



**AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION**

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July 3, 2007

Mr. Mark McClardy  
Division Manager  
Western-Pacific Region Airports Division  
15000 Aviation Boulevard, Room 3012  
Lawndale, CA 90261  
Via Fax (310) 725-6847

Reference: Request for release of airport property by City of Delano, CA

Dear Mark:

I enjoyed discussing a number of airport issues with you during the Third Annual Western Pacific FAA Airports Conference. As we discussed at that time, one of the top three issues of most concern to our 412,000 members nationwide is the continued viability of general aviation airports. Additionally, thanks for the mention of our efforts and collaboration regarding the Oceanside issue that was highlighted in the Airports Division Western-Pacific Region 2006 Annual Report. The picture of all of us together took me by complete surprise! Thanks again.

We have just learned that the City of Delano is seeking FAA approval of their request to release eight-acres of airport property located on the west side of Delano Municipal Airport (DLO). This parcel will be used for relocation of a tractor supply business that the city plans to displace in order to make room for commercial redevelopment and shopping facilities on the existing tractor business site. Additionally, the city is asking FAA to release and set-aside another eight-acres of airport property so that they can market this property as usable for non-aviation related business development.

AOPA is strongly opposed to the release of these properties and reclassification of airport property to non-aviation uses. We urge you to reject the city's request for release.

Delano Municipal Airport was conveyed to a local civil sponsor by the federal government for use as a public use airport. Unfortunately though, since that time, the sponsor has continually whittled away at airport property for non-aviation uses to the extent that only property on the west side of the airport is usable for aviation related purposes; the same property the city is asking the FAA to release to non-aviation uses.

There is an abundant amount of vacant property to the east of the airport that while currently undeveloped, would be more appropriate for non-aviation uses. Property that has the necessary infrastructure in place and development potential for aviation uses should remain encumbered to aviation and only aviation purposes. Once released, the

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parcels will be lost to future aviation demands. It would be much better to ensure those properties are available for future needs than for the city to be myopic and only see short term gains at the expense of the airport.

Please feel free to call me should you wish to discuss this matter. You may reach me at 301-695-2205 or by e-mail at [Bill.Dunn@aopa.org](mailto:Bill.Dunn@aopa.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Dunn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Dunn  
Vice President  
Airports

cc: Brian Armstrong – LAX ADO  
Tony Garcia  
Sam Kruger, AOPA ASN  
John Pfeifer