



Date: February 1, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

From: Patrick O'Donnell, 4th District Councilmember
Tonia Reyes Uranga, 7th District Councilmember
Rae Gabelich, 8th District Councilmember

Subject: Long Beach Airport Terminal Modernization

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Background

On September 16, 2004 the Airport Advisory Commission (AAC) endorsed an airport terminal expansion plan that calls for adding 98,673 square feet, which if completed, would make the Long Beach Airport terminal 133,243 square feet – three times larger than current facilities. The AAC also endorsed the construction of three new aircraft gates and eight new aircraft parking positions. This recommendation is scheduled to come before the City Council on February 8 as the basis to determine the scope of the required Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed airport terminal modernization project.

In light of the need to protect our current noise ordinance, and to protect the quality of life in our neighborhoods, we believe the AAC endorsed 133,243 square foot plan is oversized. What started as a modernization plan to address the high passenger loads brought on by the arrival of Jet Blue and new security requirements, has grown into an expansion plan that encompasses much more. We acknowledge that a need exists to modernize facilities, especially in this post-9/11 security environment, however this need must be balanced with the needs of those communities most impacted by airport operations.

Therefore, we respectfully recommend the following:

Items for Council Consideration

We request Council to direct staff to prepare an EIR that includes the following guidelines and project alternatives:

Guidelines that ensure Long Beach Airport will remain a small yet efficient municipal airport which may include consideration of a single story terminal, a single horseshoe designed terminal, 10 or fewer gates, 12 or fewer aircraft parking positions; and

Assurance that consistency will be achieved with Long Beach's Historical Design Guidelines of all final terminal modernization and parking structure designs prior to Council adoption.

Facilities Modernization -

- A. "Alternative 2" the smaller, and more responsible, modernization plan (presented by HNTB) totaling 102,980 square feet as the largest alternative considered with the following modifications, a maximum of 10 aircraft gates and 12 aircraft parking positions;
- B. The original staff recommendation from the September 22, 2003 "Notice of Preparation and Scoping (NOP) document totaling 93,500 square feet;"
- C. A staff generated alternative smaller than the NOP; and
- D. An alternative that makes existing temporary facilities permanent for a total of 58,320 square feet; and
- E. A "no build" option for a total of 34,570 square feet.

Recommended Council Action

Move that the Facilities Modernization alternatives be adopted for purposes of scoping the Long Beach Airport EIR.