

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 5, 1997

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 5

Introduced by Senator Haynes

(Coauthor: Senator Knight)

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baldwin, Battin, Leonard,
Margett, and Pacheco)*

December 30, 1996

Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to March Air Force Base.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 5, as amended, Haynes. March Air Force Base.

This measure would memorialize the Secretary of the United States Department of *the* Interior to direct the Fish and Wildlife Service to enter into and complete, with all deliberate speed, consultations concerning the Riverside County regional training center property, with all other necessary federal and state agencies, giving full force and effect to the presidential program to revitalize base closure communities.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, March Air Force Base, Riverside County,
2 California, has been realigned, and the active Air Force
3 unit has left the base to the joint use of the Air Force
4 reserves and civilian authorities; and

5 WHEREAS, On July 2, 1993, the President of the United
6 States announced a program to aid the economic
7 recovery of communities suffering base closures and

1 pledged top priority in the early reuse of the base's assets
2 by the host communities; and

3 WHEREAS, Property on March Air Force Base that is
4 to be made available for community development
5 includes the Non-Commissioned Officer Training
6 Academy, composed of classroom space, dormitories,
7 audio and visual facilities, a physical training area, and
8 open acreage; and

9 WHEREAS, The Sheriff of Riverside County is an
10 elected, constitutional officer and is responsible for
11 providing training to the officers of the department, and
12 has a history of being involved in providing quality
13 training to the law enforcement community; and

14 WHEREAS, The Riverside County Sheriff's
15 Department presently uses three separate sites in which
16 to present a Peace Officers Standards and Training
17 (P.O.S.T.) certified law enforcement curriculum, and
18 must soon relinquish its largest site because of
19 encroaching residential development; and

20 WHEREAS, The Riverside County Fire Department
21 and the California Department of Forestry must send
22 their personnel out of the county for P.O.S.T. certified
23 law enforcement and fire training; and

24 WHEREAS, The Riverside County ~~Sheriff~~ *Sheriff's*
25 *Department* has determined that in order to effectively
26 meet the future demands of its citizens on the county's
27 public safety agencies, it must develop a single site,
28 consolidated, regional public safety training center; and

29 WHEREAS, The Riverside County ~~Sheriff~~ *Sheriff's*
30 *Department* has determined that the
31 Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Training Academy is
32 an appropriate site for a regional training center because
33 of existing infrastructure and the available open land
34 necessary for future development; and

35 WHEREAS, The California State Assembly
36 recommended the concept of regional public safety
37 training centers, and the Riverside County regional
38 training center concept exceeds this recommendation;
39 and



1 WHEREAS, Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of
2 the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.),
3 in 1991 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service issued
4 Biological Opinion 1-6-91-F-33, which established
5 restrictions on the use of approximately 2,200 acres on
6 March Air Force Base in order to ensure the conservation
7 of habitat for endangered and sensitive wildlife.
8 Approximately 1,200 of the 2,200 acres were designated as
9 “open space,” subject to special land management
10 practices, and 1,000 acres were designated as a “Stephens’
11 Kangaroo Rat management area” (hereafter SKR); and

12 WHEREAS, The biological opinion specifically
13 provided that in the event any federal land on March Air
14 Force Base is conveyed to private interest, the
15 species-related land use restrictions must be continued by
16 means of deed restrictions; and

17 WHEREAS, The NCO Training Academy and its
18 adjacent land are located within that portion of March Air
19 Force Base designated as “open space” in the 1991
20 biological opinion issued by the United States Fish and
21 Wildlife Service; and

22 WHEREAS, The viability of this property as a regional
23 training center depends on the ability to develop and use
24 it according to design, and the designation of the property
25 as SKR “open space” is incompatible with that use and
26 development; and

27 WHEREAS, The United States Air Force and the
28 United States Fish and Wildlife Service have agreed that
29 consultation should be reopened on the subject of the use
30 of the “open space” because of base realignment, but they
31 have not met; and

32 WHEREAS, The training center cannot proceed until
33 consultation has progressed; and a reasonable agreement
34 has been made permitting the unencumbered use of the
35 March Air Force Base “open space” property; now,
36 therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of*
38 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of
39 California respectfully memorializes the Secretary of the
40 United States Department of *the* Interior to direct the



1 United States Fish and Wildlife Service to enter into and
2 complete, with all deliberate speed, consultations
3 concerning the Riverside County regional training
4 center property, with all other necessary federal and state
5 agencies, giving full force and effect to the presidential
6 program to revitalize base closure communities; and be
7 it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
9 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice
10 President of the United States, to the Secretary of the
11 United States Department of the Interior, to the Speaker
12 of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and
13 Representative from California in the Congress of the
14 United States.

