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April 13, 2015

Hon. Maxine Waters
Member of Congress, 43rd District
10124 S. Broadway, Suite 1
Los Angeles, CA 90003

Re: US Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles

Dear Congresswoman Waters:

We are asking for your involvement in retaining the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Air Station at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). As you may have read in recent newspaper reports, the USCG hangar at LAX will be torn down in 2016 to make way for other airport projects. The USCG will relocate the LAX air station to Point Mugu Naval Air Station in Ventura County until another location can be found. The proposed move to Point Mugu will not only move important federal assets out of your district, but also out of Los Angeles County.

In an emergency situation, every second counts. We are very worried that Coast Guard helicopters based in Ventura County may arrive too late on the scene for any kind of ocean rescue in Los Angeles County. The west facing beaches of Santa Monica Bay are a global attraction for tourists and local residents alike. The current USCG air station location at LAX puts rescue resources almost the midpoint of the west facing beaches and close proximity to Marina del Rey, the world's largest small craft harbor and home to USCG ocean vessels.

As reported in the press, USCG Air Station Los Angeles responded to about 130 rescues last year; that is an average of 1 rescue every 3 days per year. As you are aware, LAX is the number one terrorist target on the West Coast, now the second busiest airport in the United States and the primary airport when the President of the United States of America comes to visit Los Angeles. We trust that you will agree USCG air assets need to be closest to where the needs are greatest. The USCG has been an LAX tenant since 1962 and there is little doubt that its proximity at LAX has been integral in rapid emergency response.

We ask that you meet with USCG officials, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) executives to find another suitable location at LAX for USCG air operations. We believe that it is possible to retain the USCG air station between the LAX runways. We are happy to help in any way needed.

Please contact us if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your leadership in retaining USCG Air Station Los Angeles in Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

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