County Executive David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer Elisia De Bord



County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors Phillip R. Serna, District 1 Patrick Kennedy, District 2 Rich Desmond, District 3 Sue Frost, District 4 Patrick Hume, District 5

June 7, 2024

The Honorable Lori Wilson, Chair Assembly Transportation Committee 1021 O Street, Room 8110 Sacramento, CA 95814

## Re: SB 1193 (Menjivar). Airports: Leaded Aviation Gasoline. Oppose (As amended May 16, 2024) Hearing: June 17, 2024

Dear Assemblymember Wilson:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully write to oppose SB 1193, which bans the sale of leaded aviation gasoline (avgas) in California effective January 1, 2027. Sacramento County is concerned about the conflict between state and federal law relating to low lead aviation gasoline.

California airports, including Sacramento County's SMF, and the general aviation industry, seek to convert to unleaded avgas. Low lead gas is widely available in California and eight airports currently offer unleaded avgas. In some instances, airports are subsidizing low lead and unleaded fuels to encourage their adoption and utilization in those aircraft that can consume the fuel – not all aircraft can operate on unleaded fuel at this time.

Our general concern is whether unleaded avgas will be available in sufficient quantities at the time the proposed ban is effective. Fuel distribution and storage and delivery infrastructure at airports also must be in place. Within the General Aviation community, it is not clear that will be the case by January 1, 2026.

The County also opposes the provision that authorizes counties to certify that unleaded aviation gas is not commercially available. Aviation fuels are not sold on a county-by-county basis, and it would be more efficient if the California Energy Commission certified when the fuel is, in fact, commercially available.

Finally, the County is concerned that this conflicts with federal law according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024 (H.R. 3935), Section 770. Specifically, a provision of the FAA Reauthorization bill requires that airports that offered 100-octane low lead aviation gasoline for sale in 2022 to continue offering such gasoline for sale until the earlier of 2030 or the date on which an FAA-certified unleaded aviation gasoline alternative can be made available. It states that any airport violating this grant assurance will be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 per day if the airport fails to comply with the grant assurance.

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For these reasons, Sacramento County opposes SB 1193. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or <u>deborde@saccounty.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Elisia Borand

Elisia De Bord Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: The Honorable Menjivar Members, Assembly Transportation Committee Sacramento County Delegation Chair and Members, Board of Supervisors Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies