



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

421 Aviation Way • Frederick, MD 21701-4798
Telephone (301) 695-2000 • Fax (301) 695-2375
www.aopa.org

August 1, 2007

Mr. Bruce Krantz, Chair
Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Parkside Nazerene Church and Legacy Christian School (PCPM 2006 0608) ALUC
Case No.: 2006/2007 – 05

Dear Supervisor Krantz:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of 413,000 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots – including 50,675 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.

After our review of information available to us regarding a proposed school in very close proximity to the Auburn Municipal Airport (AUN), we were extremely disappointed to learn that the County Board of Supervisors is preparing to override a determination made by the Placer County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) which declared the proposed school as incompatible use of land near the airport.

AOPA strongly supports the determination made by the ALUC concerning the establishment of a middle school at the Parkside Nazerene Church as being inconsistent with the ALUC policies. It is the responsibility of the ALUC to protect not only the airport environment from incompatible land uses but also to ensure the safety of the general public and members of the local community. Their determination that the school is incompatible with airport operations has done exactly that.

It is our firm belief that overruling the Airport Land Use Commission's determination of incompatibility due to safety will be detrimental to both the students and the Auburn airport. Additionally, we believe that it will set a bad precedent to enable and allow other non-compatible uses in established zones around AUN. AOPA has consistently opposed placement of schools within two miles of an airport. This proposed school location is approximately 1.15 miles west of AUN.

When the County adopted the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan in 2000 certain existing incompatible land uses were grandfathered into the land use plan developed. We are aware that some of them are even closer to the airport than this proposal. However, pre-existing incompatible land use should not be a justification to continue allowing such uses near the airport.

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Such uses would be contrary to promoting and protecting the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of Auburn and not supportive of the overall intent of the policy developed by the ALUC.

AOPA respectfully requests that the ALUC determination declaring the school site as incompatible remain and that use of this site for school use be denied.

Thank you for considering our views on this important issue. If we can be of further assistance please contact our staff.

Sincerely,



John L. Collins
Senior Liaison
AOPA Airports Department

cc:

Mr. Jerry Martin, Manager, Auburn Municipal Airport

Ms. Celia McAdam, AICP, Executive Director, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency

Mrs. Joanne McDermott, Associate Aviation Planner, CalTrans Division of Aeronautics

Mr. Andrew Richards, Manager, FAA San Francisco Airports District Office

Mr. John Pfeifer, AOPA California Regional Representative

Mr. Wayne Manning, AOPA Airport Support Network Volunteer AUN