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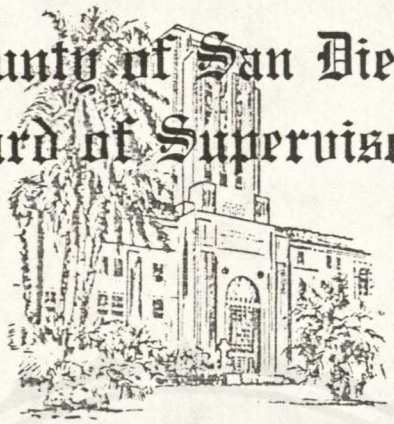
County of San Diego
Board of Supervisors



National & State Boards:

National Association of Counties

County Supervisors Association of California

Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Authority

Southern California Regional Association of Counties

Regional Boards:

Metropolitan Transit Development Board

San Diego Regional Water Reclamation Agency

City/County Reinvestment Task Force

Regional Task Force on The Homeless

LEON L. WILLIAMS
SUPERVISOR
FOURTH DISTRICT

March 26, 1992

Mr. David R. Hand
1333 Los Coches Court
Chula Vista, CA 91910-7112

Dear Mr. Hand:

Thank you for your comments regarding an alternative airport site for the County of San Diego. I appreciate you taking the time to write.

The Board of Supervisors has long recognized that we are outgrowing Lindbergh Field. Your idea of a regional airport served by commuter planes closely parallels the joint study this Board commissioned in conjunction with Imperial County in March of 1990. The purpose of the study was to analyze the viability of locating a regional airport in Imperial County. The scope of the study encompassed not only the aviation needs for the region, but also evaluated facility requirements, environmental impacts, site analysis, financial requirements, and ground accessibility.

The study was completed in January of this year, and presented to the Board of Supervisors in early February. The consultant concluded that a Regional Airport in Imperial County is feasible, but has a significant cost associated with high speed rail access.

I have reservations about the real feasibility of this project. Our airport needs to be able to handle not only passengers but large volumes of international freight and commerce. This latter need is not met by a distant Regional airport such as the study proposes.

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Our competitivenss on a national and international level will be largely affected by our ability to bring freight directly into the city, not deposited in Imperial County and faced with the need to transfer to several smaller planes or trucked several hours over the highways to get to us.

The Board has accepted the consultant's report, authorized distribution to all concerned parties for their comment, and requested a follow up report in approximately 120 days. Your suggestions will be reviewed for possible inclusion in the follow up report.

Again, I thank you for your interest in this issue. If you would like a copy of the findings of the joint study, please contact Mr. Roger Walsh of the Department of Public Works (694-2231). You may also wish to contact the "San Diego Dialogue" (534-3435) for a copy of their recently released study on San Diego's Airport Options. If my staff or I can be of assistance to you in the future, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Leon L. Williams
Supervisor, Fourth District

LLW:cmc

cc: Department of Public Works