



*Economic Vitality,
Trade & Jobs*

December 8, 2005

The Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa
Mayor
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Mayor
City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa:

This letter is a follow up to our letter of October 14, 2005 regarding LAX. Not having heard from your office and now having read about the LAX settlement, we felt the need to offer you the views of the LAEDC's Airport Task Force on the LAX developments.

The LAEDC Critical Infrastructure Council and Airport Task Force have consistently emphasized support for regionalization of Southern California's airport system, consistent with the realities of air travel patterns and passenger needs. We will continue to urge new and better ways to grow demand at other airports like Ontario such as reliable, high quality "fly away" service to enable passengers to check in bags remotely and connect with multiple airports to expand arrival and departure options. One such location should be Union Station so that rail and bus service can add to these options. We understand this option is not currently being actively pursued.

We are pleased that the LAX settlement eliminates community opposition to the south runway widening as this has been a real safety issue and will also enable more efficient operations to accommodate the new A380 aircraft.

Our major concern continues to be the need to modernize the International Terminal as the region's "front door" to the world including its ability to timely accommodate the new A380 aircraft and provide a positive experience to the international traveler, particularly the business traveler. The economic vitality of all of Southern California is inexorably linked to LAX as our international gateway. We too often hear on trips to Asia and other overseas markets how antiquated and unfriendly LAX is to these travelers. All one needs to do is visit Hong Kong or Shanghai to understand how a modern international airport impacts a visitor's desire to return again – a critical first impression for business people thinking of investing, setting up a business and creating jobs in a region.

Unfortunately, the article in the Wall Street Journal last month reporting that LAX is behind all of the nation's other airports in preparing for the newer, larger A380's

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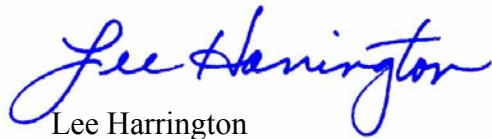
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underscores our ongoing concern that we do not lose international service to other regions like San Francisco and Phoenix who are actively courting the business. Mayor Villaraigosa, this is all about jobs and economic vitality. We dare not allow the LA region to become an economic backwater for lack of global access. We again offer our assistance to support visionary leadership on this critical economic development issue.

Sincerely,



Lee Harrington
President & CEO

LKH:mm

ENCL: October 14, 2005 Letter

c: Alan Rothenberg, Commission President
Lydia Kennard, Executive Director
Robin Kramer, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office