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December 7, 2005

The Honorable Sunne Wright McPeak
Secretary, BTH Agency
980 Ninth Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Secretary, Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, 13th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CALIFORNIA SPACE CENTER

Dear Secretaries McPeak and Chrisman:

The California Space Authority (CSA) is engaged in some amazing projects throughout the state – all in an effort to help California lead the world in space education, research, technology, manufacturing, services and transportation. One such project is located on the Central Coast. We call it The California Space Center, and we are requesting your support by including some piece of this \$100 million project as part of a future tourism or park bonding authorization.

California does not yet have a single facility available to the public that tells the story about the state's space assets and their significant contributions to national security, homeland security, and observation of the Earth's resources. The California Space Center will provide the public with a world-class facility that tells the inspirational story of California's significant contributions to space enterprise. The proposed project will ultimately include a launch viewing site, an amphitheatre, visitor center, educational complex, conference center, IMAX-like theatre, historic rocket park and a VAFB contractor/mission support facility. It is also envisioned to include a Native American interpretive center to showcase the many artifacts and sacred sites of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians found on the base.

As envisioned in this early stage, the project would celebrate the role of the Chumash Indians, the first inhabitants of the area, whose mythology includes rich references to the sky and the stars. The Center will also highlight the Air Force's stewardship of the local environment while highlighting the past, present and future of Vandenberg Air Force Base and its key space contributions, including the launch of the nation's early remote sensing

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satellites, support for national security missions and the launch of nearly all of NASA/NOAA earth observation and environmental missions. This project will also benefit the tourism economy of our state, as well as inspire children to study math, science, technology, and engineering.

Early strategic partners in the project include Delaware North, the California Space and Education Workforce Institute, Westberg & White Architects and Planners, Space Information Laboratories, Diani Construction, TetraTech and Townsend Public Relations. CSA is presently in negotiation with the Secretary of the U.S. Air Force to secure a long-term lease on 66 acres of Vandenberg Air Force Base property alongside State Route 1 and outside of the base's front gate in northern Santa Barbara County. As we wait for the lease to be finalized, we are seeking seed dollars, additional strategic partners, as well as stakeholder and policymaker support for the project.

We hope we can count on the support of the State of California.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Andrea Seastrand
Executive Director

Enclosures