

RESOLUTION NO. 74-52

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST OPPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ORDNANCE AND TESTING RANGE IN THE PANAMINT VALLEY, AND REQUESTING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT BE PREPARED AND FILED.

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the City Council of the City of Ridgecrest that there is a proposal to renew a permit for an ordnance and flight test range in the Panamint Valley for the private enterprise firm of Flight Systems Test, Inc., 3723 Birch Street, Newport Beach, California, 92660, on 15,000 acres being primarily on Bureau of Land Management property; and

WHEREAS, this ordnance range is anticipated to be used for ground to ground missile firing, drone work and drone ordnance drops, mortar firing, large gun testing, or detonation of ordnances; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management "Interim Critical Management Program for Recreation Vehicle Use on the California Desert" designates this land for use of existing roads and trails in pursuit of recreational activities; yet maintains the natural resource values in this area to impede further deterioration; and

WHEREAS, State Highway 190 leading to Death Valley; two Inyo County Roads; and numerous dirt roads and trails are in or in proximity to the range area serving mining activities, ghost towns, and other tourist attractions in the Panamint Valley and adjacent mountain ranges; and

WHEREAS, expended ordnance, missile shrapnel, duds, and other weaponry detonated and tested in this scenic, pastoral valley could endanger those recreation oriented travelers, by utilization of any designated and existing roads within the ordnance range area, in pursuit of escape from urban conjection and plight created by living in densely populated urban areas; and

WHEREAS, the use of the land as an ordnance range will accelerate the destruction of the natural resource values which are inherent with the desert areas; and

WHEREAS, lands used for ordnance testing are prohibitively expensive to reclaim for safe public use, consequently becoming a "no mans land" and hazardous because of lost duds, buried ordnance dropped from altitudes and shrapnel from expended and exploded warheads; and

WHEREAS, persons residing, camping and otherwise frequenting the area in proximity to the ordnance range will be subject to detonation noise and shockwaves created by firing of weaponry and explosion of ordnance foreign to the peace and serenity offered and created by the isolation in this area; and

WHEREAS, it is the position of the City Council of the City of Ridgecrest that the information within Flight Systems Test, Inc., brochure is erroneous, misleading and contrary to national position for use of desert land as set forth in the interim critical management program; and

WHEREAS, because of the probabilities of the above occurrences happening, if not controlled, it would create a "no mans land" in the Panamint Valley;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST RESOLVES:

That the City Council of the City of Ridgecrest opposes the renewal of a permit to operate an ordnance test range in the Panamint Valley and requests that an Environmental Impact Report be prepared in conformance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 and the Environmental Protection Agency.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF July, 1974, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Mayor Shacklett, Councilwoman Green, Councilmen Edwards, Mettenburg, and Wilson.

NOES: None

ABSENT: None



REX E. SHACKLETT, Mayor

ATTEST:



ERNEST A. THOMPSON, City Clerk

