

Palomar Airport: Carlsbad's Settlement Agreement, Part II, 235

Oh my !!!

By Raymond Bender, Neighbor | Apr 12, 2019 10:00 am ET

It could be a bumpy ride. Hang on. Let's take the Carlsbad Settlement Agreement [SA], which settled the Carlsbad November 2018 CEQA suit against the county, for a test flight. Does it Soar or Crash and Burn?

Preliminaries

Last year, Carlsbad filed 48 pages of objections to the County 2018 McClellan-Palomar [Palomar] Master Plan [PMP] and the PMP EIR. Carlsbad stressed how poor the county's EIR was, especially the Greenhouse Gas Analysis. Carlsbad devoted perhaps 2 pages to commenting on county mitigating airport expansion impacts.

The PMP says county wishes to convert the airport from an FAA-rated B-II airport handling mainly, smaller aircraft to a D-III airport handling much larger, faster, fuel-laden aircraft.

After surviving the November 2018 election – without prior notice to Carlsbad residents and after hiding out for hours in closed session – the council barely whispered the SA terms last month in open session. The council took only minutes to provide a thimbleful of SA terms, leaving many unusual terms unsaid.

Carlsbad April 9, 2019 Claims and Community Responses

In an April 9 letter to the City Council, Carlsbad staff scrambled to list 5 reasons why the SA was a good deal. You be the judge.

- Mitigation. Carlsbad says county has promised mitigation beyond the "minimum" required by law. Carlsbad's claim is doubtful for two reasons. First, county's EIR mitigation promises are akin to nailing jello to a wall. For instance, county's EIR "noise mitigation" promise says:

"L3-78 Once project specific activities are proposed that would warrant construction noise mitigation measures, the County is amenable in coordinating with the City of Carlsbad to consider City requirements and comments as deemed applicable." [See County Program EIR Attachment D-102.]

If you are a very good negotiator, you might allow a contract to have one "weasel phrase." Five weasel phrases are extraordinary. Do Carlsbad council members not see they are the mouse and the county airport the python ready to devour Carlsbad whenever the python is hungry?

Want proof? Just look at the Palomar Airport slopes along Palomar Airport Road and El Camino Real. They are butt-ugly 7 months of the year in the middle of Carlsbad's scenic corridor. Yet Carlsbad has begged county since 1980 to beautify them. Doesn't that Carlsbad-county "*coordination to consider as deemed applicable*" look beautiful?

Oh. And what did Carlsbad get for its other 46 pages of EIR comments? Nada. As you will see in the next article.

<https://patch.com/california/carlsbad/palomar-airport-carlsbad-s-settlement-agreement-part-ii-235>