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June 19, 2012

Verlyn Wolfe, Chair
San Joaquin County Aviation Advisory Committee
5000 South Airport Way, Suite #202
Stockton, CA 95206

Dear Chairman Wolfe and Advisory Committee Members:

This past April, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) wrote to the San Joaquin County Planning Department concerning the proposed expansion of the Forward Landfill to the southeast of the Stockton Metropolitan Airport (SCK). Enclosed is a copy of that letter for your reference. As the nation's largest general aviation organization, AOPA regularly advocates on behalf of a national membership of almost 400,000 pilots and aircraft owners to protect general aviation airports that provide critical aviation services and access to our national airspace system. With California being our largest membership state with more than 44,500 members and 254 public use airports, we are committed to helping communities promote, preserve, and defend their airports.

As you may be aware, the proposal to expand Forward Landfill will bring the landfill closer to the airport and may significantly increase the potential for bird strikes to aircraft conducting normal operations at SCK. In fact, there is currently a hazard from birds that frequent the area now and local pilots have attempted to educate the Committee about this issue without much success. Bird strikes are serious safety issues that can cause injury and death in the worst cases and expensive repairs at best. The Federal Aviation Administration specifically states in Advisory Circular 150/5200-33B, "Hazardous Wildlife Attractants on or near Airports" that at airports with turbine powered aircraft "hazardous wildlife attractants must be 10,000 feet from the nearest air operations area." The current landfill is mostly inside that distance. The expansion would not only move the open landfill area closer to the airport, it will expand it underneath the approach and departure path for Runway 11L/29R.

Additionally, as the landfill sections fill up and are capped, the resulting hill may have an effect on the instrument approaches at SCK. Ultimately, it could raise approach minima and decrease the all-weather utility of the airport as well as present a geographical hazard to aircraft, rising terrain where there was once relatively flat land.

AOPA respectfully requests that the Advisory Committee act in their role as advisors to the County and express concerns raised by their tenants and users about this proposed project. We ask that you oppose the enlargement of the landfill and do everything in your power to protect your airport, its users, and the citizens within your community.

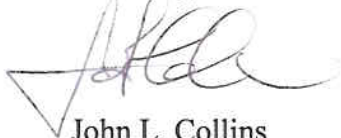
Verlyn Wolfe, Chair

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We appreciate your consideration of our views on this very important topic. If we can be of further assistance, please contact me at 301-695-2119.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Collins', is written over a large, light blue checkmark.

John L. Collins
Manager
Airport Policy

cc:

Mr. Patrick T. Moreno, Interim Airport Director, SCK
Ms. Robin Hunt, Manager, FAA San Francisco Airports District Office
Mr. Gary Cathey, Chief, Division of Aeronautics, CalTrans
Mr. Richard Mesa, AOPA Airport Support Network Volunteer SCK

Enclosure