

## **May 6, 2003 - Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento, California**

Approximately 19 individuals attended the Public Scoping Meeting held in Sacramento, California on May 6, 2003. The majority of attendees expressed their opposition to the use of space for any weapons or weapons systems, especially nuclear. Attendees were also concerned with U.S. abrogation of the ABM Treaty and that this would increase tensions worldwide. Concerns were also expressed that although large amounts of taxpayer dollars have been spent, the BMDS would not work as envisioned or advertised. Approximately 12-14 protestors gathered prior to the meeting; several of these individuals attended the meetings, and a few provided oral comments. Eight individuals provided oral comments and two individuals provided written comments. A few individuals provided comments specifically related to potential impacts on resource areas and human health. Specifically, one commenter expressed concern about developmental effects on children from potential releases of toxic materials, e.g., nitric oxide as a neurotransmitter that may affect development of many systems. Another commenter raised the issue that MDA should consult with university scientists and researchers with technical expertise in specific resource areas because the BMDS is an extremely technical program. One commenter was adamant that the U.S. needed the BMDS and the public in general did not understand enough about the threat.