



## City Council Agenda Item

**City Council Meeting Date:** May 5, 2020

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Jim Throop, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Council Request – Draft Letter to REACH (formerly HourGlass) on Possible Use of Prison Property for Vandenberg Air Force Business Expansion Zone

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### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council review draft letter to REACH and advise staff on any possible changes prior to mailing of letter.

### **Background:**

A City Council request was made in February 2020 for the City Manager to draft a letter to the non-profit economic development group now known as REACH (formerly HourGlass), concerning the proposed Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) business zone expansion on the VAFB property.

The City Council requested the draft letter be brought back to a City Council meeting for approval before the letter is mailed out.

### **Discussion:**

The VAFB has been in a planning mode, in partnership with REACH and other key stakeholders, on the possibility of VAFB opening up approximately 1,500 acres to private development related to the space industry on VAFB property.

REACH has been working with all of the Central Coast cities on a regional plan for economic development. This plan spanned from Camp Roberts to the north, to VAFB to the south.

In discussions with VAFB leadership, the idea arose to open up approximately 1,500 acres of VAFB property for private business development related to the space industry. This would allow businesses such as Space X, Blue Origin, FireFly, and other companies that launch rockets, as well as any companies that supply parts, service, and more, to build out complexes on the 1,500 acres.

During the City Council discussion, a request came for the City Manager to draft a letter to REACH suggesting that some of the 3,000 acres of Bureau of Prison property might also be a possibility for the proposed business zone expansion, as all of the Prison property lies within City limits, which would allow for public utilities to be easily supplied to any and all of those projects.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact for the item.

**Conclusion:**

This letter will allow REACH and the key stakeholders to discuss another potential possibility for business development areas. The City does not have any jurisdiction over how the Prison property can or should be used, or used at all, but the ability to discuss the option should be presented.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jim Throop, City Manager

Attachment: Draft letter to REACH