



## Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7  
 2180 Milvia Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704  
 PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177  
 kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

### ACTION CALENDAR

December 3, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington  
 Subject: End U.S. Support for construction of the Jeju Naval Base

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution urging the United States to cease its support for the construction of Jeju Naval Base in South Korea to preserve the island's fragile biodiversity and honor the island's past history of bloodshed. Copies of the resolution to be sent to Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator Barbara Boxer, President Barack Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry, and U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, and Republic of Korea President Park Geun-hye.

#### BACKGROUND:

In 2011, South Korea began construction on a naval base in the Village of Gangjeong on the island of Jeju. The Mayor of Gangjeong and numerous residents have come out against the construction, protesting almost daily for the last 3 years. Construction of the \$970 million base has raised the specter of a brutal massacre, caused fears of the destruction of one of the world's most beautiful and fragile ecosystems, and of an ongoing arms race and increased military tension with North Korea and China.

Military bases in the region have often come with substantial upheavals. Okinawa, for example, is covered in U.S. bases. Many there bitterly resent U.S. military operations that they feel has exploited them environmentally, economically, and sexually. Prostitution has been an ongoing problem along with sexual violence against residents. Military bases cover 20% of the land, yet return only 5% to the local economy. Highly toxic materials are regularly present, causing contamination of the local ecosystem.

Today, Jeju is renowned as one of the most beautiful places on the planet. It is a popular honeymoon spot and UNESCO has triply designated it as a Global Geological Park, a Biosphere Reserve, and as a World Heritage site.

The Peace & Justice Commission approved of a resolution (7-1-0) urging the end of the base's construction pushing to halt construction of the Jeju Naval Base will promote peace and stability in the region. It will also help protect a fragile ecosystem from highly toxic chemicals, and honor those who died in a brutal military suppression.

#### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

#### CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 510-981-7170

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

IN SUPPORT OF THE RESIDENTS OF JEJU ISLAND, SOUTH KOREA: END U.S.  
SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE JEJU NAVAL BASE

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070); and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has a long history of advocating for peace and justice, and for the protection of the environment, such as Resolution No. 61,007-N.S. endorsing the Earth Charter in support of its principles and adoption by the United Nations at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (Rio+10); which commits the City of Berkeley to "respect Earth and life in all its diversity...care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love...build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful...and secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations;" and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Jeju Island, off the coast of South Korea, was designated as an Island of Peace and is UNESCO's only triple honoree: a Global Geological Park, Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site; and

WHEREAS, residents on Gangjeong Village on Jeju Island, South Korea, have been organizing nonviolent protest to stop the construction of a massive naval base which will destroy their community, way of life, and rich marine ecosystem which the famous *haenyo* or women sea divers, fishermen and farmers depend on for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, Jeju is one of many island communities around the Pacific that are now at great risk of militarization and despoliation from the Pentagon's "Pacific Pivot." According to statements by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, US military resources are rapidly shifting from Europe and the Middle East, to boost the Asia-Pacific region to 60% of the total. The US military is being condemned by local peoples for toxic dumping in the Philippines, rapes and violence in Okinawa, missile tests in the Marshall Islands, and a drone base being built on the remote Cocos Islands of Australia; and

WHEREAS, as late as 1994, the U.S. military operationally controlled the South Korean military in peace as well as wartime, and still maintains wartime control; and the U.S. maintains in South Korea more than 85 active military installations and about 37,500 military personnel, 140 tanks, 170 armored vehicles, advanced fighters, and a range of missiles and fighting helicopters; and ongoing discontent over the U.S. military presence has been caused in part by sovereignty concerns as well as the behavior of U.S. troops towards the population; and

WHEREAS, the planned base at Jeju will be home to warships using the US Navy's Aegis Combat System, which uses powerful computers and radar to guide weapons to destroy enemy targets. Arms control specialist Jeffrey Lewis stated in The New York Times that Aegis will be useful against the People's Republic of China, but not against North Korea's missiles. Former U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings describe the Jeju base proposal as part of "the U.S. policy of encirclement of Russia and China;" and

WHEREAS, Mayor Kang Dongkyun of Gangjeong Village, Jeju Island has appealed directly to the People of Berkeley and to the City Council of Berkeley, saying on June 1, 2013:

"The US government is trying to put its power in different places like Jeju Island, Hawaii, Guam and other places. I think that not only people in the City of Berkeley, but people in general in the United States are not aware of that fact....I want to work with the people of the City of Berkeley and not only the people of Berkeley....to create peace;".

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council calls on Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senators Feinstein and Boxer to urge the US military to cease supporting the military base now being built on Jeju Island, a base which will gravely harm the fragile ecology, damage the livelihood of the people of Jeju, and make this Island of Peace a pawn of the great powers and a magnet for military conflict.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley direct the City Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator Barbara Boxer, President Barack Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry, and U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, and Republic of Korea President Park Geun-hye.