



26 Jun 20

The Honorable John Henderson
 Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
 1670 Air Force Pentagon
 Washington, D.C., 20330-1670

Subject: Letter of Support for United States Space Command Basing Nomination

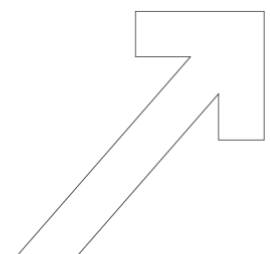
Dear Secretary Henderson,

As a coalition of community organizations from business and education, we represent the interest of the community as well as the current and future workforce on the Central Coast of California, including both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

We write to indicate our enthusiastic and unqualified support for the selection of Vandenberg AFB CA as the permanent USSPACECOM Headquarters. The Central Coast is home to nearly 800,000 residents. Our region exceeds the requirements of each basing selection criterion, not only now but boasting capacity for significant future expansion of mission and industry, making Vandenberg AFB and the Central Coast the premiere option.

Home to two world class universities, UC Santa Barbara and Cal Poly State University, the Central Coast produces nearly 9,000 graduates in engineering and science each year.

UC Santa Barbara has a long history of working with the Vandenberg AFB. NASA research funding at UCSB totaled approximately \$9 million in 2018, DARPA projects for space optical communication for space exploration. NASA funding currently supports 17 active projects that span a broad range of topics in astrophysics and earth science.



Cal Poly University has established industry partnerships with the Air Force Research Laboratory for \$2.5 Million to Aerospace Engineering Department, as well as a formal Education Partnership Agreement with the 30th Space Wing.

Cal Poly University also formed the first-ever Amazon Digital Transformation Hub, which has significant space industry projects completed or underway: Small Satellite Design, Multi-Satellite Launch Capacities, Secure Space Comms, Cloud-based Space Data Processing and Analysis, Secure Satellite C2, Space and Cyber Workforce Development Programs.

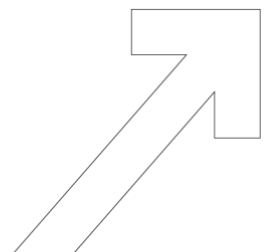
Additionally, the region is supported by three community colleges, Allan Hancock, Cuesta College and Santa Barbara City College, that are equipped to support workforce training and education needs.

The Central Coast also has robust high tech, software and advanced manufacturing ecosystem with businesses that compete globally and already add to the mission at Vandenberg AFB. The region's strong nucleus of highly specialized manufacturing and tech firms has grown [37% over the last decade](#), with massive potential to continue on that trajectory. Over the last decade the region has secured \$660 million in defense contracts with a strong backbone of aerospace and defense companies.

Finally, the Central Coast is deeply engaged in advocating to cultivate and attract the growing commercial space industry. For example, the region recently created a formal partnership, via memorandum of understanding, to advance commercial space commerce at Vandenberg AFB and the surrounding community. Signatories include: CA Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, 30th Space Wing, regional economic development organization REACH and Cal Poly University. The purpose of this partnership is to organize priorities and secure infrastructure investment to advance Vandenberg AFB as the Spaceport and Range of the Future.

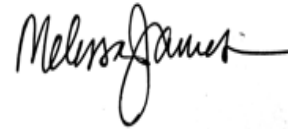
We hope you will consider what Vandenberg AFB and the Central Coast represent, in terms of existing capacity, but also for the Nation's space mission long into the future. We look forward to working together throughout the selection process to showcase our readiness, capacity and desire to support the USSPACECOM mission and its people.

Sincerely,

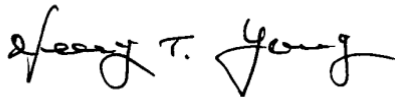




Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President
Cal Poly State University



Melissa James
President/CEO
REACH



Henry T. Yang
Chancellor
University of California, Santa Barbara



Chuck Davison
President & CEO
Visit SLO CAL



Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
Allan Hancock College



Jim Dantona
Chair
Central Coast Coalition of Chambers



Jill Stearns, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
Cuesta College
San Luis Obispo County
Community College District

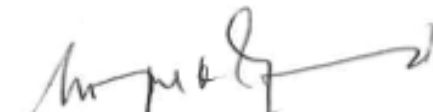


Kristen Miller, President & CEO, Santa Barbara &
Goleta Chamber of Commerce

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County
Chambers of Commerce



Michael E. Manchak
President & CEO
Economic Vitality Corporation
of San Luis Obispo County



Utpal K Goswami, Ph.D.
Supt/President



Joe Halsell
Board President
EconAlliance