

To: Los Angeles County Board of Airport Commissioners
From: Charles Ducat, President EAA Local Chapter 40
Re: LA County furnishing land at Whiteman Airport for non-profit organization

Dear Commissioners,

September 24, 2003

For many years, the management of Whiteman Airport has *strongly* supported our group's "not-for-profit" (now a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit charity) aviation activities to benefit the community. For years, the County airport managers and/or contractors have promised to allot a significant parcel of land at no cost, so we can build a permanent facility. Based on this promise we have now raised the funds to begin building such a facility.

All of our organization's activities **clearly** fall within the federal aviation guidelines for an airport landowner donating land at no cost. Our present and future activities include:

- ✓ Free youth education programs, including **FREE introductory flights** for local kids 7-18 years of age. We have already provided well over 2500 no-cost flights to local community kids, including 163 local kids flown on Sept. 20th at the "Whiteman Air Fair" event !
- ✓ A proposed **aviation safety center** (the only one on the Valley), where local pilots access computerized weather forecasts and storm radar in real time, communicate with the FAA weather briefers for up to the minute security and Transportation Security Administration flight restriction briefings. Pilots will have a direct, secure hotline to the TSA to report suspicious aviation activities as mandated by new TSA, DOT and FAA regulations.
- ✓ An **aviation museum** (the only one in the San Fernando Valley) to preserve aviation history, provide career educational opportunities, school field trip destinations, and benefit the community with unique historical artifacts.
- ✓ The presentation of FAA and other aviation industry **Air Safety Training seminars**, specialized aviation safety training programs, films and classroom instruction related to air safety and small aircraft construction.

Unfortunately, the current management contractor does not want to follow through with the promises that have been held out to us for so long by their predecessors. We have been informed that they will not voluntarily donate airport land for our facility, even though it clearly meets with the FAA airport land use guidelines, which were specifically written to include the types of aviation-related community benefit activities we do.

We have raised almost all the funds to begin construction, the benefits to the community and air safety are clear, and **we must now ask that the County intervene** and donate the significant parcel of land we have been promised.

Sincerely,

Charles Ducat
President, EAA Chapter 40 818-705-2744 (h)