

**City  
of  
YUBA CITY**

November 6, 2006

Mr. Bob Harlan  
Chairman of the Board  
Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce  
429 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 1429  
Marysville, CA 95901

Dear Mr. Harlan:

This letter is being forwarded to express my extreme displeasure with the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce's decision to include an advertisement on the back page of its November issue of *Business Today* promoting the virtues of the Yuba Highlands development adjacent to, and encroaching on, Beale Air Force Base. I am respectfully requesting that the Board of the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce review their policies regarding the acceptance of *Business Today* advertisements that are: (1) detrimental to the policy of the Board in support of the retention of Beale Air Force Base, and (2) reject any advertising that is not supportive of established Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce business positions on major issues. The Board direction on Yuba Highlands and Beale Air Force Base should be of interest to all business members and government agencies that currently support the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce.

The Yuba Highlands advertisement was presented in a manner that leaves the impression the supportive statements are representative of the position of the Chamber of Commerce. The advertisement was not listed as such and its content is not supported by the Board to my knowledge. The Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce should carefully consider the controversial nature of the Highland Development in the greater Yuba-Sutter area and the potential of encroachment impacts to the future of Beale Air Force Base.

Beale Air Force Base represents over \$1.2 billion in annual economic impact to the multi-county region. Its employment of 6,000 people makes Beale the largest single employer north of Sacramento. Twenty-two percent of the Yuba County labor force is dependant upon the continued operation of Beale.

The Highlands Development proposes to build 5,100 homes and over one million square feet of retail and office space adjacent to Beale Air Force Base. The proximity of this development will impact the continued operations of the base and encourage further encroachment through additional growth inducement in the immediate area. The inclusion of this advertisement in the Chamber of Commerce *Business Today* publication sends a negative message from the Board that leaves one with the impression that the Chamber of Commerce does not support Beale Air Force Base.

The Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce needs to take a strong position with regard to advertising policies and your continued support for Beale Air Force Base. Yuba City, although not currently a major contributor to the Chamber of Commerce, would consider its future participation in relationship to the Board's position in serving the economic and business interest of the entire Yuba-Sutter region.

It is my intention, as Mayor of Yuba City, to bring this matter to the attention of the full Yuba City Council at our November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful and careful consideration of this very important issue.

Respectfully,

  
Eric N. Hellberg  
Lt/Col USAF (Ret)  
Mayor, City of Yuba City

ENH:cw:06-22

cc: Don Bricker, Publisher, *Appeal-Democrat*  
Steve Jepsen, City Manager, City of Yuba City  
Council Members, City of Yuba City  
Mayor & Council Members, City of Live Oak  
Board of Supervisors, Sutter County  
Mayor & Council Members, City of Marysville  
Mayor & Council Members, City of Wheatland  
Board of Supervisors, Yuba County  
Gen. H.D. Polumbo, Beale Air Force Base