



July 17, 2015

California Coastal Commissioners and Staff  
7575 Metropolitan Drive #103  
San Diego, CA 92108

**RE: Support for proposed Parking Plaza at San Diego International Airport**

Dear California Coastal Commissioners and Staff:

On behalf of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), I am writing to express our support for the proposed Parking Plaza at San Diego International Airport scheduled for consideration at the Commission's August meeting. With nearly 3,000 members representing 400,000 employees, the Chamber is dedicated to growing commerce in the San Diego region and maintaining our legacy as a premiere tourist destination. The Chamber is acutely aware of the need for additional, close-in parking, especially for business travelers.

Individuals pursuing national and international commerce are concerned with time and convenience. A parking structure can meet those needs and meet the demands of our currently constrained airport. As the former Mayor of the City San Diego when this was first proposed in 2008, I am familiar with the issues this proposal raised in the past. In 2008, the Board certified the Environmental Impact Report for the Airport Master Plan Update. At that time, the City and SANDAG shared concerns about the parking structure's traffic impacts on surrounding City streets, particularly Harbor Drive.

Although they strongly believed in the need for additional close-in parking, the Board respected those concerns and tabled the parking structure while it pursued the rest of the Airport Master Plan, which became The Green Build. Today, it is a highly successful construction project that created the world's LEED Platinum-certified airport terminal.

In 2014, the Board reconsidered the need, as well as significant changes in circumstances, and directed staff to pursue the Parking Plaza. The Board kept me as well as the Chamber of Commerce informed of these developments. For several reasons, I believe the concerns I had as Mayor have been addressed.

- **Smaller project.** The original proposal was for a five-story structure with about 5,000 parking spaces. The current proposal is for a three-story, 3,000-space facility.
- **Airport traffic taken off North Harbor Drive.** An on-airport central receiving and distribution center opened in November 2012 takes 50 to 75 trucks a day off Harbor Drive. The Rental Car Center opening in January 2016 will take all rental car and rental

car shuttle traffic off Harbor Drive. An on-airport bypass road currently in planning will take virtually ALL airport traffic off Harbor Drive.

- **Reduced greenhouse gas emissions.** Close-in parking will be used by meters-and-greeters and for short-term parking, reducing traffic circling the airport, thus reducing air emissions.
- **Improved structure.** Elegant architectural design will mean this is not your father's parking garage. Smart Parking Technology will reduce circling, idling and air emissions.

We support the proposed Parking Plaza at San Diego International Airport and respectfully urge you approve the project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Chanelle Hawken, Vice President of Public Policy, at (619) 544-1365 or [chawken@sdchamber.org](mailto:chawken@sdchamber.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Sanders', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerry Sanders  
President & CEO  
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce