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal
Subject: August 8, 2024 Agenda Item CD-0003-24 United States Space Force
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 3:26:04 PM

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I am writing to you to express my support for the United States Space Force's plan to increase the number of yearly launches. The Department of Air Force has worked diligently to develop extensive offset measures to address the impacts expressed by Santa Barbara County and this Commission.

Although a federal agency, the Air Force has historically addressed any local community or State concerns regarding its operations.

Their response to Santa Barbara County Parks and Recreation is yet another example of their conscientiousness and commitment to the surrounding communities.

I respectfully request you vote in favor of the United States Space Force plan to increase the number of yearly launches.

Sincerely,
Barbara Harmon
Arroyo Grande, CA

August 2, 2024

California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Th9c – CD-0003-24 United States Space Force

Dear Chair Hart and Commissioners:

Thank you for your wise decision to postpone this matter in June to allow for more robust studies of this impactful proposal.

As I submit these comments prior to the 5 PM deadline today, as required, I note that there has been no response to staff's recommended conditions from the United States Space Force. I find it unfortunate that the public is unable to review any comments from the private operator/Space X that seeks to increase the impacts to our planet without any thoughtful mitigation. And of course this puts staff under great stress to address a submittal via an addendum at this late date. Given this lack of communication from the Space Force and the private entity (entities) involved, especially Space X, I respectfully ask that the Commission once again not allow this to move forward until more time is allowed for analysis of the Space Force's response.

You will once again this month hear from the greater environmental community on this important issue citing the same concerns you've heard before since none of the concerns have been resolved with a timely response from the Space Force. Those concerns, in brief, continue to be:

- Increased impacts to the environment given the increase in launch activity
- The pace at which this project is moving without any appropriate studies of the impacts
- Lack of a contingency plan to avoid or lessen the many impacts to our environment
- Lack of cooperation with the Coastal Commission that could and should result in safeguards for our coastal resources
- Fall out over the receiving waters of the Pacific Ocean and the Channel Islands.

Unfortunately, this problem of impacts to our environment is much bigger than most of us realize, and it appears that no matter how many warnings the scientific and environmental communities bring forward, their voices are ignored.

Here are just two rather recent articles on the impacts of these types of launches on our environment and what I will choose to call our heavens, defined in literary terms as, "the sky, especially perceived as a vault in which the sun, moon, stars, and planets are situated."

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20240627-the-environmental-cost-of-rocket-launches>

<https://www.space.com/air-pollution-reentering-space-junk-detected>

More thought needs to be given to the impacts of this rush to pollute and ultimately destroy our environment. I ask this Commission to take the lead, as you often do on controversial projects, and set the precedent for more thorough study of the impacts to ALL of our resources. If you take the time to do just a cursory review of the articles I have provided, you will see that Space X has no regard for our planet or our heavens. This is all about profit and power for Space X as has been exhibited in the past.

Thank you for considering these comments. Please consider investigating the impacts that Space X is having on other areas of our country. The United States Space Force should rethink being a partner in or contributor to this type of impact to our environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Penny Elia".

Penny Elia

From: [donna pulling](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Cc: [donna pulling](#)
Subject: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force).
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 4:19:58 PM

Dear Commissioners,

As a homeowner in Orcutt, Ca I oppose any increase in missile launches. The launches are greatly disturbing to those of us with PTSD and animals who feel the affects more severely. Also to the atmosphere and ocean life. I especially oppose the use of Vandenberg facilities for commercial SpaceX launches. Our tax dollars should not be going to a billionaire's rocket fetish.

Equally disturbing is the use of the Santa Maria air strip for additional military jet flight trainings. Vandenberg needs to reopen their air field and keep those jets in that air space not over residential areas.

Vote NO on this item. Keep launches to a minimum and keep them military only.

Thank you,
Donna Pulling
295 N Broadway, #205
Orcutt, CA 93455

From: [Nancy Weiss](#)
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Re: Public Comment on June 2024 Agenda Item Wednesday 10a - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force).
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 4:54:40 PM

Hello Commissioners,
I am writing to elevate my comments below again.

Bottom line: We must know the impacts of the launches which occur now, before you even consider approving more OR deciding that already the impact on wildlife and neighboring communities are too great.

This is an environmental justice issue for neighboring communities in Lompoc.

Thank you,
Nancy G. Weiss
Santa Barbara

On Tue, Jun 4, 2024 at 6:20 PM Nancy Weiss <nancygweiss@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,
I am writing to support your Staff's recommendation that the increase to the Space X launches has not been thoroughly evaluated re impacts to our Central Coast and ocean wildlife, including noise and pollution. An increase is premature and our communities should have a voice in the decision.

My house rattles and I hear sonic booms in Santa Barbara with every launch. What are the full impacts closer neighboring communities and wildlife?

Please know you have my full support to stand up for our Coast.

Thank you!

Nancy G. Weiss
Santa Barbara, CA
she/her/ella

--

Nancy G. Weiss
805-895-9211 mobile/text
she/her/ella

"Look closely at the present you are constructing: It should look like the future you are dreaming". - Alice Walker

From: [nancy Okada](#)
To: [Energy@Coastal](#); [ExecutiveStaff@Coastal](#); [Huckelbridge_Kate@Coastal](#)
Subject: Public Comment on August 2024 Agenda Item Thursday 9c - CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force).
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 4:55:36 PM

Please send acknowledgment of receipt. Thank you.

To: California Coastal Commissioners and staff

Re: Th9c CD-0003-24 (United States Space Force)

A big "Thank You!" to the Commission and Staff for increasing public awareness on the proposed increases in SpaceX rocket launches, as well as requiring more transparency from US Space Force to better protect our ocean habitat, air and sound quality -- particularly relating to sonic booms.

We have concerns as to the potential for cumulative impacts of the increase in SpaceX launches, in addition to permitted (current and future) launches by other entities, such as Phantom, which was granted consistency determination in 2023, for up to 48 launches/year.

The CCC Staff report queries potential cumulative impacts re: pinnipeds, particularly as to pupping and population decline, and the need for monitoring and further statistical analysis (p. 37), and in Condition 1, for marine mammal monitoring,

"Cumulative impacts result when the effects of an action are added to or interact with other effects in a particular place and time. The combination of these effects, and any resulting environmental degradation, should be the focus of cumulative impacts or cumulative effects analysis under CEQA and NEPA ...

Cumulative Effects Analysis (CEA) is a required aspect of environmental impact analysis under NEPA.6 NEPA regulations, which were originally promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in 1978, define a cumulative effect as "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions." CEA is a critical aspect of NEPA analysis in that it requires federal agencies to look beyond the incremental impacts of a single decision, which may be individually insignificant but may cumulatively contribute to significant environmental change. (<https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1794/12249/Schultz.pdf?sequence=1>)"

The Staff report addresses the need for minimization and monitoring of the effects of

sonic booms, noise and pressure, and potential adverse effects, in Condition 2.

Finally, we applaud the Commission and its staff's tireless dedication to working on behalf of the people of California to protect our coastline and coastal resources.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts.

Sincerely,
Nancy Okada
Chair, Coastal Subcommittee
Sierra Club California

Sent from my iPhone