MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 20-23, 2026

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE REQUIREMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY RESILIENCE

ISSUE: March Air Reserve Base (ARB) faces growing operational demands supporting the Indo-Pacific region and frequent military exercises. To maintain readiness, the installation requires a reliable and resilient energy supply that is not vulnerable to commercial grid disruptions.

ACTION: The Monday Morning Group requests Administration, Congressional, and Department of Defense support to fund and construct sustainable, energy-resilient infrastructure solutions at March ARB to ensure uninterrupted power for military missions and disaster-response operations.

BACKGROUND: March ARB's priorities—generating lethality, strengthening readiness, developing NexGen Airmen, and empowering innovation—depend on reliable electrical and natural gas systems that enable continuous operations. A Defense Energy Architecture (DEA) using distributed, interconnected resources is essential to support modern mission requirements and ensure Continuance of Operations (COOP).

Under 10 U.S. Code § 2920, the Department of the Air Force must conduct at least five black-start exercises annually. March ARB has been selected for a FY26 Energy Resilience Readiness Exercise (ERRE) to evaluate the installation's ability to sustain critical missions without off-base energy resources. Additionally, the March Inland Port Airport Authority received an Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation grant to assess energy resilience for community infrastructure supporting the base. Both assessments will occur in summer 2026 and will identify vulnerabilities and mitigation strategies.

A resilient, base-controlled power supply is essential for sustaining mission operations and supporting national security. Other Department of War locations—including Kwajalein Island, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Yokota Air Base, and Tyndall Air Force Base—are deploying or planning microgrids to maintain operational capability during grid disruptions.

The national electrical grid relies on centralized generation and long-distance transmission. Disruptions from wildfires, earthquakes, Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS), cyberattacks, or electromagnetic pulse (EMP) events can create prolonged outages that jeopardize military missions. March ARB requires independent, resilient energy capabilities from traditional or non-traditional sources to support both garrison and expeditionary operations.

Potential Energy Solutions with Estimated Costs (20-Megawatt System)	
Backup generator systems for mission-critical functions (traditional)	$5 million
Photovoltaic (PV) system for behind-the-fence electricity generation (non-traditional)	$25 million
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for stored on-demand power (non-traditional)	$15 million
Hydrogen storage and fuel cell systems for long-duration backup power (traditional or non-traditional)	$16 million
Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) providing reliable, zero-emission energy (traditional)	$76 million
Installation-wide Energy Management Control System (EMCS) for real-time energy optimization (traditional)	$4 million