



**U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Aviation  
Administration**

**San Francisco Airports District Office  
831 Mitten Road, Room 210  
Burlingame, California 94010-1303**

September 24, 2009

Mr. Carl Honaker, Director of Airports  
County of Santa Clara  
Roads and Airports Department  
2500 Cunningham Avenue  
San Jose, California 95148

Dear Mr. Honaker:

Subject: Proposed Composting Site at Palo Alto Airport  
Palo Alto, California

It has come to the attention of the San Francisco Airports District Office (ADO) that the City of Palo Alto may be considering locating a composting site at Palo Alto Airport. Following our review of the draft Compose Taskforce Report, we are providing comments based on the following factors:

1. Airport land for the proposed site is airside property that represents prime aviation use land.
2. The Airport Layout Plan (ALP) shows that the proposed site has a planned aviation use.
3. The proposed project will prevent airport land from being used for aeronautical purposes, in effect displacing future aviation uses.
4. There is no landside property that is excess to airport needs and that can be converted to a non-aviation use, including the proposed site. It cannot be said that the proposed site is "not needed for airport purposes."
5. The proposed composting site may create a wildlife hazard problem for aircraft landing and taking off at the airport.

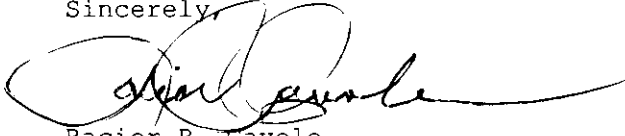
Palo Alto Airport is a busy General Aviation (GA) airport with 247 based aircraft and almost 189,000 operations. The airport serves the civil aviation needs of the Santa Clara County and the clear and present needs of civil aviation should not be sacrificed for a composting facility.

These factors dictate against the proposal to locate a composting facility on airport property. Justification does not exist to allow airport property to be converted to a non-aeronautical use. In view of the circumstances, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) cannot

support the proposal and objects to the proposed use of airport land for the composting site. We expect the City to comply with its signed Airport Sponsor Grant Assurances obligations about restricting incompatible land uses as discussed under Section C, *Sponsor Certification, Paragraph 21, Compatible Land Use.*

Please contact our office at (650) 876-2778, X627, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raciore R. Cavole", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Raciore R. Cavole  
Airports Compliance Specialist