



# **COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER**

*CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1*

## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release  
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### **City Council Acts to Protect Local Military Economy**

*Approve a call to action to safeguard San Diego's military operations*

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego City Council approved a resolution to demonstrate the City of San Diego's unyielding commitment to protecting its local military operations that currently are threatened by looming federal defense spending cuts.

The resolution, which Councilmember Sherri Lightner introduced, calls on elected officials, business leaders and the community to fight the threat of these budget reductions to our local military economy.

According to San Diego Military Advisory Council (SDMAC), San Diego's military operations will generate \$32 billion in local economic activity this year alone. If these federal budget cuts, known as sequestration, are enacted, it could result in the loss of 31,000 San Diego jobs.

The resolution is designed to reinforce the work of "Operation San Diego," which is a collaboration between four San Diego business groups, including the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, CONNECT and the San Diego Military Advisory Council to prevent the potential cuts. The City of San Diego is also a partner in the effort.

"This is just one step of many that we need to take to protect one of our most important economic sectors – the military," Councilmember Lightner said. "No one should doubt our resolve to protect these local jobs or that we are united in this cause."

Other cities are following San Diego's lead and working to enact similar resolutions. The City of El Segundo passed a similar resolution earlier this month and the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation is asking its other member cities to do the same.

The resolution is just one aspect of Operation San Diego's strategy. This week elected officials and business leaders were in Washington, D.C., meeting with members of Congress to advance San Diego's economic interests and working to avert the threat of sequestration, which would impose automatic, across-the-board cuts to federal defense spending starting in January if certain budget measures are not met.

Mark Cafferty, president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, applauded Councilmember Lightner and the City Council for spotlighting the issue.

“As a region, we have a unique opportunity to lead the nation through this transitional period,” Cafferty said. “The success of ‘Operation San Diego’ is largely contingent on the mobilization and unification of business and community leaders such as Councilmember Lightner in protecting those who so willingly protect us.”

Duane Roth, CEO of CONNECT, said there is a lot at stake both for the local economy and for the country’s national security, explaining that San Diego is a hub for such cutting-edge advances as SPAWAR’s cyber warfare initiatives as well as unmanned aerial vehicles like General Atomics’ Predator and Northrop Grumman’s Global Hawk.

“San Diego is home to the largest regional Department of Defense payroll in the United States,” Roth said. “We also are leaders in the innovative technologies that will help keep our country safe from future threats.”

Larry Blumberg, executive director of the San Diego Military Advisory Council, said it is imperative that all stakeholders continue to work together.

“SDMAC appreciates the leadership of Councilmember Lightner and the entire City Council in passing this resolution” Blumberg said. “SDMAC will continue to work vigorously to enhance the partnership and communication between the military, our elected and appointed officials, and the business community.”

*Sherri Lightner is the Councilmember for Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Pines, and University City. She took office December 8, 2008.*

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