

Introduced by Senator Knight

August 23, 2000

Senate Resolution No. 35—Relative to effluent disposal on Rosamond Dry Lake and Edwards Air Force Base.

1 WHEREAS, The Air Force Flight Test Center, located
2 at Edwards Air Force Base in Kern, Los Angeles, and San
3 Bernardino Counties, provides a critical Air Force
4 research, development, test and evaluation mission; and

5 WHEREAS, The Air Force Flight Test Center has been
6 providing this mission since 1945, and as a result has
7 assured the effectiveness and success of the Air Force in
8 carrying out its global mission; and

9 WHEREAS, The Air Force Flight Test Center is vital
10 to the security and defense of our nation; and

11 WHEREAS, The Air Force Flight Test Center is
12 important to the economic well-being of the entire high
13 desert area surrounding the Air Force Flight Test Center,
14 provides thousands of people with employment, and
15 provides valuable income and tax revenues to
16 neighboring communities, Kern, Los Angeles, and San
17 Bernardino Counties, and to the entire State of California;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The Los Angeles County Sanitation
20 District 14 owns and operates a wastewater treatment
21 plant with evaporation ponds that is located to the west
22 of Edwards Air Force Base; and

23 WHEREAS, When the evaporation ponds at the Los
24 Angeles County Sanitation District 14 wastewater

1 treatment plant are filled beyond capacity, the overflow
2 effluent discharge covers portions of Rosamond Dry
3 Lake; and

4 WHEREAS, Rosamond Dry Lake is a unique natural
5 resource that cannot be replicated and that is critical to
6 safely conducting hazardous test missions at the Air Force
7 Flight Test Center; and

8 WHEREAS, Effluent discharge on Rosamond Dry
9 Lake causes an increase in the bird population in the
10 primary high-speed approach corridor and in the range
11 area at the Air Force Flight Test Center, which results in
12 an increase in the Bird Air-Strike Hazard and increases
13 the risk of aircraft damage and of the possible loss of life;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The Lahontan Regional Water Quality
16 Control Board issued waste discharge requirements to
17 Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 in 1993, requiring the
18 Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 to cease effluent
19 overflow onto Rosamond Dry Lake by March 2000; and

20 WHEREAS, Edwards Air Force Base offered to provide
21 the use of other land to the Los Angeles Sanitation
22 District 14 in 1995 on a short-term temporary basis to help
23 alleviate the current effluent discharge problem; and

24 WHEREAS, Edwards Air Force Base offered to provide
25 other land to the Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 based
26 on the assumption that no effluent would flow onto
27 Rosamond Dry Lake during the lake's normal dry period,
28 and that the Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 would
29 develop a long-term, permanent solution that did not
30 involve Edwards Air Force Base land or the Rosamond
31 Dry Lake; and

32 WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 has
33 not developed a long-term, permanent solution for
34 effluent discharge, and continues to cause effluent to
35 overflow onto Rosamond Dry Lake; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That*
37 *the Senate of the State of California does not support the*
38 *expansion of the Los Angeles Sanitation District 14*
39 *effluent disposal infrastructure, discharge, or overflow*



1 onto any portion of Edwards Air Force Base; and be it
2 further

3 *Resolved*, That the Senate of the State of California
4 encourages the Lahontan Regional Water Quality
5 Control Board to enforce the existing waste discharge
6 requirements that require the Los Angeles Sanitation
7 District 14 to manage the effluent discharge so that it does
8 not overflow onto Rosamond Dry Lake; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Senate of the State of California
10 encourages the Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 to
11 actively pursue a long-term solution of effluent disposal
12 that minimizes use of Edwards Air Force Base land; and
13 be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Senate of the State of California
15 urges the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control
16 Board to approve a wastewater permit that ensures the
17 long-term protection of the Rosamond Dry Lake and all
18 other Edwards Air Force Base land from all effluent
19 discharge activities that may impact the mission
20 effectiveness of Edwards Air Force Base; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
22 copies of this resolution to the Governor, to the State
23 Water Quality Control Board, to the Lahontan Regional
24 Water Quality Control Board, to the Los Angeles County
25 Sanitation District 14, the Los Angeles County Board of
26 Supervisors, and the city councils of the City of Lancaster
27 and the City of Palmdale.

