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[www.aopa.org](http://www.aopa.org)

September 23, 2010

Mr. Gary Edwards  
Town Manager  
Town of Wickenburg  
155 North Tegner Street  
Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Dear Mr. Edwards:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of 412,000 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots, including nearly 12,000 members in the State of Arizona. AOPA is committed to ensuring the future viability and economic development of general aviation airports and their facilities as a vital part of a state and national transportation system. Additionally, the Association works diligently to ensure that these airports are maintained in a safe condition without the unnecessary creation of hazards to the safe operation of aircraft at the airport.

It has come to our attention that the town is considering placement of a refuse transfer station immediately adjacent to the runway at the airport. It is our belief that moving forward with this project has the potential to create a significant threat to the safety of aircraft operating at the airport. Waste transfer stations that are not covered, such as is being proposed, have a very strong likelihood of attracting birds.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has developed very detailed guidance for airport sponsors such as Wickenburg. This guidance is contained in FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5200-33B; released August 28, 2007. The AC very clearly defines the distance required for citing facilities that may attract birds. The distance required for airports with piston only aircraft operations is a minimum of 5,000 feet while airports that support the operation of turbine aircraft must locate these facilities at least 10,000 feet from the active runway.

As the airport's legal sponsor, the town has received federal airport development funding. Those funds come with federal grant assurances that bind the town to a number of obligations. These obligations require the town to protect the airport from incompatible land uses adjacent to the airport. Additionally, since the town has received federal funding, application of the guidance contained in the aforementioned Advisory Circular is mandatory. Failure to follow the FAA processes could lead to violations of grant assurances and cause the FAA to withhold future airport development funding from the airport.

After you have had the opportunity to fully review the guidance contained in the Advisory Circular, we trust you will reconsider the placement of this facility and select a more suitable location.

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We appreciate you considering our views on this important subject.

Sincerely,



Bill Dunn  
Vice President  
Airport Advocacy

cc: Mr. Rick Austen  
Public Works Director

Brian Armstrong, Manager  
FAA Los Angeles Airport District Office