



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

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March 25, 2019

Mayor

Diane Brooks Dixon

Mayor Pro Tem

Will O'Neill

Council Members

Brad Avery

Joy Brenner

Marshall "Duffy" Duffield

Jeff Herdman

Kevin Muldoon

Lisa A. Bartlett, Chairwoman
Orange County Board of Supervisors
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: John Wayne Airport General Aviation Improvement Project

Chairwoman Bartlett and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

After extensive review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for John Wayne Airport's proposed General Aviation Improvement Project (GAIP) the Newport Beach City Council unanimously voted to endorse Alternative #3 pursuant to the GAIP DEIR.

The City of Newport Beach (City) understands the need for updating John Wayne Airport's current general aviation facilities to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards and it endorsed such action with its support of Alternative #3. However, the GAIP, as currently structured, goes well beyond that. As presented in the DEIR, it would introduce commercial operations into the normal sphere of influence of general aviation (GA) and encourage international travel as well as commercial operations at privately operated, Fixed Base Operators (FBOs). While the GAIP speaks of modernization, the City's residents instead see the burden of more GA jet operations, diminished air quality, additional noise, and flights operating at all hours. Equally important, any actions concerning the GAIP must take into account safety, security and accountability for and to all, not just the select few passengers partaking in GA jet travel.

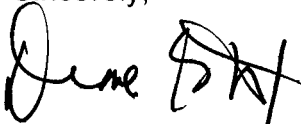
Pending further environmental review, the City believes Alternative #3 is the least impactful for the Newport Beach community. It allows for the updating of airport's GA facilities to current FAA standards, would not expand general aviation facilities at the FBOs, nor would it significantly alter the airport's current mix of GA aircraft that are based at the airport. It would also result in the least amount of GA jet operations by the year 2026.

The County of Orange has achieved what no other jurisdiction in the nation has been able to do by putting protections in place and managing JWA in a manner that helps to mitigate the airport's operations on the surrounding communities. Any proposal that seeks to limit the County's involvement, by shifting certain responsibilities to private companies operating at the airport, must be resisted. Airport security, as the Board has recognized in the past, is of utmost importance. Security for international travel should be processed in the Thomas F. Riley Terminal along with the processing of all commercial passengers where it has, until recently, historically taken place. As current national and international events have demonstrated, safety and security shall always remain of utmost importance.

On behalf of the Newport Beach City Council, I respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors adopts Alternative #3. Should any member of the Board or their representatives wish to discuss the matter in more detail, offer further explanation of the GAIP, or assurances of the County's actions, the City would be happy to meet at your convenience.

Thank you for your anticipated professional courtesy and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Dixon", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Diane Brooks Dixon
Mayor