

**County Executive**

David Villanueva

**County of Sacramento****Board of Supervisors**

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April 29, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Department of Airports, I would like to thank you for supporting the FAA Contract Tower Program and ask for your continued assistance in the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process. All-cargo air carriers and general aviation users at Sacramento Executive Airport and Mather Airport rely heavily on the airports' air traffic control towers that are staffed with controllers under contract to the FAA.

As you know, the Contract Tower Program is a successful and cost-effective program that enhances aviation safety at our airport and at 264 other small airports around the country. To illustrate the cost-effectiveness of the program, contract towers handle approximately 28 percent of all U.S. tower operations but only account for 10 percent of the FAA's overall budget allotted to air traffic control tower operations.

Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) have drafted a bipartisan letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee requesting full funding for the Contract Tower Program in the FY26 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

I realize you receive several funding requests this time of year. But I urge you to highlight your support for our airport and for the cost-effective FAA Contract Tower Program by cosigning this important appropriations request letter. Full funding for the FAA Contract Tower Program will ensure that the program can continue to enhance aviation safety at our airport and airports around the country while achieving significant cost savings for the FAA.

At a time when Congress, the administration, and aviation stakeholders are focusing on ways to reduce the risk of near misses and runway incursions, it is critical that we fully fund the FAA Contract Tower Program. Thank you again for supporting our airport and for considering our request.

Thank you,

David Villanueva  
County Executive