

January 7, 2008

Hon. Mr. James R. (Jack) Sweeney, District 3 Supervisor, El Dorado County

Hon. Mr. Ron Briggs, District 4 Supervisor, El Dorado County

330 Fair Lane,

Placerville

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HELEN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY

Dear Supervisors Sweeney and Briggs:

During a recent meeting with the two of you and representatives of both County airports' advisory committees regarding the organizational reporting structure for the airports, the following question was posed:

If we (the Placerville Airport representatives) would object to a change in that structure if the airport could be run as *smoothly* after such a change as it is currently?

Our immediate response would be no, but we are concerned with more than "smoothness." Among other strong considerations are:

1. additional costs imposed because of the new reporting structure,
2. additional personnel assigned to the airport budget without direct need or impact
3. additional layers of management causing delay in obtaining decisions,
4. additional levels of fiscal review causing delay when responding to FAA/CalTrans needs for obtaining and processing grants,
5. more continuity in Airport Managers committed to excellent airport operations and development. (Jordan Postelwaite is an example of this excellence with his knowledge, interest and enthusiasm. The airports are too important to be relegated to "add-on" status to another manager's assignment who looks at his original duties as more important);
6. quicker turnaround in legal reviews of matters pertaining to the Airport, e.g., leases, etc. (too often, airport tenants or prospective tenants are committed to leases and requirements of the County for months only to have delays in processing the final document cause uncertainty and anger among those who provide needed income);
7. a fair share of costs applied to the airports use (while we understand the Airports Division should have to pay reasonable costs incurred on its behalf, it should not be charged *more* than any other department for these services just because of its status as an enterprise fund); and

8. finally, recognition of the Airports' unique status as a direct contributor to the General Fund through *tenants' possessory interest taxes* and *property taxes* collected on hangars and aircraft based in El Dorado County. (We would like this fact to be indelibly etched into the minds of those who bemoan the General Fund's contribution to the Airports' operation each year. We believe the balance is still favors the tax income to the General Fund.)

Denying the Airports Division its appropriate attention and support will stunt its ability to provide necessary services, and hinder its ability to attract and retain the fiscal support it needs from state and federal governments and private investment in aircraft, fuel and hangars—all critical revenue producers to this vital division.

If these issues are addressed favorably, we have no objection to the location of the Airports Division within the County's organization structure.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our concerns and your actions to protect the fine Airports of El Dorado County.

Fred Alleman, Fred Mau, Members of the Placerville Airport Advisory Committee