

AIRPORT LITTLE LEAGUE



1969 WORLD CHAMPIONS — SENIOR DIVISION
1966 WESTERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONS — LITTLE LEAGUE DIVISION

February 3, 1981

The Honorable Mayor
and City Council
City of Sacramento
City Hall
Sacramento California, 95814

Dear Mayor Isenberg and Council Members,

It has come to the attention of the Airport Little League Board of Directors that the Airport Land Use Commission has recommended in its' draft proposal dated October 1980 that certain public land parcels within the approach zones and overflight zones of the Sacramento Executive Airport not be used as recreational facilities due to the risk of aircraft related fatalities.

The Airport Little League Board of Directors is very much concerned about these recommendations since the entire little league diamond facilities of Airport Little League and a portion of Willow Rancho Little League are in those areas so designated.

These recommendations are distressing to us because they portend the demise of one of the oldest and most prestigious little league programs in Sacramento (1969 World Senior Champions) and because they may ultimately eliminate the only organized recreational program for boys and girls ages 7 to 18 and their families in the area during the summer months.

The report and other recent decisions concerning land use in this area indicate some exceptions to the recommendations that we believe lend to a higher risk of aircraft related human fatality than the use of our facilities during the summer months.

While we appreciate the concern of the Airport Land Use Commission for the safety of our children, we cannot accept their justification for denying them these facilities when so many exceptions which jeopardize human safety have been made and are being proposed.

We want to make you aware of this matter since you the members of the City Council will have the responsibility of making the ultimate decision of how these city-owned facilities will be utilized.

Thank you for allowing us to bring this matter to your attention.

Margaret V. Ware
Margaret V. Ware, Pres.
2101 50th Ave.
Sacramento, Ca. 95822

Presentation by
Margaret Ware, President
Airport Little League
Sacramento City Council
February 10, 1981

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am Margaret Ware the President of Airport Little League. Thank you for this opportunity to discuss with you an issue which is of grave concern to our community.

In October 1980, the Executive Airport Comprehensive Land Use Commission published the "Executive Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan". I will direct my comments to Part III (3) of that draft report which states in part:

1. Through controls over air operation procedures, aircraft technology and hazardous land uses an effort can be made to reduce the likelihood of an accident. These precautions, however, cannot guarantee absolute safety. Policies have been designed to prevent development of land use related hazards to air navigation and to limit the risk of casualties on the ground in the event of a crash.

Under these provisions the majority of the recreational facilities in the Executive Airport areas south of Fruitridge Road to Florin Road and East of Freeport Boulevard to Franklin Boulevard are designated as non-conforming to the safety requirements of the ALUC plan. Among those facilities are the four baseball diamonds currently leased by the City of Sacramento to Airport Little League.

The ALUC suggests that the only solution to this problem is to move the ballfields. This solution is not feasible because of the boundary restrictions which establish little league districts. We feel that this reasoning

demonstrates a lack of in-depth study as to the impact on our community recreational facilities. We assume that the safety parameters around which this study is being conducted are not so strict as to leave the ALUC with only one solution to this critical problem.

As you know recreational facilities are very scarce in South Sacramento, and the elimination of any facilities or programs would have a detrimental impact on the quality of life for all of us who live there.

A recent SAEOC study indicated that the first priority in terms of community service needs for South Sacramento communities was recreational facilities.

Airport Little League has been a vital part of the South Sacramento community for more than twenty-five years, and has the distinction of being the only Sacramento little league to win a world championship (Senior Division 1969). It provides a multi-faceted program which includes baseball and softball programs for boys and girls ages 7 - 18. It is a program which emphasizes sportsmanship and the development of good moral qualities. It is a program which involves not only the youth of our community, but their entire families, parents, grandparents, etc.

We recognize the apparent danger associated with our proximity to the Executive Airport, but this circumstance is a constant peril to us all, we live near it everyday. The airplanes wake us in the morning and drone us to sleep each night. They, just as little league and P.A.L. football, are a part of our lives.

In our estimation we are safer now that small craft use Executive Airport exclusively than we were when the multi-engined commercial jetliners landed there.

I do not mean to seem calloused or unconcerned, but in the more than twenty-five years that we have been using these fields, we have lost more of our children to automobile accidents than we probably ever will to airplane crashes.

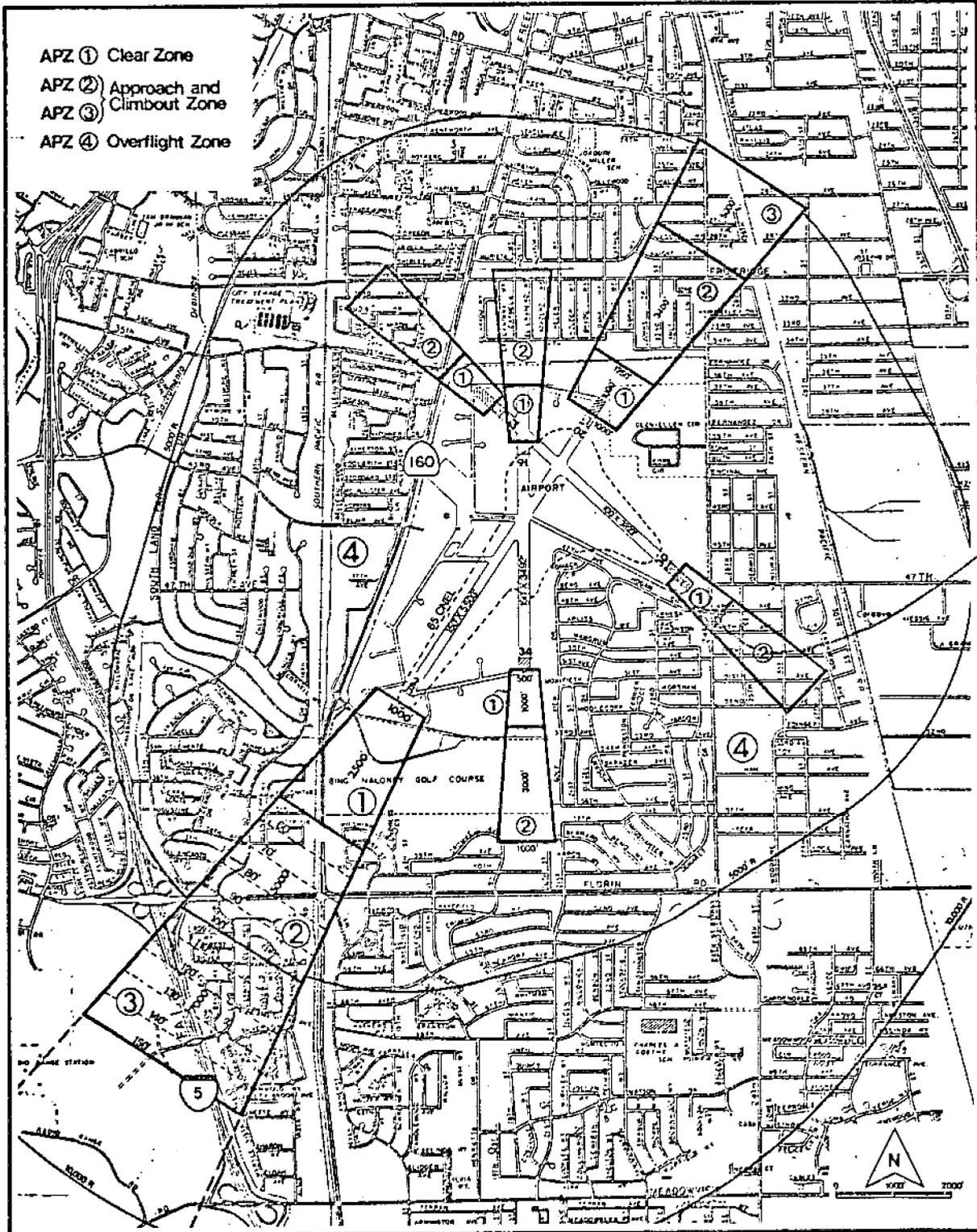
In closing may I recommend:

1. The City Council's planning review committee hold additional hearings open to the public pertaining to the use of recreational facilities within the designated safety zones.
2. That the ALUC be required to present alternatives other than relocating the diamonds and other facilities, such as restricting take-offs and landings on runway 30 during peak little league playing times, before a final plan is approved.
3. That the leases for Airport Little League be renewed immediately, with an option for renegotiating it, pending final adoption or approval by the SARPC of an Executive Airport Land Use Plan
4. That whatever guidelines are set forth in the final plan that the City Council give serious consideration to exempting these recreational facilities from this plan because they will create an undue hardship on our community which outweighs the interest of public health and safety in the South Sacramento area.

Enclosures

Figure 2

Sacramento Executive Airport Safety Zones



→ Airport Little League

Safety Zones

Airport Plans May Threaten Ball Parks

By Doug Dempster
Bee Staff Writer

Several recreational facilities may be threatened when safety zones are set around Executive Airport.

The zones, which would restrict buildings and population density in the path of runways, could force curtailment of recreation at James Mangan Park and eliminate up to five Little League baseball diamonds.

Proposed safety zones are in a draft report prepared by the Airport Land Use Commission. In addition to recreation facilities, the report says 12 schools and various commercial areas could also be affected.

For Airport Little League, whose senior division won the World Series in 1969 and a western region title in 1966, eviction from two fields with four diamonds could end the league.

"We're in signups now and we begin play April 11," said Margaret Ware, president of the 30-team league. Her husband, Dan, player coordinator, said the league plans to replace a sprinkler system and do other work, but is reluctant because of the uncertainty.

Airport Little League learned of the problem when the city refused to extend its \$1-a-year lease on the two sites — the southwest corner of 24th Street and Hogan Drive and the southeast corner of 24th Street and 47th Avenue. The city would agree only to month-to-month extension when the lease expired Dec. 31. League officials say they may have no place else to go within

their boundaries.

The other Little League that could be affected is Willow Rancho. One of its diamonds — near the southeast corner of Freeport and Florin — is jeopardized.

At Mangan Park, it would cost more than \$1 million to replace the pool, tot lot and other facilities at another site, says city recreation and parks chief Solon "Doc" Wisham. The figure doesn't include land, in short supply in the area.

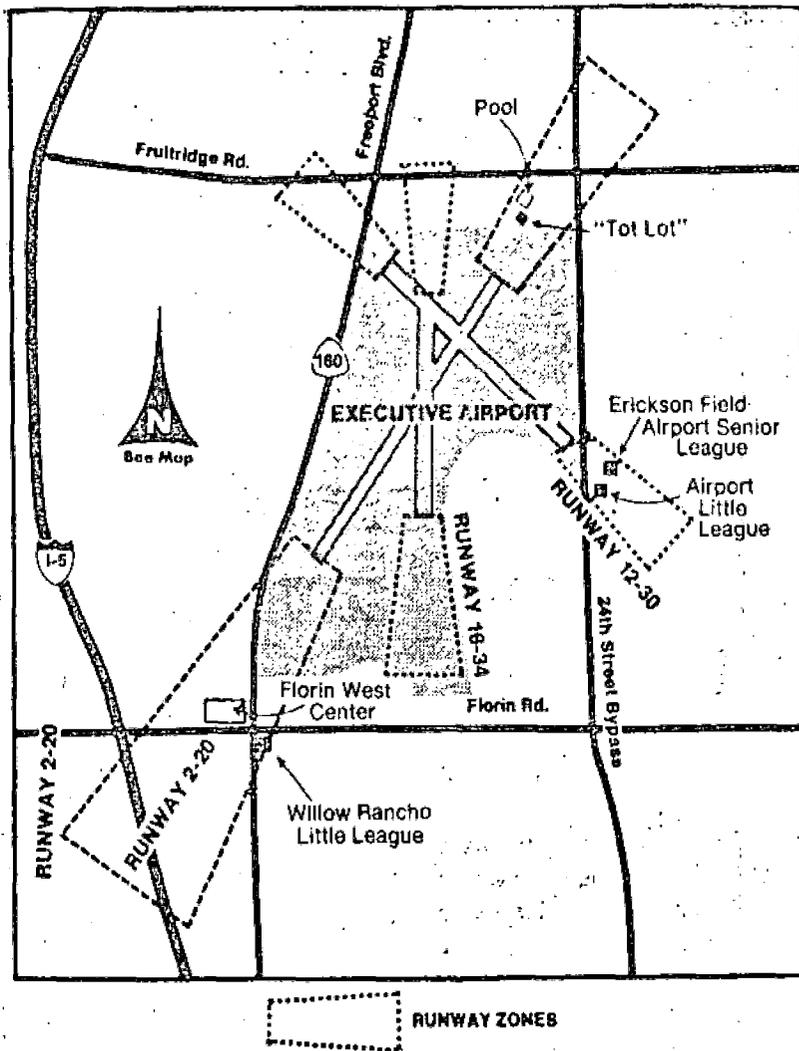
If those facilities are pulled out, he said, remaining features would not carry a density of more than 10 persons an acre. Bing Maloney Golf Course, on the airport's south boundary, doesn't exceed that density, so it isn't affected.

Wisham has mixed emotions about the problem. "I would hate to see the community lose these (recreational) resources but there's a logical and legal concern," he said. "An accident would be a tragedy."

City Attorney James P. Jackson says the plan, while restricting new uses, wouldn't flatly outlaw present uses, but the city staff may recommend phase-out. The City Council would make the decision. A phase-out decision would be difficult because the city is short of money to replace facilities either in the park or the Little League fields. Wisham believes the city would try to help the league move, although it has no legal requirement to do so.

Discussions and public hearings on the proposed safety zones are sched-

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Airport

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 ulated before the city Planning Commission Feb. 19 and the City Council March 10 — with a council committee meeting in between. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments, sitting as the Regional Airport Land Use Commission, is scheduled to consider the plan March 19 and April 16.

In addition to 12 schools that might be affected by the zones, other possible disputes could center on the Florin West Center at Florin and South Land Park Drive and commercial areas at 24th and Fruitridge. Restrictions would depend on population density. A restaurant could be taboo and a furniture store acceptable.

That — plus restrictions on reconstruction after fire or other calamity — could lessen property values, the plan declares.

The City Council could override a negative Airport Land Use Commission

decision about a new project by a four-fifths vote — eight of the nine council members.

The secondary runway which affects Airport Little League was involved in Executive's worst accident — the deaths of 22 persons from the 1972 crash of a Korean War-era jet into crowded Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour. The takeoff was in the opposite direction from the Little League fields.

AIRPORT LITTLE LEAGUE



1969 WORLD CHAMPIONS — SENIOR DIVISION

1966 WESTERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONS — LITTLE LEAGUE DIVISION

January 15, 1981

The Honorable Tom Hoeber
Councilman
City of Sacramento
City Hall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Hoeber:

It has come to the attention of the Airport Little League Board of Directors that the Airport Land Use Commission has recommended in its draft proposal dated October 1980 that certain public land parcels within the approach zones and overflight zones of Sacramento Executive Airport not be used as recreational facilities.

This is a very distressing and incomprehensible recommendation to us since the entire Little League diamond facilities of Airport Little League and a portion of Willow Rancho Little League are in those areas so designated.

This is distressing to us because it portends the demise of one of the oldest and most prestigious Little League programs in Sacramento (1969 World Senior Champions), and because it will eliminate the only organized recreational program for boys and girls 7 - 18 in the area during the summer months.

A recent SAEOC Study indicated that recreation was the number one priority in Sacramento.

It is incomprehensible to us that our field should be zoned for non-recreational use, when: 1. Bing Maloney Golf Course has not been restricted and is in the main flight path for both landings and takeoffs; 2. Recent rezoning has allowed lots adjacent to our fields permission to build condominiums; and 3. The risk of a serious aircraft-related accident has diminished greatly since commercial jet service has been moved to Metropolitan Airport.

While we appreciate the concern of the Airport Land Use Commission for the safety of our children, we cannot accept their justification for denying them these facilities when so many exceptions which jeopardize human safety have been made.

The Board of Directors of Airport Little League would appreciate meeting with you at your earliest convenience. Our sign-ups for the 1981 season begin January 31, 1981. I will call you for an appointment.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ware
6931 - 21st Street
Sacramento, CA 95822

cc: Mayor of Sacramento