



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

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Director of Legislative Affairs

March 29, 2010

The Honorable Gloria Negrete McLeod
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 1141** (Negrete McLeod) – As amended March 24, 2010 - **OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Negrete McLeod:

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors has reviewed SB 1141, your legislation repealing current law allowing counties to employ alternative processes in lieu of establishing an Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC). Regretfully, the County of San Bernardino cannot support the bill because it would end San Bernardino County’s ability to continue using our State approved alternative process that has worked well in planning compatible land uses near our public airports.

Under existing law, San Bernardino and a number of other counties secured statutory provisions allowing counties to achieve compatible land use planning by working directly with cities in coordinating development and land use planning around airports instead of funding a separate Airport Land Use Commission. At over 20,000 square miles, San Bernardino is the largest county in the contiguous United States. Requiring land use decisions to be made by a countywide agency would be unrealistic.

Additionally, the estimated initial cost to establish an Airport Land Use Commission for San Bernardino County would be approximately \$600,000. This amount does not include ongoing maintenance costs, which theoretically could be offset by fees. However, due to current economic conditions which have curtailed development, there is no relatively available revenue source to create or maintain an ALUC.

By re-imposing this mandate of appointing and funding separate Airport Land Use Commissions, this legislation would usurp part of our Board’s land use planning authority, and it would add a new layer of local government at a time when our County budget may lose substantial revenues to help solve the State’s budget deficit.

For these reasons, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors opposes SB 1141. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lance Larson, County Director of Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821. The Board thanks you for your attention in this matter

Sincerely,

GARY C. OVITT
Chairman, Board of Supervisors