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County Board of Supervisors Approves Smaller, Friendly McClellan Palomar Airport Master Plan

San Diego County Board of Supervisors votes to retain the B-II classification of the McClellan-Palomar Airport and denies the expansion of the airport.

Carlsbad, CA/December 13, 2021 – Last Wednesday, December 8, 2021, was a historic day for the residents of San Diego County. The **San Diego County Board of Supervisors (BOS)** approved a Palomar Airport plan to keep Palomar as a **SMALLER** airport .

In 2018, the old termed-out BOS voted to expand Palomar Airport to be a D-III rated airport, which would accommodate much larger jets, and build a new runway 800 feet longer than the current one. The new planned runway would have been 4 feet shorter than the runway at John Wayne Airport in Orange County. *Citizens for a Friendly Airport (C4FA)* sued and won. The current BOS rescinded the old plan in May 2021, and last Wednesday passed a new one that:

- **Retains Palomar Airport's rating at its current B-II level** (much smaller planes)
- **Adds EMAS** ("runaway truck stop" for airplanes) on the west end of the existing runway
- **Permits a 200-foot runway extension on the east end of the EXISTING runway for safety.**
- **Provides a public process for the Board of Supervisors to consider expansion to a proposed D-III airport at a future date.**

“Though it is not perfect, a low impact expansion of the B-II airport is considerably better than the decision for a D-III airport by the previous Board of Supervisors, which was the decision that C4FA’s lawsuit stopped.” stated Hope Nelson, C4FA President. Ms. Nelson continued, “Our community will be happy to know that this airport never needs to expand to be a D-III airport if the City of Carlsbad asserts its control over the airport by not signing a new Conditional Use Permit, if and when the time comes. It is now time for the City of Carlsbad to exert the authority which was handed to them as a result of C4FA’s legal victory against the County’s 2018 Master Plan.”

About Citizens for a Friendly Airport

Citizens for a Friendly Airport is a non-partisan, all-volunteer, non-profit enterprise organized to educate Carlsbad and surrounding communities about important McClellan-Palomar Airport issues impacting the character and quality of life in North County. C4FA is dedicated to bringing transparency to the airport planning processes; advocate on behalf of environmental issues; respect the rights and history of the Carlsbad community; and to ensure a safe, functional, and fiscally sound McClellan-Palomar Airport. ###