

Eastbluff Homeowners Community Association

JWA General Aviation Improvement Project Update

June 26, 2019

OC Supervisors Unanimously Approve Revised Option for General Aviation Improvement Program

The plan includes many of the elements of the project alternative supported by Newport Beach and other cities impacted by John Wayne Airport's operations.

On Tuesday, June 25, the Orange County Board of Supervisors approved a plan for its General Aviation Improvement Program (GAIP) that includes many of the elements of the project alternative supported by Newport Beach and other cities impacted by John Wayne Airport's operations.

"Today's Board action is a win for Newport Beach," Mayor Diane Dixon said. "It doesn't have everything we wanted, nor does it have everything the County of Orange wanted, but it is a fair solution and we are grateful for it."

The now-approved plan, proposed by Supervisor Michelle Steel, was a late addition to the Board of Supervisor's agenda packet. The City of Newport Beach was made aware of it Monday morning.

The plan calls for:

- Limiting the full-service, Fixed Base Operators to two;
- Limiting the limited-service Fixed Base Operators to one new and one existing; and
- Preserving space at John Wayne Airport for small general aviation planes by imposing land use and lease restrictions on certain airport parcels so that more than 50 percent of the airport area available for general aviation will be dedicated to light general aviation aircraft. In doing so, the plan will help to preserve the presence of small general aviation (twin- and single-engine) aircraft, and thereby limit the amount of space for general aviation jets, at the airport.

The plan also includes a General Aviation Facility for processing international passengers, but its hours of operations will be limited to 5 a.m. to 12 a.m. While the City wanted the facility excluded from the project, it believes the limited hours of operation is a reasonable compromise.

The plan approved today is significantly better for Newport Beach than Alternative 1, the project alternative recommended by County staff and the alternative the City believes would have the most impact on the community.

The City and some of its community groups desire to see additional constraints placed on the project, such as:

- Limiting the size of the hangars to ensure they are available to smaller aircraft;
- Limiting the hours of operation of the full-service Fixed Base Operators; and
- Moving commercial operations, such as JetSuiteX, to the main terminal.

The County supervisors heard those ideas and noted that they could be considered for inclusion during the Request for Proposal stage of the project.

“Today’s Board decision was a critical step in the process and I thank the Supervisors for listening to the communities impacted by the airport and supporting a plan that addresses most of our concerns,” Dixon added. “I also must thank the community organizations and citizens that spent countless hours making sure the residents had a strong voice in this effort. The Airport Working Group, Stop Polluting our Newport, Citizens Against Airport Noise and Pollution, the So Cal Pilots, and several neighborhood organizations have dedicated a significant amount of time, expertise and resources toward advocating for our community and others. There’s more to come as this project develops and we will continue to work with the community and County.”

.