



FAX COVER SHEET

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FROM: Janet Nguyen
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RE: LB Airport EIR Letter

Total number of pages: 3
(including cover page)



January 25, 2005

Honorable Mayor O'Neill
Members of the City Council

RE: LONG BEACH AIRPORT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber) and its 1,800 members, we are writing today to respectfully urge you to move forward with the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Long Beach Airport.

Since the original proposal was to be brought before the City Council in December 2003, there have been hundreds of hours of community input provided on the proposed terminal improvements. After one year of hearings and study sessions, attended by both the residential and business community alike, the Airport Advisory Commission (AAC) voted in support of the staff preferred recommendations. This preference, along with the complete list of scoping alternatives and suggestions, were submitted to your Council.

The Chamber has previously gone on record and has detailed our position on the terminal improvement project. We now request that you immediately initiate the EIR process and consider ALL the options presented to by the AAC for a complete study and evaluation. We would hope that you would support the AAC's commitment and consider the merits of evaluating the full range of sizing alternatives, from zero to the maximum, and that the EIR should consider this range prior to any design/project approval.

We recognize the need to mitigate against any threat to our coveted noise ordinance, designed to protect and guide our airport's growth. We believe that the business and residential communities would best be served in having the EIR consider ALL the options without the need for your Council to now vote on a preferred scoping option.

The current permanent facilities at the Long Beach Airport were designed to accommodate only fifteen (15) airline flights and the increased passenger demands and congestion in these facilities cannot be ignored. It is the long-standing position of the Chamber that the temporary facilities, which include tents, trailers, and mobile office structures currently in place, are inconvenient and do not adequately provide the level of facilities needed for the traveling public, the citizens of Long Beach, as well as promote the image of California's fifth largest city. The current facilities are clearly unsustainable for long-term use.

We support any objective that will maximize the airport's economic development opportunities in balance with the need to protect the noise ordinance and our residents' quality of life. Moving forward with the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on February 8, 2005, and studying all of the options presented to you will assure this balance without any delay in considering the improvements that all of Long Beach can enjoy.

Sincerely,



Lou Anne Bynum
Chairman of the Board
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce



Randy Gordon
President and CEO
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce



Curt Castagna
Chairman
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Airport Area Business Council

CC: Members, Long Beach Chamber Board of Directors
Members, Long Beach Chamber Government Affairs Council
Jerry Miller, Long Beach City Manager
Chris Kunze, Manager, Long Beach Airport
Larry Herrera, Long Beach City Clerk