

Palomar Airport: The Carlsbad Settlement Agreement, Part VI, 239

Ignoring the Public: An Open Letter to Council Members

Apr 29, 2019 12:44 pm ET

Last month, Carlsbad council members hid in Closed Session to approve a Settlement Agreement [SA] with the county. The council dismissed its 2018 CEQA Palomar Airport suit without Carlsbad resident input. Council Woman Cori Schumacher voted against the SA. See Bender Patch articles #234, 235, 236, 237, and 238 posted in the last few weeks.

In 2016, Mayor Matt Hall, council member Keith Blackburn, and former council members at the Twelfth Hour also disrespected Carlsbad residents. Despite repeated promises to allow a vote on the proposed Caruso Mall project – the council sent Carlsbad voters packing. Street-walking for a citizen initiative. Residents rebelled and sunk the Mall at the initiative-driven vote. See Bender Patch article #169.

In 2013, Carlsbad Mayor Matt Hall, council member Keith Blackburn and former council members again ignored the public. After more Palomar-related Closed Sessions providing little info to the public, the City Manager withdrew a letter previously sent to the FAA related to Carlsbad Palomar Airport restrictions. See Patch articles # 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39.

So you have to wonder what info Hall and Blackburn feed new Council members Barbara Hamilton and Priya Bhat-Patel. Especially when Carlsbad City Charter § 300 (Local Growth Control Limits), says in part:

"The intent of this Charter is to allow the City Council and the voters to exercise the maximum degree of control over land use matters within the City of Carlsbad."

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Hall want to grow Carlsbad business. They have no interest keeping Carlsbad a smaller, resident friendly community. The county and Carlsbad agreed in 1980 to Carlsbad Conditional Use Permit (CUP) 172, which required Palomar to remain a smaller General Aviation Basic Transport Airport.

The above noted Carlsbad City Manager FAA withdrawal letter suggested that the FAA no longer classifies airports as GA Basic Transport. Yet the Appendices to the current FAA National Plan of Integrated Airports System (NPIAS) report continues to use the term and classification.

So when will the Carlsbad council report fact, not fiction?

It is time that Mayor Matt Hall and council member Keith Blackburn seek a formal City Attorney opinion: Do they have an actual conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict of interest when they act on McClellan-Palomar Airport matters as a result of the considerable interests that they hold directly or indirectly in Carlsbad commercial properties? The facts please. And a written city attorney opinion walking the facts and law to the conclusion.

<https://patch.com/california/carlsbad/palomar-airport-carlsbad-settlement-agreement-part-vi-239>