



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2020

FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WARDS: 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5
DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PREPARATION OF THE UPDATE OF THE 2010 MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE/INLAND PORT JOINT LAND USE STUDY (MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE COMPATIBILITY USE STUDY) TO ASSURE COMPATIBLE LAND USES NEAR MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE TO PROTECT THE FUTURE AVIATION OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY

ISSUE:

Adopt a resolution for City of Riverside to support and participate in the update of the 2010 March Air Reserve Base/Inland Port Joint Land Use Study (March Air Reserve Base Compatibility Use Study) to ensure compatible land uses near March Air Reserve Base to protect the future aviation operations of the United States Military.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council adopt a resolution to support and participate in the update of the 2010 March Air Reserve Base/Inland Port Joint Land Use Study (March Air Reserve Base Compatibility Use Study) to ensure compatible land uses near March Air Reserve Base to protect the future aviation operations of the United States Military.

BACKGROUND:

March Air Reserve Base is an essential component of the region's economy, estimated to contribute approximately \$580 million annually. The local jurisdictions have historically worked together to preserve March Air Reserve Base's (ARB) long-term operational capacity, by planning for appropriate development around the Base which is compatible with March ARB's mission and functionality.

In 2010, the Cities of Riverside, Moreno Valley, Perris, County of Riverside, March ARB and the March Joint Powers Authority jointly participated in and adopted the 2010 March ARB/Inland Port Joint Land Use Study (2010 JLUS). That study was financed by a Department of Defense, Office of Economic Assistance grant with local financial support from the five stakeholders of \$5,000.00 each in funds, plus in-kind staff time.

In 2014, the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission adopted the 2014 March ARB/Inland Port Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, based on the 2010 JLUS. In February 2018, the March ARB issued an updated Air Installation Compatibility Use Zone Study (AICUZ).

In June 2018, the March ARB Base Commander requested that the surrounding communities agree to update the 2010 JLUS, recognizing it would be a multi-year effort to: 1) compete for Federal grants; 2) prepare an updated land use study in cooperation with the Cities and County that form the March Joint Powers Agreement (JPA); and 3) update the related plans that implement such study. The March JPA and March ARB asked that the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) be the lead agency in the study preparation and administration, in recognition of the technical expertise of ALUC personnel in airport compatibility planning.

In June 2020, the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Assistance approved a grant application from the County of Riverside for financial assistance to prepare a joint land use study, now titled March ARB Compatibility Use Study (March CUS). The Grant includes \$567,000.00 in Federal Funds and \$63,000.00 in local contributions for a total amount of \$630,000.00. Given the need for timely approval of these funds, the County approved the grant. The local match of \$63,000.00 is intended to be shared equally by the five stakeholders (Riverside County, the Cities of Moreno Valley, Perris, Riverside and the March JPA).

DISCUSSION:

To protect the long-term viability of March Air Reserve Base, cooperation among the cities of Riverside, Moreno Valley, Perris and the County of Riverside is essential. This includes participation in the March ARB Compatibility Use Study (March CUS), so that adjacent development does not restrict the Base's functionality, thereby reducing March ARB's vulnerability to a future Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

The economic benefit from the continuing operation of March Air Reserve Base is also a vital component of the regional economy. A study of "MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE ECONOMIC IMPACTS ANALYSIS" was commissioned by the Riverside County Economic Development Agency (Rose Institute of State and Local Government, Claremont McKenna College, January 14, 2016). The study concluded that the "[t]otal annual economic impact on the Inland Southern California region (Riverside and San Bernardino counties) is estimated to be \$579 million." Annual payroll to civilians and military personnel by units examined was \$267 million.

The March CUS will include the Joint Environmental Assessment (EA) and Initial Study (IS) to identify if NEPA and CEQA compliance is necessary and the level of compliance for the recommendations. The CUS recommendations will address how to limit development in the "Clear Zones" and "Airport Protection Zones" to the standards set by the Department of Defense and be incorporated in amending the 2014 March ARB/Inland Port Airport Land Use Plan. The Study will also identify best practices to address other issues that may potentially affect the Base such as ground water levels, storm water mitigation, and design landscaping to protect air operations from bird strike hazards.

The Office of Economic Adjustment Grant provides for the Riverside County ALUC to manage the Study process, including: 1) establish the Policy Committee of elected officials (March JPA members, Congressional representatives, and include the March ARB Command) and the Working Group of senior staff (March JPA Technical Advisory Committee) to guide the study; 2) retain a Consultant by a RFP specific to the Study tasks; 3) lead public outreach about the Study and circulate drafts; and 4) assist in having the Study adopted by the local jurisdictions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total impact of the City of Riverside's portion of the local match is \$12,600 and includes:

- \$7,600.00 in kind staff support, including participation on a Policy Committee and the Working Group; and
- A \$5,000 cash contribution funded from account is 7211200-450247.

A designated March CUS fund will be created by Riverside County to keep track of the Federal funds, local contributions and future expenditures of the project.

Prepared by: David Welch, Community & Economic Development Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. OEA Notice of Award