

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** Thank you, my name is Casey Coward, I'm with the SEIU United Service Workers West union, who represent thousands of essential service workers at LAX, as well as thousands more in our other divisions who live in close proximity to the airport. Firstly I'd like to thank the committee for its time and attention on this issue, and particularly Councilmember Bonin for all his work as a champion for both LAX workers and communities around the airport. This item would fund a pair of independent studies aimed at better understanding the impact of LAX operations on nearby communities and airport workers. Though the academic record on pollution and health outcomes in airport-adjacent communities is far from comprehensive, we know several things: One - it is difficult to understate the impact that LAX has on regional air quality. Within the South Coast Air Basin, LAX ranks #1 among facilities in numerous criteria pollutants. Even statewide, LAX is an emissions leader. Its lowest statewide ranking in any criteria pollutant is 139th - still in the top .7% of facilities in all of California. A recent USC study found that ultrafine pollution tied to jet exhaust extended as far as 10 miles downwind of LAX. Very simply: LAX is an enormous part of the emissions landscape within the Greater Los Angeles area. Two - we know that communities near hub airports tend to have nearly twice the proportion of people of color than the population at large. This is dramatically true for LAX, where the neighborhoods and cities east of the airport are predominantly non-white. Five of the ten least-white census tracts in the county are just east of LAX, under the flightpath. Recently, the city and airport approved the Airfield & Terminal Modernization Project, a massive, multi-year development that will add a pair of new terminals to one of the busiest airports in the world. We view this item as absolutely necessary in order to ensure that LAX is growing responsibly and equitably, and that its modernization does not represent a devastating continuation of decades of injustice dealt to far too many communities of color and the working class people that make the city thrive. We hope that this committee and the council agree, emphatically, that an independent assessment of the impact of airport operations on communities and workers is essential if the airport and city wishes to do right by its residents. Thank you.