



August 22, 2014

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Signature Request for SB 616 (Roth) related to the California Aid for Airports Program**

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Airports Council (CAC) respectfully requests your signature on SB 616 (Roth). This measure is sponsored by the CAC and will provide the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Division of Aeronautics increased flexibility when providing matching grants for California general aviation airports.

When a general aviation airport pursues airfield construction projects, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) provides 90% of funding for the project and the airport operator must provide the remaining 10%. To supplement federal funding, the Caltrans Division of Aeronautics administers a State AIP Matching Grant with a match rate of 5% of the federal grant. However, if an airport begins construction on a project before receiving the grant award, the airport loses eligibility for the matching grant.

There have been incidents in California where an airport has been awarded a State AIP Matching Grant and begun a project only to be informed by Caltrans that their application package is incomplete. Since the airport broke ground on the project, Caltrans has felt obligated to revoke their entire award.

SB 616 will allow increased case-by-case discretion for Caltrans. If a file is determined to be incomplete, Caltrans shall notify the airport the file must be completed within 45 days. After Caltrans provides the file certification to the award recipient, the awardee shall not lose eligibility for grant. Ultimately, this will lead to improved customer outcomes for those airports served by the Division of Aeronautics.

To date there has been zero opposition to this bill and it has been unanimously approved in both the Senate and the Assembly. For the reasons outlined above, CAC respectfully requests you to sign this measure. We would be happy to answer any questions your office may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jim Lites'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name and title.

Jim Lites,  
Executive Director

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