July 13, 2011

California Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Congressional redistricting and Sacramento International Airport

Dear Commissioners:

As the Sacramento County Supervisor representing District 1 – the area that includes both the Sacramento International Airport and a substantial portion of the City of Sacramento including the central business district – I write to register my continuing strong objection to the latest “visualization” showing the airport outside the proposed congressional district that includes Sacramento’s downtown metropolitan area. This objection is shared by my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and was memorialized unanimously in a resolution on the subject dated June 22, 2011 (see attached).

My concern stems from the fact that the Redistricting Commission continues to ignore one of its principle charges to respect county and city boundaries. The latest visualization, which was released after the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors issued its objection, continues to disregard Sacramento International Airport’s location within Sacramento County and its principal service to those residing in the County and City of Sacramento. Furthermore, the proposed congressional district boundaries unreasonably suggest that Sacramento International Airport possesses a stronger geographic, economic and social connection with places such as Glenn County more so than Downtown Sacramento. By all accounts this is irrational and does not reflect application of any justifiable criteria.
Letter from Phil Serna, Sacramento County Supervisor, District 1
Re: Congressional redistricting and Sacramento International Airport

July 13, 2011

In addition to its consideration of municipal and county boundaries as they relate to the location of Sacramento International Airport, it is also incumbent upon the Commission to consider the local operational connection the airport has relative to our city and county. For example, the governing body providing oversight of the airport is the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. And because it is the main passenger airport for the City and County of Sacramento, Sacramento International annually contributes approximately $4 billion to the local economy, mostly within Sacramento County. This economic bond is further illustrated by the fact that Sacramento International’s major partners include the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce and Sacramento Area Trade and Commerce Organization, both based out of the City of Sacramento.

Most importantly, Sacramento International Airport relies on federal resources to maintain ongoing development and operation, and requires the combined support of our local and congressional representatives. Should the current “visualization” boundaries be adopted as-is and the airport lie outside the city and county congressional district, our community will be placed at a severe disadvantage as we’ll lose the collective voice we’ve enjoyed so long to work in the best interest of the airport and travelling public.

For these reasons I respectfully ask that the Citizens Redistricting Commission reconsider the currently proposed congressional district boundaries and make the necessary changes to ensure Sacramento International Airport is located within the same congressional district as the City and County of Sacramento.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Phil Serna
Supervisor, District 1

cc: Steve Szalay, Sacramento Interim County Executive
    Hardy Acree, Sacramento County Airport System Director

Attachment
RESOLUTION NO. 2011-0511

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP FOR THE NORTHERN PART OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

WHEREAS, the 14 member Independent California Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) was created by California voters to draw state Congressional, Assembly, Senate and Board of Equalization Districts;

WHEREAS, the Commission has released the first draft of the district maps and is currently seeking public input on the draft maps;

WHEREAS, the proposed Congressional district map for the northern part of Sacramento County has separated the Sacramento International Airport from the downtown metropolitan area of Sacramento which raises concerns about proper representation for the citizens of Sacramento;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento, State of California, that the Board opposes the proposed Congressional district map for the northern part of Sacramento County and supports a map that includes the Sacramento International Airport in the same district as the downtown metropolitan area of Sacramento.

On a motion by Supervisor Peters, seconded by Supervisor Serna, the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento, State of California, this 22nd day of June, 2011 with the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors, Nottoli, Peters, Serna, Yee, MacGlashan

NOES: Supervisors, None

ABSENT: Supervisors, None

ABSTAIN: Supervisors, None

[Signature]
Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Sacramento County, California

FILED
JUN 22 2011
BY CLERK OF THE BOARD