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Protect the Planet

June 5, 2019

To: Mr. Roger Griffiths
County of San Diego Planning Commission
Planning & Development Services
Submitted via email

Position Statement: McClellan-Palomar Airport Master Plan Project

We oppose the McClellan-Palomar Airport Master Plan Project. This project has been characterized by the County of San Diego as "safety enhancements" and by the community as an "expansion."

On October 10, 2018 the San Diego County Board of Supervisors unilaterally changed its designation from a B-II airport to a D-III airport against the recommendation of County Staff and the Palomar Airport Advisory Committee. Alternative D-III will result in the largest increase in airport operations and produce the greatest adverse impacts.

The project's approval and EIR certification were challenged by a local community group, Citizens for a Friendly Airport, along with the City of Carlsbad. Both of these challenges identified numerous significant adverse impacts with the proposed project that had not been adequately addressed. There are five environmental issues of concern that were common to both legal challenges: air quality, traffic and transportation, greenhouse gasses (GHG), land use, and hydrology/water quality.

On March 27, 2019 the City of Carlsbad executed a settlement agreement with the County of San Diego that resolved their legal challenge but the settlement failed to address the adverse environmental impacts of the project that were the basis of the City's legal challenge.

We oppose this project because of significant adverse environmental impacts that have been documented throughout numerous comments and legal challenges to this project. Of particular concern is the increased impacts from GHG emissions. The airport site falls under the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP) and all environmental impacts must be mitigated through the County's CAP which remains the subject of on-going legal challenges by the Sierra Club.

Sincerely,

Sally Prendergast
Chairperson, Sierra Club
North County Coastal Group

Peter Anderson
Chairperson, Sierra Club
San Diego Chapter

Cc: San Diego County Board of Supervisors – submitted via emails
Carlsbad City Council Members – submitted via emails
Mr. Matt Hall, Carlsbad City Major – submitted via email