

Sacramento L-5 Society
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We the members of the Sacramento L-5 Society, local Chapter of the National Space Society, having reviewed President Obama's position paper on the U.S. space program entitled "Advancing the Frontiers of Space Exploration", urge the Human Space Flight Committee and the Augustine Commission to support the following positions:

- Establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Council

The National Aeronautics and Space Council will provide a strong focus for NASA. This also has the benefit of reestablishing the role of NASA administrator to one of implementation rather than policy creation.

- Evaluation of the feasibility of on-orbit Space Shuttle retirement

Examples of on-orbit uses for the Space Shuttle:

- Emergency earth return vehicle for the ISS.
- Service various satellites in higher earth orbit.
- Form the core of a second orbital space station at 28 degree LEO in support of more cost-effective lunar missions.

- Increased Use of the International Space Station

A great deal of time and money has been invested in the International Space Station. The opportunities this resource provides should be fully utilized.

- Give serious consideration to alternatives to the Aries I/V program

We are convinced that it is possible to accomplish the same goal safer, faster and cheaper.

- Adequately fund the discovery, development and promotion of new approaches to reducing the cost of getting to orbit

The staggering cost of getting into orbit makes achieving any space goal difficult, and makes achieving all of them problematical. Affordable space access would not only support the broadest possible range of space objectives, but would also support the societal objectives of jobs, national security, and technical leadership.

- Declare the goal of a timely colonization of space

It is imperative that we colonize space as a means of helping to ensure the ultimate survival of the human race.

In Carl Sagan's words (*The Pale Blue Dot*, pp. 374-375), "If there were self-sufficient human communities on many worlds, our species would be insulated from catastrophe."