



Mayor

Kevin Muldoon

Mayor Pro Tem

Noah Blom

Council Members

Brad Avery

Joy Brenner

Diane Brooks Dixon

Marshall "Duffy" Duffield

Will O'Neill

March 29, 2022

Chairman Doug Chaffee
and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: General Aviation at John Wayne Airport

Chairman Chaffee and Members of the Board:

Throughout the County of Orange's study, development, and ultimately, its approval of its General Aviation Improvement Program (GAIP), the City of Newport Beach (City) repeatedly relayed to the Board of Supervisors (Board) the City's strong support of the long-term preservation of small general aviation at John Wayne Airport (JWA). The City sought a project that maintained the then current "GA mix", meaning, one that kept the ratio of small general aviation aircraft (single and twin engine) and general aviation jets that existed in 2019.

The City strongly advocated for and appreciated the Board's approval of land use restrictions that would preserve the majority of space available for the parking and storage of the smaller, quieter general aviation aircraft, believing that this action would maintain the strong presence of small general aviation at JWA for decades to come.

It has been brought to our attention, however, that the rapid and marked increase in general aviation rents now in place - before construction of the GAIP has even started - has sparked great concern among members of the local chapter of the Southern California Pilots Association (SoCal Pilots) and owners of small general aviation aircraft based at JWA. They assert that the rents will lead to a marked reduction in small GA at JWA. The City realizes that under the GAIP, the pilots are tenants of the Fixed Base Operators (FBOs) and not the County of Orange (County). However, we understand the SoCal Pilot's concern that the increase in rent to the FBOs by the County is now being passed through to the airport's general aviation tenants.

The City believes the Board's approval of the GAIP was done so with the express intent of preserving small general aviation at JWA. Therefore, on behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I strongly encourage you to direct your staff to work with the FBOs, So Cal Pilots, and members of the small general aviation community to resolve these rent concerns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kevin Muldoon
Mayor

cc: City Council Members