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April 22, 2010

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Appeals Board
C/o Clerk of the Board, Environmental Appeals Board (MC 1103B)
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Attention: Clerk of the Board

Re: EAB 08-01; PSD Permit No. 15487, Issued 2/3/10 by Bay Area Air Quality Management District, San Francisco, CA; Russell City Energy Center

Subject: Support for California Pilots Association (CALPILOTS) Petition for Review dated 3/18/10

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of 415,000 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots – including 48,214 of our members in the state of California. On behalf of our membership, AOPA is committed to ensuring the future viability, safety and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as part of a national transportation system.

We are writing in support of the California Pilots Association's (CALPILOTS) petition regarding the Russell City Energy Center in Hayward, CA. AOPA concurs with their concerns and the concerns of the California Energy Commission Staff Assessment outlined in their 2007 recommendation to not approve the Russell City Energy Center.

AOPA is concerned that the location of the energy center along with the associated exhaust plumes will significantly impact aircraft operating to and from the Hayward Executive Airport approximately 1 mile away from the proposed location. Given the fact that the Federal Aviation Administration is conducting further studies to better determine exhaust plume safety and expects to have that completed later this year, AOPA respectfully requests that you do not approve the PSD Permit No. 15487 and that you hear the petition brought before you by CALPILOTS.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

John L. Collins
Manager
Airport Policy
301-695-2119