

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Elizabeth Roddy
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Department of the Navy
Program Management Office West
33000 Nixie Way, BLDG 50 Suite 207
San Diego, CA 92147

November 9, 2023

Dear Coordinator Roddy,

We are writing to request an update from your office regarding plans to mitigate impacts from the recent fire at the former Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) in Tustin CA, which is property currently owned by the Navy.

On November 7, 2023, we were devastated to learn that one of the historic hangars at the air station caught fire, and later that the blaze was too significant for firefighters to preserve the structure. Most of the structure has collapsed and is beyond repair. We do not yet know the cause of the fire, as the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and Tustin Police Department (TPD) investigation into the cause of the fire is still underway. This is a somber event for the community, as many current residents are veterans who served at this air station.

We are deeply concerned about the environmental impact of this fire and about the release of pollutants in Tustin and the surrounding areas that could impact our constituents' health. Ash and debris from the fire have fallen on residents' properties and are getting into their homes. Further, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) announced that testing of debris and ash collected in public areas near the hangar tested positive for asbestos. In response to the toxic debris, the County of Orange Emergency Operations Center's Incident Command has been activated.

Given these concerns, we respectfully request that you provide answers to the following questions:

- 1) Does the Navy have information regarding the building materials that were used to construct the hangar, including asbestos?
- 2) Is the Navy in contact with the South Coast Air Quality Management District regarding tests for toxic materials, and regarding the positive test for asbestos?
- 3) Does the Navy have a plan for cleaning up the site and mitigate effects to surrounding communities?

- 4) Does the Navy have a community engagement plan to ensure that our affected constituents are regularly informed of the Navy's efforts to clean up the site, and to ensure that health concerns coming from the community are addressed?
- 5) Does the Navy plan on joining the coordinated incident command with the County of Orange to assist the County with emergency environmental mitigation? If yes, can the Navy provide a timeline for the response?
- 6) What does the Navy intend to do with the site after the cleanup is finished?

We ask that you brief our offices and provide a written response to the above inquiries. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the health and safety of our constituents in Tustin and other affected communities surrounding the MCAS.

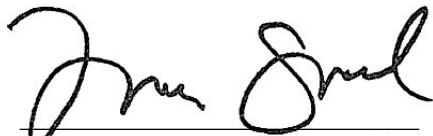
Sincerely,



Young Kim
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



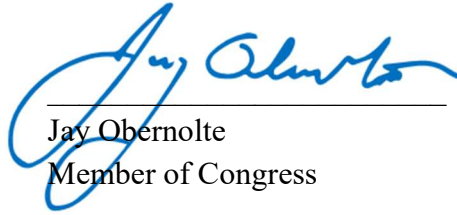
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



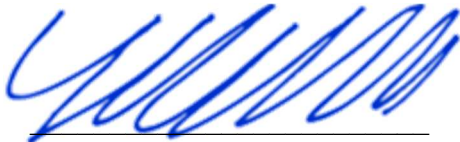
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress



Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

CC: Chairman Don Wagner, Vice Chairman Andrew Do, Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento, Supervisor Doug Chaffe, Supervisor Katrina Foley, Mayor Austin Lumbard, Mayor Pro Tem Letitia Clark, Council Member Ryan Gallagher, Council Member Rebecca Gomez, Council Member Ray Schnell.