



Angeles Chapter
3250 Wilshire Blvd. #1106
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1513

October 18, 2022

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach
411 W. Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802

Subject: Support for Long Beach City Council Agenda Item R-23 – Transition to Unleaded Aviation Fuels

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

This Tuesday, you have the opportunity to take action on an important issue – airborne lead pollution and the impacts it has on city's youth. Currently, the use of leaded fuel by small, piston-engine aircraft at the Long Beach airport emits more than 1,500 pounds of lead each year.

Recent studies have shown that airborne lead emitted from airports can have significant impacts on children who live or go to school near or downwind from an airport. On days when small-plane traffic is high, children who live near the Reid-Hillview Airport, in the city of San Jose, suffer from blood lead levels equivalent or higher than children who lived in Flint, Michigan, during the recent water crisis. As Long Beach's airport emits more lead than Reid-Hillview, this is a public health issue that should be addressed with urgency.

With recent news from the FAA regarding a possible endangerment finding on leaded aircraft emissions, and new unleaded piston-engine coming onto the market, this is a moment where Long Beach needs to step up and lead. Some airports, like Van Nuys, have already taken action to incentivize the use of unleaded fuel. City and Airport staff should be engaged in discussions with the Federal Aviation Administration around how to craft regulations on emissions that

place the interests of frontline communities first, while also taking local action to reduce airborne lead emissions in the immediate term.

We urge you to support agenda item R-23: the resolution proposed by your colleague Vice Mayor Rex Richardson, in support of a transition away from dangerous unleaded fuel use and towards a safer and healthier city and environment for our youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morgan Goodwin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Morgan Goodwin
Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Director