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- BROADBAND TASK FORCE

December 17, 2009

Mr. Bob Watkins, Chairman
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority
P.O. Box 82776
San Diego, CA 92138-2776

Dear Chairman Watkins and Members of the Airport Authority:

I am concerned about the Airport Authority (Authority) proceeding with potential approval of the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans (ALUCPs) for the urban airports based on environmental reviews at the Negative Declaration level.

The concerns raised by the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, and the Independent Budget Analyst for the City of San Diego are most appropriately addressed via an environmental impact report (EIR). The Authority should consider the effect that potential displacement of development from communities expecting certain public and private development projects would impose on affected local cities and the county, including the potential for reduced tax revenues and reduction of property values.

Adopting ALUCPs is an action by the Authority sitting as the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC), and the resulting effects of those decisions should be quantified and fully disclosed to the public prior to the vote.

Local jurisdictions are required to modify their general plans and zoning ordinances to be consistent with adopted ALUCPs, or override the action of the ALUC if they are willing to assume long-term liability. Significant changes to general plans and zoning would in most cases require an environmental impact report.

Why should local jurisdictions have to bear the cost to do an EIR when the Authority/ALUC is the most knowledgeable local agency on airport related safety issues? Who better to assure consistent application of safety standards among the required environmental documents?

I urge you to delay consideration of the urban airports ALUCPs until full public review of responses to the comments for the draft environmental documents are possible, and that the Authority/ALUC require that the environmental review level be raised to require EIRs, thus ensuring full public accountability and transparency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Kehoe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CHRISTINE KEHOE
Senator, 39th District