



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

421 Aviation Way • Frederick, MD 21701-4798
Telephone (301) 695-2000 • FAX (301) 695-2375
www.aopa.org

August 17, 2004

Mr. David Bennett, Director
Office of Airport Safety and Standards – AAS-1
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Dave:

Last week, Skip Erhard of your office and I had a detailed discussion regarding tenant eviction notices being issued to a large number of airport tenants and aviation businesses at San Diego County McClellan-Palomar Airport (CRQ). These 30-day notices came as a complete surprise. With over 334 based aircraft, CRQ is a significant general aviation airport. It is also the only airport in the county's airport system with an Instrument Landing System (ILS).

Based on information we have received from our members who are based at the airport and recipients of these notices, over 120 aircraft and at least 4 established businesses stand on the verge of being displaced or put out of business with no viable alternatives for relocation identified by the county to accommodate their needs. Demolition of the existing facilities is due to begin on September 1, 2004 – a mere 2 weeks from now.

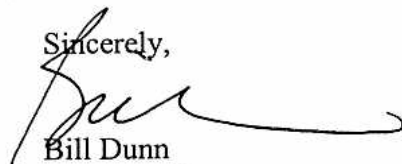
Since Skip and I discussed this issue last week, there have been some new developments. Local pilots and business owners have enlisted the services of a local attorney, Mr. Ronald Cozad, to prepare and file a formal complaint with the FAA under Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 16. Additionally, the plaintiffs to the complaint, through counsel, are seeking expedited handling under 14 CFR Part 16, Subpart B § 16.11 "Expedition and other modifications of process", paragraph (b).

The unequivocal displacement of based aircraft from the airport, as well as the very real potential for destruction of long-established, aviation-related businesses without provision for replacement facilities is an extremely serious matter.

We have reviewed the Part 16 complaint and believe the plaintiffs bring to FAA some significant compliance issues that the agency should address very quickly. Additionally, any actions your office can take of an immediate nature to put a stop to the demolition of general aviation facilities on the airport until completion of the agency's investigation of the formal complaint should be taken. AOPA also asks the FAA to investigate the charges in an expedited manner.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments and concerns.

Sincerely,



Bill Dunn
Vice President
Airports