

## Communication from Public

**Name:** City Attorney letter  
**Date Submitted:** 11/14/2024 06:52 PM  
**Council File No:** 24-0125  
**Comments for Public Posting:** City Attorney letter cites wrong doing by LAWA and confirms City Council acted in accordance with Charter law when disapproving the Bonseph Helinet LLC lease. See next page.



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney  
Hydee Feldstein Soto

October 29, 2024

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

Mark McClardy, Director  
Federal Aviation Administration  
777 S. Aviation Blvd., Suite 150  
El Segundo, CA 90245  
Email: [mark.mcclardy@faa.gov](mailto:mark.mcclardy@faa.gov)

Re: Bonseph Helinet Lease

Dear Regional Director McClardy,

This brief letter is intended to provide some additional background to, but in no way contradict or supplant, LAWA's recently submitted Corrective Action Plan.

In disapproving Bonseph Helinet's proposed lease in March, the City Council did not restrict aeronautical use of the Van Nuys Airport (VNY) in violation of its Grant Assurances. Nor, contrary to LAWA's characterization in its April 5, 2024 letter to the FAA's Brian Armstrong, has Councilmember Padilla reflected a desire to impose operational restrictions at VNY.

The City Council on March 1, 2024, was exercising its discretion under Charter Section 606 in evaluating the proposed lease submitted to it on February 6, 2024. In disapproving the proposed lease, City Council exercised its judgment that the RFP process which resulted in BOAC's selection of Bonseph Helinet was, in City Council's judgment, insufficiently competitive under the City Charter and/or the City Administrative Code. That is to say, the process could possibly have been more fully competitive, as evidenced by the RFP's receiving only the single bid from Bonseph Helinet.

**There is no such thing as "insufficiently competitive". It is either competitive or it's not therefore, regardless of its softball approach - the City Attorney acknowledges the RFP for this lease was a noncompetitive bidding process. The City Attorney also acknowledges that LAWA lied about elected officials and the City's actions in their April 5th letter.**

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In light of the above, City Council understood its denial of the lease to have complied with its federal obligations—specifically Grant Assurance 22—which dictates, among other things, that an airport sponsor must make the airport available as an airport for public use on reasonable terms and without unjust discrimination.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Strefan Fauble,  
Assistant City Attorney

Why is the FAA violating its own rules and regulations with an unsubstantiated threat? And why hasn't the City Attorney called them out on it and challenged? The City Attorney could have ended this months ago since the law is on the side of the City so why is the City Attorney allowing corruption to compound in this instance? LAWA was caught colluding with a bidder. Hold them accountable and honor Charter law by rejecting the lease and moving on.