



# MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

November 27, 2023

Michael S. Regan  
Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Michael Whitaker  
Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20591

## **RE: Support for Transitioning to Unleaded Aviation Fuel**

Dear Administrators Regan and Whitaker,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write to respectfully request that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) expedite the transition to unleaded aviation fuel. On November 14, 2023, the Long Beach City Council voted to request support for the phase out of leaded aviation fuel. While Long Beach has done everything we can locally to advance this transition, it is ultimately a federal issue that only the federal government can regulate, and it deserves prompt attention and action.

The EPA recently announced its determination that emissions from leaded aviation fuel contribute to air pollution levels that endanger public health and welfare under the Clean Air Act. With this finding, the EPA is now obligated to propose and promulgate regulatory standards for lead emissions from certain aircraft engines. Under its own statutes, the FAA must develop standards that address the composition, chemical, or physical properties of an aircraft fuel or fuel additive to control or eliminate aircraft lead emissions. This is a critical step to improve air quality for residents in Long Beach and nationwide.

The City supports policies and legislation to provide additional resources for the development and transition to unleaded aviation fuel. Long Beach Airport (LGB) is dedicated to sustainability and has made efforts to operate in an environmentally responsible manner to minimize impacts on the environment and surrounding community. LGB is dedicated to promoting clean air and to reducing emissions through its carbon management plan, which includes pledges to reduce emissions from 2016 levels, on a per passenger basis, by 20 percent in 2025 and 40 percent in 2030. LGB has also accomplished a variety of sustainability objectives, including the electrification of ground support equipment; installation of chargers at 11 commercial passenger gates; implementation of recycling and organic waste diversion programs; and replacement of existing fixtures with low voltage and LED bulbs. LGB is one of five commercial airports in the Southern California region working collaboratively to achieve voluntary targets for renewable energy, sustainable design, clean construction practices, clean fleet goals for airport-owned vehicles, and additional electric charging infrastructure for travelers.

In alignment with City and federal goals to transition to unleaded fuel, LGB has taken key steps to begin this process through the implementation of various incentive programs. The transition to unleaded fuel will require fuel providers to have additional infrastructure and equipment, which may necessitate additional expenses for fuel providers, for the sale of unleaded fuel. To help begin and accelerate this transition, the Long Beach City Council adopted a [resolution](#) to amend the Master Fee and Charges Schedule to exempt unleaded aviation fuel from fuel flowage fees for the annual periods of 2023-2025. Additionally, the Long Beach City Council approved a policy to authorize the reimbursement of Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) costs to LGB-based pilots. An STC is a certification of an aircraft's capability to use the currently available unleaded fuel. These incentive programs are supported by the Airport Enterprise Fund.

The air pollution caused by leaded fuel is an important environmental issue, as leaded aviation gasoline accounts for approximately 70 percent of all airborne lead emissions in the country. For piston-engine aircraft, the FAA has authorized a safer unleaded fuel usable by approximately 65 percent of the nation's piston-powered fleet. With one of its fixed-base operators now offering Swift UL94 unleaded aviation gasoline for sale, LGB is aligned with the FAA's nationwide campaign, Eliminate Aviation Gasoline Lead Emissions (EAGLE), which will phase out leaded aviation fuel by the end of 2030. However, unleaded fuel for general aviation aircraft is not easily accessible, and we urge the federal government to invest both in the development of this fuel and the infrastructure necessary to help make it more widely accessible and affordable for use nationwide.

Thank you for your consideration. The City supports efforts to expedite the transition to unleaded aviation fuel and assist the industry in making unleaded fuel more widely available and affordable.

Sincerely,



Mayor Rex Richardson  
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla  
The Honorable Senator Laphonza Butler  
The Honorable Congressman Robert Garcia, 42<sup>nd</sup> District  
The Honorable Congressmember Nanette Barragan, 44<sup>th</sup> District