

Mayor Hahn's Airport Plan Won't Fly

Mayor James Hahn wants Los Angeles to take over the closed El Toro Marine Corps Air Station in Orange County for use as an international airport. The people of Orange County have rejected this idea in two successive elections. Last year, Orange County voters passed Measure W, a local ballot measure which requires El Toro to be developed as an Orange County Great Park instead of an airport.

The Department of the Navy respected the wishes of Orange County voters and worked with local governments to implement the Orange County Great Park Plan for the redevelopment of El Toro.

On April 9, Mayor Hahn's administration wrote a memo asking the U.S. Department of Transportation to ignore Orange County voters and allow Los Angeles World Airports to develop an international airport in the middle of residential communities.

Federal Bureaucrats Should Not Make Local Land Use Decisions

A recent memo to the federal Department of Transportation from the Hahn administration stated, *"Converting El Toro to a commercial airport will likely become a political issue. To ensure that the political process does not derail the Department of Transportation's ability to obtain ownership of El Toro, that political process must be nationalized."*

In simple English, that means Mayor Hahn wants federal bureaucrats to be empowered to ignore the will of local voters and local governments in order to build airports.

Think about it. Do you really want federal bureaucrats exercising that kind of power? What happens when they decide that the national interest in air travel demands that the size of LAX be doubled ... or that the national interest in oil independence requires drilling off the coast of Los Angeles ... or that the national interest in housing and job creation requires that local zoning and environmental laws be ignored in favor of increased development? It would be a mistake to turn these kinds of local decisions over to the federal government.

Los Angeles Cannot Afford To Waste Millions Of Your Tax Dollars On A Civil War With Orange County

Orange County's city and county governments spent nearly 50 million tax dollars on lawsuits, lobbyists and public relations consultants during a 10-year fight over a proposal to build a commercial airport at El Toro. This fight ended on March 5, 2002 when voters killed the airport plan.

Mayor Hahn is leading Los Angeles down the same rocky road. His administration's memo to the Department of Transportation states, *"We are well aware that the future development of El Toro is a controversial subject and that we will likely have to overcome legal challenges at the state and federal levels before a new commercial airport at El Toro becomes a reality. We are fully committed to dedicating all the necessary resources to work with DOT to surmount these legal and regulatory obstacles."*

The Los Angeles City Council recently rejected an increase in city spending for police, stating that the city could not afford it. Mayor Hahn recently went to Sacramento to lobby against proposed state budget cutbacks which he said would cripple police and fire protection in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles cannot afford a multi-million dollar civil war with Orange County over a proposed airport.

An Airport At El Toro Will Not Improve Air Transportation In Southern California

Most of the growth in Southern California's population during the next twenty years will occur in North Los Angeles County, San Bernardino County and Riverside County, *not* Orange County. Ontario Airport, which is already operated by Los Angeles World Airports, can easily double in size, and local leaders support expansion of this airport. Three other closed Air Force bases, George Air Force Base, Norton Air Force Base and March Air Force Base, could easily absorb all of the projected new air traffic for the next 50 years without impacting residential neighborhoods.

El Toro sits in the middle of a residential community of one million people. It is not safe for use by commercial aircraft and is clearly *not* the solution for our regional air transportation needs.

Like Griffith Park, the Orange County Great Park Will Benefit All of Southern California

Los Angeles residents have enjoyed Griffith Park for more than 100 years. Home to the Griffith Observatory and Planetarium, the Los Angeles Zoo and the Greek Theater, this wonderful park is a source of culture and recreation for Los Angeles residents and an attraction to visitors from throughout the world.

The Orange County Great Park Plan will transform the El Toro Marine Corps Base into a magnificent metropolitan park in the heart of Orange County. Construction and maintenance of the park will be paid for by private development fees. There will be no cost to local, state or federal taxpayers.

Good Neighbors Respect Each Other's Rights

We all know what happens when neighbors don't respect each other's rights. They argue. They become enemies. Sometimes they wind up in court. Everyone loses. Los Angeles and Orange County are neighbors that share borders and have many common problems that require cooperation. The voters of Orange County have rejected an airport at El Toro and want a Great Park. Mayor Hahn and his administration should respect our rights.

Los Angeles cannot afford a multi-million dollar legal battle with Orange County when budgets for fire and police services are already facing severe cutbacks.

Paid for by the City of Irvine and Orange County residents.
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