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City of Langley

Langley City Council Resolution #810

TIM CALLISON
Mayor

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Prohibit Military Training in WA State Parks

Reject US Navy Application

WHEREAS the US Navy has applied for a Right of Entry permit in order to conduct military training at 29 Washington State Parks, and

WHEREAS, this Navy training comprises Special Operations Forces performing Special Reconnaissance, Sea-Land disembarkation, high-angle climbing, Over the Beach incursion, and Direct Surreptitious observation of the guests of Washington State Parks

WHEREAS, the training may occur at any time 24/7 in any of the parks so designated, and

WHEREAS, the public will not be alerted, warned or informed in any manner when the training occurs, and

WHEREAS, the Navy violated the terms of a previous right of entry permit because it did not notify local law enforcement, as specifically required, before previous wargame trainings in WA State Parks, and

WHEREAS, the Navy admits that plainclothes officers have deployed in unmarked cars within WA State Parks during training and have interacted in face to face conversations with the Parks guests, while not disclosing their role in an active wargame scenario, and

WHEREAS, the Navy has refused to indemnify Washington State Parks and local jurisdictions from damage or injury to members of the public and their property, and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Parks mission states: "The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for Washington's most treasured lands, waters, and historic places. State parks connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives," and

WHEREAS, core values of the Washington State Parks include:

- Dedication to outdoor recreation and public enjoyment that welcomes all our citizens to their public parks, and
- Involving the public in our policy development and decision making, and

WHEREAS, Washington State parks are a key part of Washington communities and integral to the recreation, enjoyment, and health of all residents, and

WHEREAS, thousands of citizens have already expressed strong opposition to military training co-located with civilian recreation, via change.org petition signatures and direct email communications to WA State Parks commissioners,

WHEREAS, military training is not the responsibility of the Washington State Parks, and does not align with the mission, vision and core values of the Washington State Parks,

THEREFORE, We, the members of the City Council of Langley Washington join other municipalities, jurisdictions, and citizens and oppose the granting of any permits allowing for military training in Washington State Parks, and

Urge the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to establish a policy prohibiting military training contemporaneously with civilian recreation in State Parks, and

Urge the Washington State Legislature to amend the Revised Code of Washington to prohibit military training in Washington State Parks.

Urge the public to communicate directly with WA State Parks Commissioners via commission@parks.wa.gov expressing opposition.

Signed on this 21st Day of December, 2020 in Langley Washington.



Tim Callison, City of Langley Mayor

ATTEST:



Monica M. Felici, Clerk/Treasurer