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Citizens for a Friendly Airport Objects to City/County Airport Settlement Agreement

County gets free rein to expand the Airport. City gives up control. No benefit to residents.

Carlsbad, CA/April 9, 2019 — Non-profit community organization, [Citizens for a Friendly Airport \(C4FA\)](#), strongly disapproves of the [City of Carlsbad's settlement agreement](#) with the County of San Diego in their lawsuit opposing the McClellan Palomar Airport Expansion Plan. The settlement appears to overwhelmingly benefit the County. It provides no restrictions on the expansion of Palomar Airport, and sets the stage for the offloading of air traffic from San Diego's Lindbergh Field which was the stated intent by the County Board of Supervisors when voting to approve the plan.

"The City did not fight for the residents and future of Carlsbad. Instead they gave the County free rein for the next 20 years in their intent to expand Palomar Airport to allow a runway equivalent in length to John Wayne Airport," commented Hope Nelson, C4FA representative. "Now that the City has ceded its zoning requirements, the path is clear for Palomar Airport to become a large regional airport, severely impacting our future quality of life. We maintain this agreement fails to protect Carlsbad residents, residents of surrounding communities, the environment, and their safety," she added.

The City's lawsuit settlement agreement contains favorable conditions for the County over issues not included in the original lawsuit, such as a 20-year exemption for the County and its private partners from Carlsbad's zoning requirements. To facilitate expansion, with this settlement agreement, the County also gained the right to expand outside the boundaries of the existing airport without Carlsbad voter approval per [Municipal Code 21.53.015](#).

The settlement agreement contains no progress on noise monitoring, flight curfews, or penalties for violations, all important issues for residents in the flight paths of McClellan Palomar Airport. The settlement does not address any of the environmental concerns that were the basis for the City's lawsuit, notably the County of San Diego's Climate Action Plan. The County's Climate Action Plan has been declared insufficient in three previous environmental lawsuits, all of which the County has lost. The settlement also appears to violate Whistleblower protections, limits council member communications with constituents, and limits the governing power of future elected officials.

"It's unclear what the City of Carlsbad residents truly have gained by this Agreement. Citizens for a Friendly Airport's litigation against the County is ongoing. We remain committed to representing the interests of the residents of Carlsbad, San Marcos, Encinitas, Oceanside, Vista and surrounding communities. We will see the County in court," stated Cory Briggs, Attorney representing Citizens for a Friendly Airport.

About Citizens for a Friendly Airport

Citizens for a Friendly Airport is a non-partisan, all-volunteer, non-profit enterprise organized to educate Carlsbad and surrounding communities about important McClellan-Palomar Airport issues impacting the character and quality of life in North County. C4FA is dedicated to bringing transparency to the airport planning processes; advocate on behalf of environmental issues; respect the rights and history of the Carlsbad community; and to ensure a safe, functional, and fiscally sound McClellan-Palomar Airport. ###