

El Segundo Comments at LA City Council

Innovation, Grants, Technology, Commerce and Trade Committee

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

- When it comes to customer experience, especially the experience of arriving at or leaving the airport by car, LAX is one of the worst major airports in the United States
- That's why, if travelers have a choice between going to LAX and going to other local airports, such as Burbank, Long Beach, or John Wayne, they will often choose one of the other airports. LAX is just not worth the hassle.
- But the LAMP project will go a long way to changing this. The City of El Segundo agrees that LAMP will improve the customer experience by relieving gridlock in the CTA, thereby attracting choice travelers back to LAX.
- On numerous occasions, LAWA has called the existing ground access network a significant constraint on LAX's passenger capacity.
- The problem with the EIR before you is that it refuses to acknowledge that the LAMP project will remove this constraint, and that the project will therefore enable new growth.
- Despite the El Segundo's strenuous objections at every opportunity, the EIR hides behind a risky legal fig leaf that LAMP will only "accommodate growth that is already coming to LAX," as LAWA staff likes to say.
- This is very important because by denying that the project will induce ANY growth, LAWA is attempting to absolve itself from analyzing and mitigating that growth.
- To the City of El Segundo, which is impacted by LAX more than any other jurisdiction, this is unacceptable.
- We've been warning LAWA for months of our objections, but they have proceeded full speed ahead.
- While El Segundo acknowledges that its proximity to LAX provides certain economic benefits to the City, our primary responsibility is to our residents, and that includes mitigating the negative effects of increased growth at LAX.
- There are other technical but important problems with the EIR, but we wanted to highlight the growth issue today.
- The EIR is deeply flawed, and the Council should send it back to LAWA to fix these problems.
- If not, the City of El Segundo will take whatever actions necessary to protect its interests.

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Deputy:

Comm. from Appellant