



**Date:** January 16, 2007  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**From:** Councilwoman Rae Gabelich, Eighth District *RG*  
**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM: Report on reorganization of Southern California Regional Airport Authority (SCRAA)

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Progress continues in the effort to reorganize the Southern California Regional Airport Authority (SCRAA), and I believe it is important to update the Council and the public on the latest developments on this issue that could have a significant impact on the operations of the Long Beach Airport and the entire City.

SCRAA is a joint powers authority established in 1985 by state legislation. It has been inactive since 2003, in part due to concerns about its effectiveness. The current board of SCRAA consists of a representative from Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Bernardino County, Riverside County and the City of Los Angeles. Other impacted local government entities such as Long Beach, at this point, are only eligible to have one associate non-voting member.

The reactivation of SCRAA was initiated to look at regionalization efforts for handling the air traffic demands of Southern California.

At its January 4 meeting, the Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) discussed submitting comments to SCRAA regarding its powers, membership and mission.

Mayor Bob Foster, in a letter to SCRAA that was distributed to the members of the TCC, articulated points that would be important for Long Beach to have included in any reconstitution of SCRAA.

Due to Mayor Foster's letter, and the comments of the Long Beach councilmembers on the TCC, the committee included Long Beach's suggestions in their recommendations, which were adopted by SCAG's Regional Council.

The comments from SCAG and other issues were considered by SCRAA at its January 11 meeting, of which I will provide a further update during my report at the Council meeting.

**Suggested Action:**

**Receive and file report on update of reorganization of Southern California Regional Airport Authority (SCRAA).**



## MAYOR BOB FOSTER

CITY OF LONG BEACH

January 2, 2007

Mr. Herb Glasgow, Senior City Planner  
Los Angeles World Airports  
1 World Way, Room 210  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear Mr. Glasgow:

**Subject: Southern California Regional Airport Authority (SCRAA)**

Based on discussions at SCRAA's October 12, 2006 meeting, it is my understanding that there is a desire by SCRAA to consider changes to its Joint Powers Agreement, to update its mission definition, and to adjust its membership/structure as appropriate. A restructured SCRAA could be an effective entity in helping to actualize the concept of decentralizing airport capacity to better address projected demand at airports where growth is desired by both the airport operator and the surrounding communities.

As Mayor of the City of Long Beach, which owns and operates a very busy airport surrounded by close-in residential communities, I submit the following modifications for consideration:

1. SCRAA should re-define its mission to clearly state its goal of supporting growth at airports only in instances where the growth is desired by the airport operator and surrounding communities;
2. SCRAA should revise its Joint Powers Agreement to ensure appropriate, broad based participation, including a role for all airport operating entities; and
3. SCRAA should eliminate from its Joint Powers Agreement any ability to acquire property through eminent domain, and any ability to operate airports.

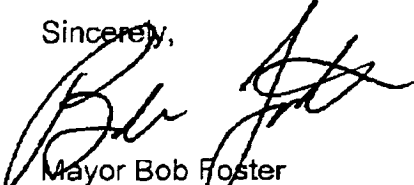
Further, I would like to specifically request that the City of Long Beach join the City of Los Angeles as a permanent member of SCRAA.

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I have been informed that you are acting in a staff capacity to SCRAA, and as such, I request that you forward this letter to SCRAA members for their consideration at their January 11, 2007 meeting.

Please contact my office at (562) 570-6801 should you have any questions or require additional information from the City.

Sincerely,



Mayor Bob Foster  
City of Long Beach

CC: Don Knabe, Supervisor 4<sup>th</sup> District, Los Angeles County  
Members of the City Council, City of Long Beach  
Gerald R. Miller, City Manager  
Mark Pisano, SCAG  
Michael Armstrong, Aviation Program Manager, SCAG

C:SCRAA 1206  
BF:RKA

**SCAG Comments to the SCRAA**  
**(TCC Additions Underlined)**

1/4/07

1. That SCRAA re-define its mission and responsibilities consistent with the regional aviation decentralization strategy in SCAG's adopted 2004 Regional Transportation Plan.
2. That the composition of the SCRAA's membership be related to its new mission and responsibilities.
3. That SCRAA consider expanding its membership to include as full members all communities that provide or plan to provide commercial passenger service, as well as the counties of San Diego, Imperial and Ventura, provided that inclusion of such jurisdictions is consistent with SCRAA's new mission and responsibilities.
4. That SCRAA re-examine its name so as to be consistent with its new mission and responsibilities.
5. That SCRAA revise its Joint Powers Agreement ("Agreement") so as to eliminate all proprietary powers, including but not limited to, its power of eminent domain.
6. That SCRAA revise the Agreement so as to eliminate its powers relating to airport operation.
7. That SCRAA revise the Agreement so as to eliminate its single member veto provision.
8. That SCRAA further define its relationship to SCAG, and that the Agreement be revised to establish a clear delineation of SCRAA's powers and SCAG's responsibilities as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region with respect to regional aviation and ground access planning.
9. In accordance with comment #8 above, if SCRAA revises its roles and responsibilities, a more formal role for SCAG be considered.
10. That SCRAA establish a technical advisory committee, whose membership would include airport operators.
11. That SCRAA appoint a person to serve on SCAG's Aviation Task Force
12. That SCRAA consider the following recommendation from SCAG's Regional Airport Management Study with regard to regional airport governance: "A 'structured' memorandum of understanding (MOU) is the preferred approach to creating an initial Regional Airport Consortium. The Consortium should be based at least initially on the MOU approach, but with more structure than is typical of MOU organizations. It should have bylaws and meet regularly. A 'structured' MOU-based consortium could eventually

evolve into a joint powers authority (JPA) after a period of confidence building among the members who may decide that the organization would be enhanced with the greater structure, permanence and continuity of a JPA. However the powers of the JPA should not include eminent domain or operating, siting and developing airports, since these powers are inconsistent with the Regional Airport Consortium concept in SCAG's 2004 RTP. To allay the concerns of constrained urban airports and their communities, a precondition should be all legally enforceable constraints and policies cannot be changed by subsequent amendment."

13. That SCRAA consider the attached comments submitted on January 2, 2007 by the City of Long Beach.

14. That SCRAA institute a formal public review period for all comments submitted to the SCRAA pertaining to its mission, membership, powers and responsibilities, prior to taking any formal action to revise its mission, membership, powers and responsibilities.