



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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September 25, 2025

Mr. Oscar Acuña
Port Director
Tactical/Trade/Operations
Los Angeles International Airport
U.S. Customs & Border Protection
oscar.acuna@cbp.dhs.gov

RE: USER FEE FACILITY ("UFF") APPLICATION FOR JACQUELINE COCHRAN REGIONAL AIRPORT ("JCRA"), THERMAL, CA

Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, as amended (Public Law 98-573); 19 U.S.C. § 58b

Dear Mr. Acuña:

On behalf of the City of Palm Desert, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the designation of Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport (JCRA) in Thermal, California, as a User Fee Facility under Section 236 of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-573), as amended (19 U.S.C. § 58b).

The Riverside County Transportation & Land Management Agency, Aviation Division, has submitted the formal application as the sponsoring entity. We fully support this effort and recognize the significant benefits that a UFF designation at JCRA would provide, including:

- **Regional Economic Growth:** Establishing a user fee facility at JCRA will strengthen the Coachella Valley's economic vitality by supporting business aviation, international commerce, and tourism that drive our region's growth.
- **Operational Efficiency:** A UFF designation will expand Customs and Border Protection processing capacity in Southern California, alleviating congestion at existing primary ports of entry and improving efficiency for international travelers and cargo operators.
- **Community Benefits:** Enhanced airport capabilities will bolster our region's competitiveness in attracting investment, events, and business activity—further benefiting Palm Desert and neighboring communities.

Given the critical role of JCRA in advancing economic and community development across the Coachella Valley, the City of Palm Desert respectfully urges U.S. Customs & Border Protection to approve this application expeditiously.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to supporting regional infrastructure that strengthens both our local economy and national trade operations.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Harnik
Mayor, City of Palm Desert