Lisa A. Bartlett, Chairwoman
September 7, 2019

Orange County Board of Supervisors
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: RFP for Fixed Based Operators for the General Aviation Improvement Program

Chairwoman Bartlett and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

So Cal Pilots and the Associations representing the communities surrounding John Wayne Airport are appreciative that 34.6 acres will be designated solely for planes under 49’ wingspan and 12,500 pounds. However, this definition includes more than 50 types of Jets which is about half of the General Aviation Jet Fleet. We appreciate your actions at the June 25th Board of Supervisors meeting where you demonstrated your willingness to maintain the balance of aircraft types that exist on the field today.

The current draft of the RFP does not contain language that will ensure the existing balance of jets and small propeller driven aircraft is maintained. Without the specific language we are requesting, larger community hangars could be built. Economic forces will favor jets paying higher rents and small propeller driven airplanes will be displaced. Jets will not fit into a 40-foot wide hangar. Therefore, we are requesting that the following language be added to the questionnaire on page 270 of the RFP:

In the area dedicated to ‘light general aviation’ specify your plan and commitment for maintaining the existing balance of individual hangar widths of 40’ (76%), 50’ (15%), and 60’ (9%) respectively. This excludes maintenance hangars in the “limited service FBO” parcel.

As we understand it, the spirit of the RFP is to maintain the current aircraft balance and protect small propeller driven light GA. This language must be added to the RFP to ensure that the scoring process will include this critical area. Since this addition is not a contractual term, there is no binding restriction implied. We are merely asking for visibility into the prospective bidder’s intentions through the questionnaire responses. This proposed language is in the spirit of the FAA Grant Assurance #22 Economic Non-Discrimination and will ensure that a large number of small planes are not displaced. Please support your communities and pilots by adding this very important language to the RFP.

Board Member, So Cal Pilots  President, Airport Working Group  Board Member, SPON