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October 27, 2008

The Honorable Edward J. Chavez
Mayor, City of Stockton
345 North Ed Dorado Street
Stockton, California 95202

RE: Tidewater Crossing Master Plan Development Project

Dear Mayor Chavez:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of more than 414,000 pilots nationwide, including more than 50,000 members in the state of California. On behalf of our membership, AOPA is committed to ensuring the future viability and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as part of a national transportation system.

We are writing to express the Association's concerns regarding the proposed development known as Tidewater Crossing immediately adjacent and south of the Stockton Metropolitan Airport (SCK). If approved, the residential and school portions of the development have the potential to significantly impact operations at the airport by allowing more than 2,100 homes on 880 acres south and east of the airport. Past experience in working with airports nationwide has shown that residential development and schools in close proximity to an airport creates poor public policy.

AOPA has long advocated for compatible development in and around airports. The County of San Joaquin, by accepting federal funds for the development of the airport, has assured the Federal Aviation Administration that, "it will take appropriate action, to the extent reasonable, including the adoption of zoning laws, to restrict the use of land adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the airport to activities and purposes compatible with normal airport operations, including landing and takeoff of aircraft."

Based on our understanding, the City of Stockton Planning Commission recently approved the Tidewater Crossing project. However, it appears the project was reviewed and found compliant using outdated guidelines found in the San Joaquin County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) dated 1993. This ALUCP is currently being revised by the San Joaquin County Council of Governments that has been tasked to act as the County Airport Land Use Commission.

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AOPA strongly recommends that the City of Stockton adopt a moratorium on development until such time as the ALUCP has been updated and the Tidewater Crossing project is vetted and complies with the updated plan. If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact our office at 301-695-2200.

Sincerely,



Heidi J. Williams

Senior Director

Airports

cc:

District 1 - Councilmember Steve J. Bestolarides

District 2 - Councilmember Dan J. Chapman

District 3 - Councilmember Leslie Baranco Martin

District 4 - Councilmember Clem Lee

District 5 - Councilmember Susan Talamantes Eggman

District 6 - Councilmember Rebecca G. Nabors