



Boca Raton Airport Authority

3701 FAU Blvd., Suite #205, Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Phone: (561) 391-2202, Fax: (561) 391-2238

Website: www.bocairport.com

August 8, 2014

Dear Via Verde Resident:

We learned that you received a letter regarding Customs at Boca Raton Airport. We understand why such a letter would create concern and we want to make sure that you know the facts concerning the Customs Feasibility Study.

- No decision has been made.
- The study showed that the facility would **not increase** flights. Instead, the study found that travelers who leave Boca Raton on an international flight have to stop at another local airport before returning home because we don't have Customs. The same travelers who are coming to our Airport anyway would be able to come directly home.
- Using FAA operations counts and surveys of airport users, the study predicts that about 700 flights a year would fly directly here instead of stopping in Fort Lauderdale or West Palm Beach. That averages to **three flights** per day using the facility to clear customs.
- The recommended hours of operation are 10:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Thursdays through Mondays.
- Since there will be a fee to use the facility, pilots who are not coming here anyway are not likely to land at Boca Raton Airport, especially when the other airports nearby do not charge a fee to clear.
- The Airport's only sources of funding are leases and federal and state construction grants. No local taxes are used by the Airport. Therefore, the Authority's decision will be based on costs and where to put the small offices to house Customs given the limited space at the 212-acre airport.
- The size of the airport and the airplanes that land here will not change.
- The runway will not be extended.

The letter you received mentioned a May 29, 2014 article in Science World Report. What the letter didn't mention is that the air quality study referenced in the article was done in the area surrounding Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), one of the world's busiest airline airports.

In 2013, LAX handled 614,917 operations by commercial airliners that carry as many as 850 passengers and weigh over 1 million pounds on takeoff.

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Boca Raton Airport handled 48,953 operations in 2013 by airplanes that carry an average of ten passengers or less and have a maximum takeoff weight of 95,000 pounds. This includes all aircraft operations including takeoffs and landings. In fact, airport operations **decreased by 14%** since 2012.

When an analysis of air quality is done it should be based on all of the activity in the local community and should include all sources of pollutants such as cars and trucks on area roads.

According to the State of Florida, in the Via Verde area **each day** roads handle the following traffic:

- Glades Road – 54,000 vehicles
- Palmetto Park Road – 45,000 vehicles
- Powerline Road – 26,000 vehicles
- St. Andrews Boulevard – 15,200 vehicles
- Military Trail – 38,000 vehicles
- Florida Turnpike – 84,000 vehicles
- I-95 – 186,000 vehicles

This traffic has a significant impact to the air quality in the area.

The Airport, by contrast, handles far less traffic. In fact, none of the airplanes that land and takeoff from Boca Raton Airport have the capability of dumping fuel.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the study. I am also available to meet with you regarding the Airport. I can be reached at 561-391-2202 extension 211 or via email at clara@bocairport.com. Additional information regarding the Airport can be found on the Airport's website at www.bocairport.com.

Sincerely,



Clara Bennett
Executive Director