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Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego

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Clerk of the Superior Court
By J. Sanchez , Deputy Clerk

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Attorneys for Plaintiff and Petitioner Citizens for a
Friendly Airport

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO – CENTRAL DIVISION

CITIZENS FOR A FRIENDLY AIRPORT,

Plaintiff and Petitioner,

vs.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO; and DOES 1 through
100,

Defendants and Respondents;

UNITED AIRLINES, INC.; and DOES 101
through 1,000,

Defendants and Real Parties in
Interest.

CASE NO. 26CU002638C

**VERIFIED FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY
RELIEF AND PETITION FOR WRIT OF
MANDATE UNDER THE CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND
OTHER LAWS**

Action Filed: January 7, 2026
Department: C-71 (Pollack)

Plaintiff and Petitioner CITIZENS FOR A FRIENDLY AIRPORT ("Petitioner") alleges as
follows:

Parties

1. Petitioner is a non-profit organization formed and operating under the laws of the State
of California. At least one of Petitioner's members resides in or near the County of San Diego,
California, and has an interest in protecting the region's air quality, minimizing and ameliorating
airplane noise, ensuring informed and responsible growth, and promoting other environment-related
quality-of-life issues.

1 2. Defendant and Respondent COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO ("Respondent") is a public
2 agency under Section 21063 of the Public Resources Code. Respondent is authorized and required by
3 law to hold public hearings to determine whether the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA")
4 applies to development within its jurisdiction, to determine the adequacy of and certify environmental
5 documents prepared pursuant to CEQA, and to determine whether a project is compatible with the
6 objectives, policies, general land uses, and programs specified in the applicable land-use plans.

7 3. Petitioner is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that Defendants and Real
8 Parties in Interest UNITED AIRLINES, INC. ("RPI"), is the applicant for the proposed project (which
9 includes the related contract to which Respondent and RPI are parties) that is the subject of this lawsuit.

10 4. The true names and capacities of the Defendants/Respondents identified as DOES 1
11 through 100 and Defendants/Real Parties in Interest identified as DOES 101 through 1,000 are unknown
12 to Petitioner, who will seek the Court's permission to amend this pleading in order to allege the true
13 name and capacities as soon as they are ascertained. Petitioner is informed and believes and on that
14 basis alleges that each of the fictitiously named Defendants/Respondents 1 through 100 has jurisdiction
15 by law over one or more aspects of the proposed project that is the subject of this lawsuit and that each
16 of the fictitiously named Defendants/Real Parties in Interest 101 through 1,000 either claims an
17 ownership interest in the proposed project or has some other cognizable interest in the proposed project.

18 Background Information

19 5. On or about December 10, 2025, Respondent's board of supervisors took certain action
20 as set forth in Minute Order no. 5 (the "Project").

21 6. Petitioner opposes the Project (including all entitlements and other aspects thereof) and
22 challenges certain actions taken by Respondent as landlord of the McClellan-Palomar Airport. In
23 particular, Petitioner seeks to invalidate the Project's approval on the grounds, among others, that
24 Respondent has violated CEQA, the Planning and Zoning Law ("PZL"), and/or other laws¹; and/or has
25 also violated the judgment previously entered in and/or acted contrary to Respondent's representations
26 made in San Diego County Superior Court case no. 37-2018-00057624-CU-TT-CTL.

27
28 ¹ Despite Petitioner's request for the complete contents of the administrative record under the
California Public Records Act ("CPRA"), Respondent still has not produced all contents of the record.
Petitioner's allegations in this pleading, though legally sufficient, are based on the limited information
available to Petitioner in light of Respondent's failure to fulfill its obligations under the CPRA.
Petitioner believes that other legal violations may appear after the complete record has been produced.

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Jurisdiction and Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies

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Respondent has failed and refuses to do so and has exercised its discretion beyond the limits of and in a manner that is not consistent with those laws.

14. Petitioner has a beneficial right and interest in Respondent's fulfillment of all its legal duties, as alleged in this pleading.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:
Illegal Approval of Project
(Against All Respondents and Real Parties in Interest)

15. Paragraphs 1 through 14 are fully incorporated into this paragraph.

16. Petitioner is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that the Project does not comply with all applicable laws. By way of example and without limitation (including alternative theories of liability):

A. The Project violates CEQA. For example:

i. Whenever a project proposed to be carried out or approved by a lead agency has the potential to cause an adverse environmental impact, CEQA prohibits the agency from relying on a negative declaration. Instead, CEQA requires the preparation of an environmental impact report to identify and analyze the significant adverse environmental impacts of a proposed project, giving due consideration to both short-term and long-term impacts, providing decision-makers with enough information to enable them to make an informed decision with full knowledge of the likely consequences of their actions, and providing members of the public with enough information to participate meaningfully in the project's approval and environmental-review process. CEQA also requires every environmental impact report to identify and analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to a proposed project. CEQA further requires every environmental impact report to identify and analyze all reasonable mitigation measures for a proposed project's significant adverse environmental impacts. An environmental impact report must be prepared for a proposed project if there is a fair argument, supported by substantial evidence in the administrative record, that the project may have an adverse environmental impact; stated another way, a negative declaration may not be used unless the lead agency determines with certainty that there is no potential for the project to have an adverse environmental impact. Furthermore, after a project has been subjected to environmental review under CEQA, a new round of environmental review will be required if there have been substantial changes

1 to the project that will cause significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity
2 of previously identified effects; substantial changes in the circumstances surrounding the project require
3 major revisions due to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in their severity;
4 and/or new information previously unknown and unknowable with the exercise of reasonable diligence
5 when the prior review was performed has come to light and that information shows that the project will
6 have one or more significant environmental impacts not previously examined that will be substantially
7 more severe.

8 ii. The Project's significant direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse impacts
9 on the environment – including but not limited to substantially worse noise, worse air pollution, and/or
10 worse greenhouse-gas emissions compared to what was previously considered – give rise to
11 Respondent's legal obligation to prepare an environmental impact report specifically for the Project.

12 iii. Respondent's finding that there have been no substantial changes in the
13 Project or the circumstances under which it is being undertaken that involve significant new
14 environmental impacts that were not previously considered is not supported by substantial evidence.
15 Consequently, Respondent failed to prepare an environmental impact report specifically for the Project,
16 and that failure is a violation of CEQA.

17 iv. As a result of Respondent's violation of CEQA, Petitioner has been
18 harmed insofar as Petitioner, its members, other members of the public, and the responsible decision-
19 makers were not fully informed about the potential adverse environmental impacts of the this Project,
20 and insofar as Petitioner, its members, and other members of the public did not have an opportunity to
21 participate meaningfully in the analysis of such impacts prior to approval of the Project.

22 B. The Project violates the PZL. For example:

23 i. Respondent did not comply with the controlling conditional use permit,
24 CUP-172, issued by the City of Carlsbad, prior to approving the Project.

25 ii. Prior to and in connection with issuance of CUP-172, Respondent stated
26 that the facility commonly known today as the McClellan-Palomar Airport had been designated as a
27 General Aviation Airport and will remain so; and acknowledged that this designation precludes
28 commercial scheduled airlines from using the facility.

iii. In or around 1984, the City of Carlsbad's city council resolved that the McClellan-Palomar Airport continue to be designated as a General Aviation facility.

iv. In or around 2004, the City of Carlsbad explained that the designation refers to all types of aircraft other than certified air carriers and military aircraft.

v. In 2012, the Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”) defined “general aviation” as all non-scheduled flights other than military conducted by non-commercial aircraft, covering local recreational flying to business transport that is not operating under FAA regulations for commercial air carriers.

vi. The aviation activities authorized by the Project operate under FAA regulations for commercial air carriers.

vii. Respondent previously represented to the Court and the public that it “will seek an amendment to CUP-172 for any change in ARC [*i.e.*, Airport Reference Code] beyond the existing B-II designation in the ALP [*i.e.*, Airport Layout Plan] or prior to taking action to implement facility improvements for an ARC greater than B-II.” Since making that representation, Respondent has effectively changed the ARC by allowing commercial aircraft greater than the B-II designation and/or has taken action to implement improvements for an ARC greater than B-II but has not sought an amendment to CUP-172.

viii. In light of the foregoing designation and definition, the Project authorizes the use of aircraft and/or flights that do not qualify as General Aviation within the scope of CUP-172 at the time it was issued.

17. There is currently a dispute between Petitioner and the other parties to this lawsuit over the Project's legal force and effect. Petitioner contends that the Project's approval has no legal force or effect because it violates CEQA and/or one or more other applicable laws. The other parties to this lawsuit dispute Petitioner's contention. The parties therefore require a judicial determination of the legal force and effect (if any) of the Project's approval.

Prayer

FOR ALL THESE REASONS, Petitioner respectfully prays for the following relief against all Defendants/Respondents and all Defendants/Real Parties in Interest (and any all other parties who may oppose Petitioner in this lawsuit):

1 A. A judgment or other appropriate order determining or declaring that
2 Defendants/Respondents failed to fully comply with CEQA, the PZL, and/or one or more other
3 applicable laws as they relate to the Project and that there must be full compliance therewith before final
4 approval and implementation of the Project may occur;

5 B. A judgment or other appropriate order determining or declaring that
6 Defendants/Respondents failed to comply with CEQA, the PZL, and/or one or more other applicable
7 laws as they relate to the Project and that its approval was illegal in at least some respect, rendering the
8 approval (including any subsequent actions or omissions based on the approval) null and void;

9 C. Injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants/Respondents and Defendants/Real Parties in
10 Interest (and any and all persons acting at the request of, in concert with, or for the benefit of one or
11 more of them) from taking any action on any aspect of, in furtherance of, or otherwise based on the
12 Project unless and until Defendants/Respondents comply with CEQA, the PZL, and all other applicable
13 laws, as determined by the Court;

14 D. Any and all other relief that may be authorized by CEQA, the PZL, or other applicable
15 laws, or any combination of them, but is not explicitly or specifically requested elsewhere in this Prayer;

16 E. Any and all legal fees and other expenses incurred by Petitioner in connection with this
17 lawsuit, including but not limited to reasonable attorney fees as authorized by the Code of Civil
18 Procedure; and

19 F. Any and all further relief that this Court may deem appropriate.

20 Date: August 3, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

21 BRIGGS LAW CORPORATION

22 By: Cory J. Briggs
23 Cory J. Briggs

24 Attorneys for Plaintiff and Petitioner Citizens for a
25 Friendly Airport
26
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**FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND PETITION
FOR WRIT OF MANDATE UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY ACT AND OTHER LAWS**

Exhibit "A"



99 East "C" Street, Suite 203
Upland, CA 91786
T: 909-949-7115
F: 909-949-7121

BLC File(s): 1977.04

7 January 2026

Andrew Potter, Board Clerk
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402
San Diego, CA 92101

Via E-mail to Andrew.Potter@sdcountry.ca.gov

Re: Notice of Commencement of Action

Dear Board Clerk:

I represent Citizens for a Friendly Airport and am sending this Notice of Commencement of Action on my client's behalf.

Please be advised that an action is to be commenced by my client in San Diego County Superior Court against your agency. The action will challenge your agency's approval of the project that was the subject of Item 5 on the December 10, 2025 agenda of the Board of Supervisors (MCCLELLAN-PALOMAR AIRPORT - APPROVE LEASE WITH UNITED AIRLINES AND RELATED CEQA FINDING), on the grounds that the approval violated the California Environmental Quality Act (PUB. RES. CODE § 21000 *et seq.*). The action may also challenge your agency's approval of the project based on one or more violations of other laws.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

BRIGGS LAW CORPORATION

Cory J. Briggs



Cory Briggs

From: Cory Briggs
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 9:29 AM
To: Potter, Andrew
Subject: Notice of Commencement of Action
Attachments: ExA_2026-01-07_NCA.pdf

Please see the attached time-sensitive correspondence. Thank you.

Cory J. Briggs
Briggs Law Corporation
99 East "C" Street, Suite 203, Upland, CA 91786
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VERIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF San Diego

I have read the foregoing FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF AND PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE etc. and know its contents.

☒ CHECK APPLICABLE PARAGRAPH

- ☐ I am a party to this action. The matters stated in the foregoing document are true of my own knowledge except as to those matters which are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

☒ I am ☐ an Officer ☐ a partner ☒ a member of Citizens for a Friendly

Airport

a party to this action, and am authorized to make this verification for and on its behalf, and I make this verification for that reason. ☒ I am informed and believe and on that ground allege that the matters stated in the foregoing document are true. ☐ The matters stated in the foregoing document are true of my own knowledge except as to those matters which are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

- ☐ I am one of the attorneys for

a party to this action. Such party is absent from the county of aforesaid where such attorneys have their offices, and I make this verification for and on behalf of that party for that reason. I am informed and believe and on that ground allege that the matters stated in the foregoing document are true.

Executed on August 3, 20 26, at Carlsbad, California.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Victoria Syage

Type or Print Name

Victoria Syage
Signature

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF

I am employed in the county of _____, State of California.
I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is, _____

On _____, 20 _____, I served the foregoing document described as _____

on _____

in this action

- ☐ by placing the true copies thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed as stated on the attached mailing list;
☐ by placing ☐ the original ☐ a true copy thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed as follows:

- ☐ BY MAIL

☐ I deposited such envelope in the mail at _____, California.

The envelope was mailed with postage thereon fully prepaid.

☐ As follows I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with U.S. postal service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at _____ California in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

Executed on _____, 20 _____, at _____, California.

- ☐ ** (BY PERSONAL SERVICE) I delivered such envelope by hand to the offices of the addressee.

Executed on _____, 20 _____, at _____, California.

- ☐ (State) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct. I
☐ (Federal) declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made.

Type or Print Name

Signature

* IF BY MAIL SIGNATURE MUST BE OF PERSON DEPOSITING ENVELOPE IN MAIL SLOT, BOX, OR BAG

** FOR PERSONAL SERVICE SIGNATURE MUST BE THAT OF MESSENGER

PROOF OF SERVICE

1. My name is Keri Taylor. I am over the age of eighteen. I am employed in the State of California, County of San Bernardino.

2. My ☒ business residence address is Briggs Law Corporation, 99 East "C" Street, Suite 230 Upland, CA 91786.

3. On August 3, 2026, I served an original copy ☒ a true and correct copy of the following documents: Verified First Amended Complaint

4. I served the documents on the person(s) identified on the attached mailing/service list as follows:

by personal service. I personally delivered the documents to the person(s) at the address(es) indicated on the list.

by U.S. mail. I sealed the documents in an envelope or package addressed to the person(s) at the address(es) indicated on the list, with first-class postage fully prepaid, and then I

deposited the envelope/package with the U.S. Postal Service

placed the envelope/package in a box for outgoing mail in accordance with my office's ordinary practices for collecting and processing outgoing mail, with which I am readily familiar. On the same day that mail is placed in the box for outgoing mail, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the U.S. Postal Service.

I am a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. The mailing occurred in the city of Upland, California.

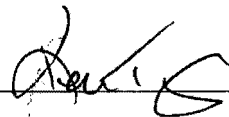
by overnight delivery. I sealed the documents in an envelope/package provided by an overnight-delivery service and addressed to the person(s) at the address(es) indicated on the list, and then I placed the envelope/package for collection and overnight delivery in the service's box regularly utilized for receiving items for overnight delivery or at the service's office where such items are accepted for overnight delivery.

by facsimile transmission. Based on an agreement of the parties or a court order, I sent the documents to the person(s) at the fax number(s) shown on the list. Afterward, the fax machine from which the documents were sent reported that they were sent successfully.

☒ by e-mail delivery. Based on the parties' agreement or a court order or rule, I sent the documents to the person(s) at the e-mail address(es) shown on the list. I did not receive, within a reasonable period of time afterward, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States ☒ of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: August 3, 2026

Signature: 

SERVICE LIST

Citizens for a Friendly Airport v. County of San Diego,
San Diego County Superior Court case no. 26CU002638C

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