



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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January 6, 2005

Mr. William C. Withycombe
Regional Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Western-Pacific Regional Office
P.O. Box 92007
Los Angeles, CA 90009-2007

RE: KFI Radio Tower, La Mirada, CA

Dear Mr. Withycombe,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing over 400,000 general aviation pilots, is extremely concerned with the reconstruction of a 760 foot radio transmission tower recently destroyed during the collision of a C-182 operating under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) into Fullerton Municipal Airport (FUL), Fullerton, California. AOPA contends this tower is a hazard to air navigation and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) should seek public input by circularizing the aeronautical study of proposed reconstruction of the tower.

The recent accident (NTSB Identification: LAX05FA054) that occurred on December 19, 2004, was the second fatal accident involving an aircraft colliding with the tower. The first fatal accident occurred on January 28, 1970 but did not destroy the tower (NTSB Identification: LAX70AL045). Both accidents occurred during day VFR conditions while the aircraft were operating in the airport traffic pattern at FUL.

Because three fatalities have occurred as a result of the site location, height of the tower and possible lack of lighting during day VFR conditions, the FAA should utilize every opportunity to seek input from the aviation community on aeronautical impacts associated with any reconstruction of the tower.

Mr. William Withycombe

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Recognizing the tower was originally constructed in 1947 and predated current Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis (OE/AAA) standards, the current aeronautical review process provides an excellent opportunity to correct this unsafe situation. Based on the fatal accident record involving VFR aircraft navigating to FUL, AOPA requests that the FAA circularize the KFI Radio Tower proposed reconstruction aeronautical study for public comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mel R.", written in dark ink.

Melissa Rudinger
Vice President
Regulatory Affairs