



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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April 23, 2007

Mr. David B. Johnson
VP, Terminal Operations
FAA
Orville Wright Bldg. (FOB10A)
800 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. ^{Bruce}Johnson,

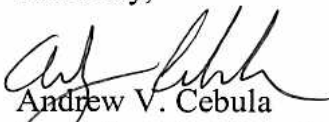
The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing over 410,000 pilots, including more than 50,000 in California, requests public meetings on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) plan to consolidate radar functions in Southern California. In June, the FAA intends to move the Palm Springs Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) to the Southern California (SoCal) TRACON. We understand that the FAA intends to remote services from Palm Springs at nighttime and provide these from Los Angeles Air Traffic Control Center.

There are concerns that these combined actions could create unintended impacts on general aviation, including delays and a reduction in service at numerous airports in Southern California, including Palm Springs International Airport (PSP). To address these and other questions, the FAA should hold public meetings prior to moving forward with its consolidation plan. This will assist the affected pilot community and allow the FAA to fully explore the impact that the Palm Springs TRACON consolidation will have on aviation safety and operational efficiency.

Because of the importance for these public meetings, the FAA should delay its planned consolidation until such meetings take place and all of the issues surrounding the matter are resolved.

As you know, Southern California boasts some of the busiest airspace in the nation, with more than 220,000 annual operations at the existing Palm Springs TRACON. The FAA must fully examine the effects of the consolidation in conjunction with the aviation community before making such a significant change to the air traffic system.

Sincerely,


Andrew V. Cebula
Executive Vice President
Government Affairs

cc: William Withycomb, Regional Administrator