



Glendale Airport Pilots Association Opposes Tohono O'odham Casino and Resort Proposal

11/10/2010

The Glendale Airport Pilots Association (GAPA) is an independent organization of pilots and aircraft owners who use the Glendale Municipal airport. We are not affiliated with the City of Glendale and our mission is simply insuring the safe and long term operation of that airport for the pilots and communities it serves. Glendale Airport has literally tens of millions of dollars of federal, state and local taxpayer dollars invested in it. It is paying large rewards for the community, directly or indirectly responsible for over 500 jobs and drives economic activity in excess of \$36M. As such is it a asset worth protecting over the long term.

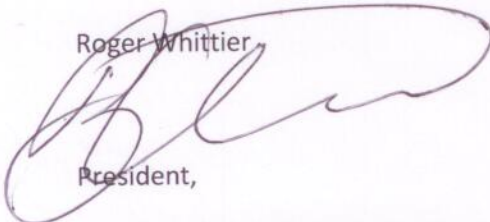
Depending on how the site is developed, the proposed Tohono O'odham land trust at the corner of 91st Avenue and Northern Avenues is potentially a threat to the safe operation of the Glendale Airport. In a worst case scenario, it may even threaten the viability of the airport. This requires some explanation from an aeronautical perspective. All airports have airspace around it that must be protected to allow safe operation of aircraft. That airspace is known as a Class D terminal area. Typically D airspace is 5 miles and the FAA requires adequate maneuvering room. Even the current development around the airport (notably the stadiums) have already caused a raising of the pattern altitude. However, those stadiums are 2 miles due east of the airport and do not interfere with the approach and departure corridors.

The proposed site of the Tohono O'odham Casino and Resort at its nearest corner is exactly one mile east of aircraft on short final descending to land on Runway 19. Aircraft at this phase of flight are necessarily descending and are somewhere between 500 and 1000 feet above ground level. It is also just about where planes in the pattern will be performing either a "crosswind" or "base" turn to arrive or depart from the airport. Finally, an aircraft in instrument meteorological condition may be flying an approach using only their instruments and can be slightly right of left of course. These areas must have low level development or that flight is not safe for the occupants of the aircraft or people on the ground. Today we have that required margin of safety.

The Glendale Airport Pilots Association is concerned that the extremely limited size of the Tohono O'odham land for development will encourage them to "build up" to maximize the utilization of their property. This is a smart strategy on their part and even if it is not planned today, it will eventually happen. Even non geographically restricted casino operations are building tall hotels, evidenced by the new 15 story tower at Talking Stick east of the 101 in Scottsdale. Since all property in the Tohono O'odham Reservation system is their "Sovereign Land, they can do as they wish to develop the property without approval from other governmental entities. That we must oppose.

Without an absolute and binding requirement that the Tohono O'odham nation cannot build above FAA safety guidelines the Glendale Airport Pilots Association must oppose this project in its entirety. This is not about Casinos. It is about safety, pure and simple.

Roger Whittier

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Whittier', is written over the typed name 'Roger Whittier'.

President,

Glendale Airport Pilots Association

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