

THE TIMES VENTURA COUNTY EDITION

OXNARD, CA.93030

9/20/00

DEAR EDITOR:

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE COUNTY SHOULD NOT CONTROL THE AIRPORT IN OXNARD AS THE MAJORITY OF SUPERVISORS APPEAR TO CARE NOTHING ABOUT THE HEALTH, WELFARE, AND SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE IN OXNARD, THAT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN RELATION TO THE AIRPORT USE UNDER THE STATE POWERS GRANTED BY THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. THE COUNTY HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING REGIONAL AIRPORT SERVICE IF IT INTERFERES WITH THEIR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY. THE BOARD PAID NO ATTENTION TO MY REQUEST THAT THEY AT LEAST DELAY THE APPROVAL OF MESA AIR UNTIL THEY COULD EXAMINE THE SCHOOL PROBLEMS IN OXNARD CAUSED BY THE AIRPORT. MOST OF THE BOARD SEEM TO THINK THAT THE PROBLEM IS NEW DEVELOPMENT. MOST OF THE AFFECTED AREAS ARE THE OLDEST NEIGHBOHOODS IN OXNARD THAT PREDATE THE OXNARD AIRPORT.

IN ADDITION THE AIRPORT IS DESTROYING THE EDUCATION OPPORUNITIES FOR OUR CHILDREN TO WALK TO A NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL. THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION , AERONAUTICS PROGRAM, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVALUATING ANY SCHOOL SITE WITHIN 2 NAUTICAL MILES OF ANY AIRPORT RUNWAY. THIS INCLUDES MOST OF OXNARD, THE PROPOSED TWO SCHOOLS OF THE ELEMENTARY DISTRICT WILL REQUIRE ANOTHER THOUSAND STUDENTS TO BE BUSED FOR DECADES. THE COUNTY SHOULD PAY FOR THE BUSING THAT IS REQUIRED BECAUSE OF THE AIRPORT. PRESENTLY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS SPENDING \$2,241,000. ON BUSING. MUCH OF THE BUSING IS RELATED TO NOT BEING ABLE TO PLACE SCHOOLS WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED IN THE CENTRAL CITY WHERE MOST OF THE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN CAN AFFORD THE OLDER HOMES.

THE BEST PLAN WOULD BE FOR THE OXNARD REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO BUY THE 216 ACRES OF THE AIRPORT THAT IS IN THE CITY AND OWNED BY THE COUNTY WITH A PLAN TO MOVE OR ELIMINATE THE AIRPORT. THE AGENCY CAN BORROW THE MONEY WITHOUT THE VOTE OF THE PEOPLE AND REPAY THE LOAN WITH THE INCREMENT TAX DERIVED FROM THE NEW PRIVATE USE OF THE UPGRADED LAND. THE COUNTY WOULD BENEFIT FROM RECEIVING CASH FOR THOSE VALUABLE ACRES. THAT IS BETTER THAN PAYING OUT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EVERY YEAR TO BUS THE CHILDREN IN OXNARD TO A SCHOOL IN AN OLD OILFIELD NEXT TO LOTS OF PESTICIDES.

SINCERELY,


JANE TOLMACH

