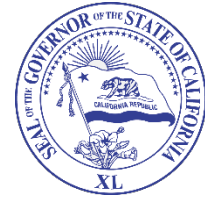


STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
**GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL**  
COLONEL (RET.) ROCKY CHÁVEZ, CHAIR



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

December 28, 2020

Ms. Melissa James  
President & CEO  
Regional Economic Action Coalition

Dear Ms. James:

The importance of defense communities and their impact on military readiness in the nation cannot be overstated. As the Hourglass Project, your organization set out to improve the economic environment surrounding Vandenberg Air Force Base, increasing educational and workforce opportunities and developing a coalition of organizations with similar goals although not always similar backgrounds or resources. As you developed into the Regional Economic Action Coalition, or REACH, the organization proved to be a powerful force for workforce generation in the region, addressing the myriad issues that factor into economic growth such as housing, transportation and resourcing the financial partnerships and investments required to make these goals a reality.

REACH's efforts over the past few years have in no small way shaped the future landscape of Vandenberg and its neighboring military and defense-related activities such as Naval Base Ventura County. We encourage your efforts to continue the direct support, advocacy and collaboration with the bases that undoubtedly improves and enhances their operations and readiness in a way that cannot be done with military resources alone. REACH's commitment to serve as a leader in the Central Coast region, driving community engagement and collaboration with industry, military and state, local and federal-level policymakers will ensure that California can continue to shine as a bright spot in our nation's national security framework.

We hereby formally acknowledge REACH as the defense community support organization for Vandenberg Air Force Base and look forward to supporting and encouraging your efforts.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rocky Chavez in black ink.

Rocky Chavez  
Colonel, US Marine Corps (Ret)  
Chair

Handwritten signature of Jody Breckenridge in black ink.

Jody Breckenridge  
Vice Admiral, US Coast Guard (Ret.)  
Vice Chair