January 8, 2020

San Diego County Regional Airport Authority
Attention: Ted Anasis
P.O Box 82776
San Diego, CA 92138-2776

Subject: Support for the Airport Development Plan

Dear Mr. Anasis:

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am writing to support and congratulate the San Diego County Airport Authority for its revised Airport Development Plan (ADP) and Alternative 4 of the recirculated Draft Impact Report (EIR).

As stated in our previous letter\(^1\), the Airport is a key transportation hub, and is vital to our local economy. Since the Airport is located conveniently in the urban core, transportation planning should ensure the success of mobility options for Downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The Airport Authority has successfully taken into account the concerns held by diverse stakeholders. That includes our own concerns and the concerns of hundreds of San Diegans who submitted comments through Circulate’s website\(^2\) on the need for improved public transportation options and the excessive amount of parking originally proposed.

The Airport Authority ADP now plans for both near term and long term transportation improvements. The Airport Authority has set aside space between the terminals for a transit station that could connect to an airport transit connection brought forward by either the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System or the San Diego Association of Governments. The Airport Authority has also taken the necessary step of submitting a request to the Federal Aviation Administration to approve using airport revenues to help fund off-airport roadway and transit projects to ease access to airport.

In the near term, the Airport Authority will launch an all-electric shuttle fleet that will carry transit riders from the Old Town Transit Center to the airport and back. This service is set to launch in early 2020. The size of a planned parking structure in front of the new Terminal 1 has been reduced by 2,000 spaces,

from a maximum of 7,500 spaces to up to 5,500 spaces (a net increase of only 650 spaces from 2018), to make room for the potential transit station.

The Airport Authority made the right choice to recirculate the ADP EIR. The region will be better off as a result of the Airport Authority’s recirculation of the EIR and the implementation of Alternative 4.

Thank you for listening to stakeholders and constituents in order to bring forward the best plan for the San Diego region.

Sincerely,

Colin Parent
Executive Director and General Counsel