Date: April 4, 2019
To: Patrick West, City Manager
From: Larry Rich, Sustainability Coordinator /s/
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Sustainable City Commission and Airport Advisory Commission Support for Airport Sustainability Initiatives

On January 24, 2019, a committee comprised of members of the Sustainable City Commission and the Airport Advisory Commission met to discuss the Airport’s Sustainability Plan Outline, and expressed a desire to submit a letter in support of the proposed initiatives. The attached letter was approved by the full Airport Advisory Commission on February 21, 2019, and by the Sustainable City Commission, after a presentation by Airport staff, on February 28, 2019.

If you would like any further information regarding this communication, please contact Larry Rich, Sustainability Coordinator, at (562) 570-5839 or via email at larry.rich@longbeach.gov, or Airport Interim Director Claudia Lewis at (562) 570-2612 or Claudia.Lewis@longbeach.gov.

ATTACHMENT

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
    LAURA DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
    TOM MODICA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
    KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
    REBECCA GARNER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY TO THE CITY MANAGER
    CLAUDIA LEWIS, INTERIM AIRPORT DIRECTOR
March 22, 2019

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach California

On August 14, 2018, the Long Beach City Council unanimously adopted a motion by Mayor Garcia and Councilwoman Mungo Flanigan, directing Long Beach Airport (LGB) staff to develop a plan to "lead the nation on sustainability for airports, …to work with airlines serving LGB and other partners to become an incubator of clean tech in aviation, with goals of becoming a carbon neutral facility" (emphasis added).

Subsequently, LGB staff prepared an initial memorandum and then on January 11, 2019 shared a Sustainability Plan Outline document, which was intended to serve as "a guide to incorporate significant and measurable steps to mitigate the environmental impacts of the Airport."

On January 24, 2019, members of the Sustainable City Commission and the Airport Advisory Commission met to discuss the outline document and how to ensure the final plan submitted for your review will meet the intent of the direction provided. The draft Outline provided an excellent summary of LGB’s many sustainability and environmental initiatives, as well as sharing some initial ideas for additional programs that can be considered and national and international benchmarks. While the current sustainability efforts at LGB are well received and moving in the right direction, our subcommittees found that the document overlooked innovation in clean technology and aviation. Without addressing both issues, the Plan will fall short of the Mayor and Council’s aspirational direction, and a carbon neutral facility will be nearly impossible to achieve.

The consensus of the subcommittee was to work further with LGB and Sustainability Office staff to incorporate the following into the plan as it moves forward:

1. An accounting of the greenhouse gas and other air emissions generated by aircraft utilizing LGB, including commercial, civilian and other aircraft, in order to get a complete picture of the environmental footprint of LGB as well as to determine what measures may be implemented to address those impacts.

2. Initiatives to promote the availability and use of cleaner burning and lower carbon fuels by aircraft utilizing LGB.

3. Initiatives that will leverage local industry, educational institutions and available incentives to encourage airlines and other LGB partners to develop clean tech incubators at LGB as well as to implement new processes and technologies that spur investment and lower emissions at LGB.
4. Searching for best green practices at airports around the world that can be implemented at LGB, including on site water use/reclamation, sustainable landscaping, energy efficiency.

5. To expand ease of access to LGB from public transit, such as encouraging Long Beach Transit to circulate bus routes in a loop that drops visitors closer to the terminal, improved signage and other methods to encourage mass transit.

While these goals will not be easy, they are achievable, as proven though past leadership by the City and the Port of Long Beach in crafting and implementing a Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP) that substantially reduced the emissions from not just Port operations but also the ships, trains and trucks entering the Port. The CAAP addressed similarly complicated issues of jurisdiction and other challenges to create a new benchmark for sustainability.

We look forward to working with City staff to develop a plan that will meet the ambitious expectations set by the Mayor and Council to lead the nation on sustainability.

Sincerely,

Wayne Chaney Sr.
CHAIR
AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Coby Skye
CHAIR
SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMISSION