



September 4, 2019

Santa Monica Landmarks Commission
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401

VIA EMAIL

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cc: Steve Mizokami: planning@smgov.net

Re: Support for Compass Rose at Santa Monica Airport

Dear Commissioners:

The Aircraft Owner and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest aviation membership organization made up of 330,000 pilots, aircraft owners and general aviation enthusiasts including nearly 37,000 in the State of California. We are writing to support The 99s of the Los Angeles Area, Inc.'s nomination to designate the Compass Rose at Santa Monica Airport (SMO) as a Santa Monica Landmark.

In the early 20th century, the aviation industry played a significant role in the growth and development of Santa Monica. The Douglas Aircraft Company moved to the Santa Monica Airport in 1929 contributing to the growth of the airport and population of the city. Legendary aviators including Amelia Earhart, Pancho Barnes, Bobbi Trout, Blanche Noyes and Phoebe Omlie made use of SMO. The first Women's Air Derby, an event which had an indisputable impact on the future of women in aviation, began at the Santa Monica Airport in 1929.

The Compass Rose is emblematic of over 90 years of the history of women in aviation, with roots grounded in Santa Monica. The Landmark Commission's role is to protect our cultural, social and political history and promote the use of landmarks and structures for the education and pleasure of the residents, workers and visitors of Santa Monica, in such a way as to show the full range of its heritage.

The formation of the Ninety Nines International Association of Women Pilots - an organization that continues to support and encourage women pilots throughout the world was founded in Santa Monica following the Air Derby. The Compass Rose, the trademark logo of the Ninety-Nines, was designed by Los Angeles Chapter member Wilma Fritschy in 1939 and continues to symbolize the history and traditions of the organization today.

Since there is no other site of its kind in Santa Monica, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to save a cultural and historic Landmark identified with historic personages that embodies the use of a unique design in a unique location.

AOPA strongly supports the designation of the Compass Rose at Santa Monica Airport as a Santa Monica Landmark.

Regards,



JIM COON

Senior Vice President, Government Affairs and Advocacy