

**From:** [Brian Haffeman](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Joel](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); [Desmond, Jim](#); [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [danforvista@gmail.com](mailto:danforvista@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [External] American Airlines lease - Palomar Airport - A letter of approval  
**Date:** Monday, December 30, 2024 5:08:23 PM

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Hello, County Board of Supervisors --

I wanted to write a quick note because I am sure you are only receiving emails of complaints and misinformation about how residents will be impacted by these changes at an airport that has operated since 1959 (65 years). I feel this lease will add to the airport's value to a greater number of residents and the surrounding businesses.

Here are quick bullet points about my feelings as a Vista resident who also happens to work at Palomar Airport and someone who is still new to aviation.

Benefits:

- Alternative to driving all the way down to San Diego, save time, traffic congestion, and costs (fuel and parking) when taking a flight for business or vacation.
- Local businesses will benefit from the added commercial flights versus private and semi-private options currently at the airport. More people can use the airport assets.
- The aviation business will benefit from additional resources at Palomar.
- Additional revenue for improvements to the airport in terms of safety, security, and upkeep; the main terminal already looks way better with the improved ramp space and paving.
- Local residents have another commercial opportunity at the airport they can benefit from. Easy access to Phoenix, an American Airlines hub to fly anywhere. Versus private and semi-private options currently at the airport which might be cost prohibitive to locals.

As a newbie, I have learned:

- People worry large jumbo-sized jets will land at Palomar. That will not happen, it's too small of an airstrip. The biggest aircraft are here now basically.
- The airport cannot get any larger than it is, maybe a few hundred feet.
- It cannot be used for anything else; it's not like you can build homes on the runway since it's an old landfill. What else would bring this much value to the region?
- Aircraft size: American Airlines aircraft, even at the higher passenger counts, are not that much larger or louder than the aircraft already coming in and out of Palomar.

My main message for this email is to shed some positive light on the subject, to support new business incentives to the area, and to ask you guys to understand the true positive impact of this lease over the basic fear of mongering and the not-in-my-backyard idealism.

Let's get back to the real issues like mental health, affordable housing, safe roads, lower taxes, protecting the most valuable in our communities, and improving the infrastructure of North County. How do you pay for these important issues and keep up with an expanding population without adding new business revenue to an already valuable asset to the county?

In closing, (128) letters of opposition to (1) letter of approval. It's a start.

**From:** [Office of Chairwoman Nora Vargas](#)  
**To:** [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [External] Opposition to AA contract at Palomar Airport  
**Date:** Thursday, January 2, 2025 1:38:50 PM

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Dear Clerk of the Board,

Please find below a comment regarding the AA contract. Kindly include it in the official record for consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Roger Powell <nora.vargas@sdcounty.ca.gov>

Date: 12/31/2024, 4:37:26 PM

Supervisor Vargas

I oppose the approval of the contract with American Airlines (AA) to use Palomar Airport for the following reasons:

1. This change will cause a nuisance to the community
  - There will be excessive noise
  - There will be increased odor of Jet Fuel
  - The proposed contract will have operation outside the Airport "quiet hours"
1. Financial
  - The fee breaks given to AA will negatively impact the operating costs at Palomar Airport
1. Safety
  - The aircraft proposed by AA are incompatible with the FAA airport classification
  - Deviations for the Palomar Airport flight paths will decrease safety in and around residential neighborhoods
1. Constituent opposition
  - City of Carlsbad resolution 2024-258 opposing the AA contract was approved unanimously by the City Council
  - City of Vista also passed a resolution opposing the AA contract at Palomar on 10/22/24
  - Public comments on Agenda item 10 of the SD Count Board of Supervisors 12/11/24 meeting overwhelmingly opposed this item

Thank you for your consideration  
Roger Powell  
Carlsbad Resident

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Best Regards,

Dennise Juarez Aguilar

Constituent Services Representative

Thanks,

Brian

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Brian Haffeman



**From:** [John S. Wright](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Joel](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); [Desmond, Jim](#); [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Please allow the return of major airlines to Palomar Airport.  
**Date:** Monday, December 30, 2024 5:13:24 PM

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Hello Supervisors & Happy New Year,

Our family knowingly purchased a home under the downwind leg of the southern pattern of Palomar Airport, in 2012. We read the disclosures and knew its front lawn touched Class D airspace. We are not associated with the airport, airlines, or aviation in any way other than passengers.

We were excited at the notion of flying out of Palomar instead of driving down to Lindbergh. However, along with general aviation's decline, the major airlines stopped flying out of Palomar.

We have only successfully done so once, when through short-lived Excel Air (I think that was the name), we got from our front door to the lobby of the Mirage in Las Vegas in 2 hours and 56 minutes. 3 hours happens to be the time before boarding we leave the house for flights out of Lindbergh.

Those lobbying against the expanded use of the airport do not represent "the community." I will not speak for them and their motivations, other than to say that they do not speak for anyone but themselves. If you are to weigh your decision based on community desires, please conduct a professional survey.

Please support more efficient travel and the growth of options for those of us in North County who carefully considered where to purchase real estate.

Regards,  
John Wright

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Alexey Kirillov](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Joel](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); [FGG, Public Comment](#); [Desmond, Jim](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Fwd: Protect Local Control and Stop the Expansion of Palomar Airport  
**Date:** Monday, December 30, 2024 5:22:35 PM

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This is to oppose Palomar Airport expansion.  
I will follow the issue closely.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Daniel O'Donnell** <[REDACTED]>  
Date: Mon, Dec 30, 2024, 4:07 PM  
Subject: Protect Local Control and Stop the Expansion of Palomar Airport  
To:

On Wednesday, December 11th, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors postponed a decision on whether to grant American Airlines a lease to operate jet services with larger aircraft (76-passenger capacity) on daily flights out of Palomar Airport. This lease would also allow C-class aircraft to operate at the airport, which is currently designated as a B-II class facility.

Over 125 letters were submitted in opposition to this proposed expansion. However, since the decision was postponed, those letters will not be included in the agenda packet for the upcoming meeting on January 8th.

This flight path flies directly over our homes in Vista and will have an impact on the quality of life for our residents.

At my request, the Vista City Council passed a resolution opposing the county's approval of the lease, citing safety concerns related to the operation of larger jetliners, potential health risks, and increased noise pollution.

There is strong sentiment from our residents to maintain control within the city of Carlsbad and oppose this expansion.

I encourage all of you to email the County Board of Supervisors (**address email to all 5 email addresses below**) to express your opposition to granting the lease. Your voice matters in this important decision.

Please email all of them at the following email addresses:

Joel Anderson: [joel.anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:joel.anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Terra Lawson-Remer: [Terra.Lawson-Remer@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Terra.Lawson-Remer@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Monica Montgomery Steppe: [Monica.MontgomerySteppe@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Monica.MontgomerySteppe@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Jim Desmond: [jim.desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:jim.desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Public Comment: [PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Please keep up to date with this matter by visiting Citizens for a Friendly Airport at [www.C4FA.org](http://www.C4FA.org) and sign up for their newsletter.

As always, ***thank you for being engaged residents.***

Kind regards,

Dan O'Donnell  
City of Vista  
Councilmember – District 4

**From:** [Alisa Gemar](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Joel](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); [Desmond, Jim](#); [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Strong Opposition to Expansion of Palomar Airport for Large Aircraft  
**Date:** Monday, December 30, 2024 6:08:08 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of Palomar Airport to accommodate large aircraft in our residential area. While I recognize the importance of regional airports in fostering economic development, the impact on the quality of life for residents must not be overlooked.

Allowing large aircraft to operate in such close proximity to homes poses significant safety, environmental, and health risks. The increased noise pollution from larger planes will disrupt the peace and quiet that residents currently enjoy, impacting the mental well-being of individuals and families. Additionally, the escalation in air traffic will undoubtedly exacerbate already existing traffic congestion and parking issues in the area.

There are also serious concerns regarding air quality and the environmental effects of having larger aircraft flying over a densely populated area. Increased emissions, noise pollution, and the potential for accidents would all contribute to a decline in the overall livability of the community.

Finally, the safety of residents should be a top priority. Airports accommodating large aircraft inherently present risks to the surrounding area, and it is not unreasonable to worry about the potential for accidents or emergency landings in a populated space.

I urge you to reconsider this expansion plan and explore alternative ways to support the region's growth without compromising the well-being and safety of those who live here. Our community should not bear the brunt of this decision, especially when there are ample opportunities to invest in more suitable locations for large aircraft operations.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Alisa Gemar

**From:** [Diana A](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Joel](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); [Desmond, Jim](#); [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External] 1/8/25 meeting - Oppose the American Airlines lease -  
**Date:** Monday, December 30, 2024 7:38:06 PM

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As a homeowner & taxpayer in the City of Carlsbad, I am requesting for the Board of Supervisors to not grant the lease with American Airlines (AA). The City of Carlsbad and neighboring cities such as Vista do not want a commercial airport in our small towns.

We already have the SD airport and the John Wayne Airport close by.

I do not support the lease with AA due to the following reasons:

1. **Noise Pollution:** Commercial planes significantly increase noise levels, disrupting daily life for residents and reducing property values in nearby neighborhoods.
2. **Traffic Congestion:** The influx of travelers and support services will create strain on local roadways and public transportation systems, overwhelming infrastructure designed for a smaller population.
3. **Environmental Concerns:** Expanding an airport for commercial flights introduces greater carbon emissions, air pollution, and potential harm to local ecosystems, counteracting sustainability goals many cities prioritize.
4. **Quality of Life Impact:** The presence of commercial aviation can disrupt the quiet, residential character of the city, making it less desirable for families and individuals seeking a calm, community-focused lifestyle.
5. **Safety Risks:** Larger airports bring increased risk of accidents, hazardous material handling, and emergency response demands that smaller cities may not be equipped to handle.

Balancing the city's growth and livability requires prioritizing the needs of the residents over large-scale developments that may not align with the community's long-term vision.

Thanks,

Diana Aguirre

City of Carlsbad Homeowner/TaxPayer

**From:** [DAVIDJI MEDITATION](#)  
**To:** [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Thank you  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 31, 2024 10:21:24 AM

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Here is my public comment:

Do not choose American Airlines over the people you represent, American Airlines should not receive a lease to operate jet services with larger aircraft out of Palomar Airport. The negatives far outweigh the revenue the county would receive. I live in the proposed flight path and the fallout in so many ways is unacceptable. Please protect our quality of life and VOTE NO. Thank you. David Greenspan, [REDACTED]

**From:** [Gina Caviar](#)  
**To:** [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Palomar Airport  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 31, 2024 1:19:00 PM

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I am in full disagreement with city councilman Dan O'Donnell. I live in Vista and he does not represent my views. John Wayne is a convenient airport and Palomar has the same potential.

Gina Caviar  
Sent from deep space 9

**From:** [eric hultberg](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Joel](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); [Desmond, Jim](#); [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Palomar Airport Expansion  
**Date:** Thursday, January 2, 2025 8:13:31 AM

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Hello,

As a resident of the South Vista Community I am writing to the San Diego county board of supervisors my opposition to the proposed expansion of lease agreement with American Airlines at Palomar Airport.

This expansion will severely affect the quality of life for all the cities in the proposed flight path, including Vista, Carlsbad, San Marcos and Escondido. This includes increased noise pollution, air quality, and traffic along the Palomar Airport Road and El Camino Real corridors.

Palomar Airport was not designed for larger aircraft. The proposed expansion is not only dangerous to residents and business in the area, but also to American Airlines employees and customers.

Please do not let this proposed expansion take place as it adds little value to the North County residents at this time.

Thank you,

Eric Hultberg  
