

Palomar Airport: Carlsbad Council Chicanery, Part 1, 234

Does the council represent the people?

By Raymond Bender, Neighbor | Apr 10, 2019 1:52 pm ET | Updated Apr 10, 2019 1:53 pm ET

Have you ever wondered which hurts more? Saying something you wish you hadn't. Or, failing to say something you wish you had. Not my original thought. But one you might consider when judging the Carlsbad City Council actions over the last year related to McClellan-Palomar Airport [Palomar] expansion.

What should we think about a City Council that –

- Pre city council elections, hires a Denver law firm [KKR] at great taxpayer expense to craft a strategy to avoid the county overrunning Carlsbad with ever larger aircraft;
- As city council elections approach, soothes the Carlsbad gullible by filing 41 pages of Palomar Master Plan EIR comments and then challenges the EIR in court;
- For a few weeks after the city council elections, pets the gullible by proposing a new zoning ordinance to avoid airport expansion as KKR recommended; and then
- Without ever going to court and after being safely seated in cushy, council seats, settles the lawsuit in March 2019 and withdraws its new zoning ordinance without informing Carlsbad residents in advance and without allowing Carlsbad residents to vote on the settlement.

Recall that Carlsbad Municipal Code § 21.53.015 requires the Carlsbad Council to allow Carlsbad residents to vote when Palomar expands and when a county airport action triggers a Carlsbad council action.

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