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***ROSENDAHL BLASTS AIRPORT'S PUSH FOR NORTH RUNWAY MOVEMENT***  
*Councilman Says Recommendations of Safety Studies Are "Biased" and "Unfounded"*

**LOS ANGELES** – City Councilman Bill Rosendahl today condemned as “ludicrous, biased and unfounded” airport-funded studies recommending that runways be moved north into Westchester and Playa del Rey neighborhoods.

“For two years, I have asked LAWA for good, solid data regarding safety issues on the northern runways,” said Rosendahl, whose district includes Los Angeles International Airport and communities surrounding it. “This isn’t it, by any stretch of the imagination.”

In response to a request from the Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles World Airports today released five reports discussing safety and operational efficiency on the LAX North Airfield. Each concluded that the runways should be moved at least 340 feet closer to the surrounding community.

Rosendahl said the studies were conducted by airline industry insiders, and LAWA framed the questions so narrowly that the conclusions were pre-determined.

“These studies are biased and skewed, and the recommendations are ludicrous and unfounded,” Rosendahl said. “Asking this group what they think about moving the runways north is like asking the tobacco industry what they think about smoking.”

Rosendahl called on LAWA to conduct unbiased, comprehensive studies that not only examine the runway safety issues, but also recommend a range of solutions other than moving the runways north.

“When LAWA thought there was a safety problem on the southern runways, they partnered with the FAA and NASA to perform a multi-million dollar, three-year study that ran computerized simulations of runway incursions and made recommendations for fixing the problem,” Rosendahl said. “My constituents and I demand the same exhaustive and comprehensive level of scrutiny of safety issues on the north airfield. I expect Gina Marie Lindsey, our new airport executive director, to bring that sort of ‘fresh eyes’ perspective and credibility to the issue.”

Rosendahl said he was specifically requesting that LAWA study the possibility of constructing an end-around taxiway, like the one recently built at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Rosendahl invited residents of the surrounding communities to join him in dissecting the studies and offering critiques and alternatives at a Town Hall meeting to be held 7pm-9pm Tuesday, June 5, at the Westchester Senior Citizen Center, 8740 Lincoln Boulevard.

Rosendahl said that at the Town Hall meeting he would query LAWA officials on a section of the studies indicating that current runway safety controls sufficiently mitigate existing risks – undercutting LAWA’s own argument for northern movement of the runways.

Rosendahl said he was dismayed at LAWA’s repeated insistence on moving the runways north – despite the fact that the overwhelming number of safety issues and runway incursions occur on the southern runways.

“This certainly violates the spirit of the settlement agreement between LAWA and its neighbors,” Rosendahl said. “LAWA promised creative, community-friendly proposals for modernizing and improving the airport. Westchester and Playa del Rey certainly deserve better than this.”

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