



FRESH AND SALTWATER SPORTS
ON CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY



CITY OF VALPARAISO
465 VALPARAISO PARKWAY • (850) 729-5402
VALPARAISO, FLORIDA 32580



HOME OF
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE

June 9, 2009

Chairman Bill Roberts
Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners
1804 Lewis Turner Blvd - Suite 100
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547

Dear Chairman Roberts:

On behalf of the Valparaiso City Commission, this letter serves as official notice that the City of Valparaiso cannot approve the majority of the draft JLUS of May 20, 2009, and the recommendations cited for Valparaiso; as matter of fact we take a strong opposition stance.

I am extremely disappointed in the JLUS process. The City had hopes that this study would be a true joint effort between the Air Force and affected communities. Instead, Tetra Tech and JLUS consultants produced a report that only protects the Air Force mission today and in the future. There are no recommendations in the Eglin AFB portion of the study that require the Air Force to alter their operations to reduce negative impacts. Tetra Tech only reminded the Air Force to complete the supplemental Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

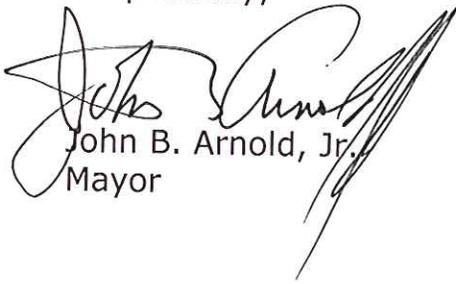
The whole premise of the JLUS is based on invalid assumptions rather than facts. Tetra Tech used Alternate 2 of the draft EIS, the worst case scenario which will decimate Valparaiso. Most importantly, the Air Force has stated it will not choose Alternate 2 of the final EIS of September 2008. Furthermore, Tetra Tech is recommending Valparaiso implement extreme measures of redevelopment and land acquisitions. Even if successful it will take many years to implement these recommendations, during which time the City will lose a very large portion of its revenue and its ability to survive. Also, the city has no resources to acquire indentified troubled properties.

"Home of the World's Largest Air Force Installation, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida"

In addition, the process of formulating the JLUS is a violation to the Valparaiso citizens' constitutional rights. The idea of officials from other municipalities voting to tell one municipality what recommendations they should accept is preposterous. We are guaranteed the right to home rule as a local government, not rule by a JLUS committee.

The JLUS finalization should be delayed until the Air Force supplemental EIS and a ROD are issued. The City sees no alternative other than rejecting the majority of this study and recommending completion be delayed until effects of the aforementioned documents are evaluated so sound and viable policy decisions can be formulated by a just process resulting in sound policy decisions for the future of our City.

Respectfully,



John B. Arnold, Jr.
Mayor

cc: Congressman Jeff Miller
Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Mel Martinez
Rich Tenga
Jeff Fanto
Walker Banning