

**From:** [Vanessa Forsythe](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#); [Jason Haber](#); [Teresa Acosta](#); [Melanie Burkholder](#); [Carolyn Luna](#); [Keith Blackburn](#); [Priya Bhat-Patel](#)  
**Subject:** 02/27 City Council Meeting Agenda Item #10 Call for Unleaded Fuel Tank at Palomar Airport  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 1:35:55 PM

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Dear Honorable Mayor Blackburn and City Councillors

Noise pollution caused by unregulated Palomar Airport flight patterns to surrounding neighborhoods and the San Diego County plans to provide for expansion of the airport runway for bigger jets to fly in and out is not what Carlsbad citizens want.

But the Avgas leaded fuel used by the single propeller (piston-engine) planes at Palomar Airport is an urgent concern because of its community health impact. I am asking that the City of Carlsbad address this concern to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors responsible for the Palomar Airport Sustainability Plan directing them to include the phasing out of leaded fuel along with the purchase of an unleaded fuel tank to support the transition to unleaded fuel.

Lead emissions from piston-engine aircrafts remain the largest unregulated source of lead emissions in this country and account for the majority of lead emitted into the domestic atmosphere. There is no safe blood level of lead, and research has shown leaded avgas endangers public health. Children are particularly vulnerable to the life long irreversible impacts of leaded fuel. At lowest levels of lead exposure, children experience physical, cognitive, and neurobehavioral impairment. Fetuses and infants are also put at risk of lead exposure from lead in their mothers' bodies or from nursing. [CDPH Lead in Aviation Fuel](#)

Recognizing the health dangers of leaded aviation fuel SB 1193 was introduced this legislative session by Senators Menjivar and Stern calls for a phasing out of airports and aviation retailers from selling or distributing leaded aviation gas to consumers in CA. It requires CA EPA to publish on its website by July 1, 2025 guidance for airport operators to minimize lead exposure. Each airport operator must submit an implementation plan by Nov 1, 2025. Carlsbad should be following other communities in our state who are requiring county airports to transition towards unleaded fuel.

My understanding is that the Council Members Burkholder and Acosta heard my concern in December of 2023 and included it in the Legislative Committee Platform. I would appreciate it if staff would contact me regarding this and ask that the Mayor and all the City Councillors support addressing the public health impact of AVGAS.

Thank you

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[California Nurses for Environmental Health & Justice](#)

Leadership Council

[CleanEarth4Kids](#)

Board Member

"We are on Earth to take care of life. We are on Earth to take care of each other." — Xiye Bastida, climate activist

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