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October 26, 2008

The Honorable Bradford Lewis
City of San Carlos Council Members
City Hall
600 Elm Street
San Carlos, CA 94070

Re: Proposed Mixed-Use Development at 767 Industrial Road Near San Carlos Airport

Dear Mayor Lewis and City Council Members:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of 414,000 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots – including 49,703 of our 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 on behalf of our members who use the San Carlos Airport to express our concerns about a proposed mixed-use (commercial/residential) development at 767 Industrial Road across from the airport. AOPA requests that the City Council and Planning Commission deny the requested general plan amendment and zoning ordinance text amendment for this project. We support the recommendations made by the Airport Land Use Committee of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) in their October 3, 2008 letter to the City Council and Planning Commission.

Based on our analysis, the project will include two four story residential buildings that will lie underneath the current helicopter traffic pattern at the airport and also be subject to fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter overflights and noise impacts. Allowing residential development in close proximity to an active general aviation airport such as SQL and within a known traffic pattern and flight corridor is not in the best interests of the public or current airport users.

AOPA recommends the City decline the request for the proposed mixed-use development and look for more compatible land uses that complement the existing airport.

Thank you for considering our views on this issue. If we can be of further assistance please contact us at 301-695-2200.

Sincerely,

John L. Collins
Senior Liaison
Airports

cc:

Mr. Richard Newman, Chairperson, C/CAG Airport Land Use Committee