

From: Chris Chavez <chris@ccair.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 3:20 PM
To: Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Comments on Item 14: #24-51762 - re: Aviation Fuel (Support)

-EXTERNAL-

Hello, Councilmember Kerr - I wanted to make sure your office received a copy of our comments in support of Item 14 on the council agenda today.

Dear Long Beach City Council Members,

Coalition for Clean Air supports the motion to create an unleaded aviation fuel (avgas) subsidy at Long Beach Airport.

The dangers of lead have been well known for thousands of years. Lead causes harm to the brain, kidneys, liver and bones and is a probable carcinogen. Further, lead causes significant developmental, cognitive and behavioral problems. The use of tetraethyllead in automotive fuels from the 1920s to 1990s is being increasingly viewed as having been a major contributor to the increase in crime rates during the same period.

While lead is no longer used in automotive fuels, avgas for piston-powered general aviation aircraft utilizes lead additives. Considering that most general aviation traffic follows a flight path near Willow Springs Park and over several residential neighborhoods, eliminating leaded fuels from Long Beach Airport is imperative for public health. Additionally, the Federal Aviation Administration has set a target to phase out the use of leaded avgas by 2030, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency has lowered allowable lead screening levels for residential soil from 400 to 200 parts per million.

Incentivizing the use of unleaded avgas is a good first step; however, we hope the City of Long Beach continues to lead on this issue. Going forward, we hope the city continues to push forward and expeditiously phase out the offering of leaded avgas at the airport. Further, we encourage the city to consider how to position itself to support the ongoing development and future adoption of zero-emissions aviation.

Thank you for introducing this motion, and for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Christopher Chavez
Deputy Policy Director
7th district resident