



Torrance Airport Association

**2785 Pacific Coast Highway PMB E164
Torrance, CA 90505**

June 13, 2020

Torrance City Council
3031 Torrance Blvd
Torrance, CA 90503

Dear Mayor Furey and Honorable City Council members:

The Torrance Airport Association (TAA)--representing Torrance pilots, hangar tenants, and their families--very strongly opposes any imposition of landing fees or any similar operating charges at Torrance Airport. The City of Santa Monica imposed landing fees at their airport and succeeded in driving successful businesses away from their airport. Landing fees would, without a doubt, have a similar detrimental effect on the pilots and aviation businesses at our airport.

Like freeways, highways and streets, Torrance Airport is a public transportation facility serving the entire South Bay area. Furthermore, Torrance Airport is a valuable local "on-ramp" to an extensive general aviation transportation system that includes 95% of all aircraft and 75% of all takeoffs and landings in the nation--connecting Torrance to thousands of similar airports throughout the hemisphere.

Torrance Airport is also an irreplaceable regional recreation, education and emergency response asset for the entire South Bay. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has concluded that general aviation pilots, aircraft, and airports are key resources in event of a national or regional disaster emergency--like a pandemic. TAA's Disaster Airlift Response Team uses volunteer pilots and aircraft based at our airport and is part of a state-wide team, currently providing air transportation of masks and ventilators in response to the COVID pandemic.

The analysis, as presented, raises some questions: Does the added income from landing fees offset the loss in income received from our aviation-related businesses that will result from the reduced activity? Why are fixed-wing aircraft discriminated against while helicopter operations are exempt? The fees should apply to ALL aircraft or, better yet, to none.

TAA requests that the City Council reject landing fees at our airport. We urge you to support our local aviation-oriented businesses and to maintain the viability of this irreplaceable asset.

Very respectfully,

Jim Gates
President