



AGENDA STAFF REPORT DRAFT

Agenda Item

ASR Control

MEETING DATE: 12/02/2025

LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): 5

SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: John Wayne Airport (Pending)

DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Charlene Reynolds (949) 252-5183
Komal Kumar (949) 252-5166

SUBJECT: Approve Participation in the Federal Integration Pilot Program

CEO CONCUR Pending Review	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW Pending Review	CLERK OF THE BOARD Consent Calendar 3 Votes Board Majority
Budgeted: N/A	Current Year Cost: N/A	Annual Cost: N/A
Staffing Impact: No	# of Positions:	Sole Source: N/A
Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A	County Audit in last 3 years: No	
Funding Source: N/A		
Levine Act Review Completed:		
Prior Board Action: N/A		

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Authorize the Airport Director or designee to execute a Letter of Intent between John Wayne Airport and Archer Aviation Inc. for participation in the Federal Integration Pilot Program for Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing aircraft.

SUMMARY:

The Letter of Intent serves to formalize the Parties' mutual interest in establishing a public-private partnership to participate in the Federal Integration Pilot Program, Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing Integration Pilot Program, which aims to advance safe, quiet, and zero-emission Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing operations connecting Orange County to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games through Archer's planned air-taxi network.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

One of the latest innovations in transportation technology, aircraft are electric aircraft that take off and land going straight up and down known as Electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (eVTOL). Powered by batteries, eVTOLs hover and fly, much like a helicopter, and are typically designed to carry two to six passengers, including a pilot.

On September 12, 2025, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced the creation of a new program, known as the eVTOL Integration Pilot Program (eIPP), which is intended to use public-private partnerships to accelerate the deployment of eVTOLs and other advanced air mobility (AAM) vehicles into the National Airspace System.

The FAA will award at least five contracts to state, local, tribal and territorial governments to participate. The Letter of Intent (LOI) will allow both parties to work in good faith to jointly prepare and submit a complete application to the eIPP by the announced deadline of December 11, 2025, and to coordinate closely on planning, outreach, and stakeholder engagement as necessary to strengthen the application.

California is home to several eVTOL companies including Archer Aviation Inc. (Archer), Joby Aviation, Inc. (Joby), Supernal LLC (Supernal) and Wisk Aero LLC (Wisk). With California's heavy traffic, there is high demand for smarter, faster mobility options, this makes Orange County a prime candidate for early adoption of eVTOL aircraft that can offer both speed and a sustainable option to the travelling public.

The goal of the eIPP is for the FAA to work with selected governments, and their private sector partners to demonstrate the viability of eVTOL technology.

Compliance with CEQA: This action is not a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378 and is therefore not subject to CEQA, since it does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The approval of this agenda item does not commit the County to a definite course of action in regard to a project since it is an approval for the execution of a LOI to formalize the Parties' mutual interest in establishing a public-private partnership to participate in the Federal Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing Integration Pilot Program. This proposed activity is therefore not subject to CEQA. Any future action connected to this approval that constitutes a project will be reviewed for compliance with CEQA.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment A – Letter of Intent



Letter of Intent

Between John Wayne Airport - Orange County (SNA) and Archer Aviation Inc.
Regarding Participation in the Federal Integration Pilot Program (iPP) for eVTOL

[Date]

This Letter of Intent ("LOI") sets forth the mutual understanding between John Wayne Airport - Orange County (SNA) and Archer Aviation Inc. ("Archer"), collectively referred to as the "Parties," with respect to their intent to collaborate on the upcoming application to the federal Integration Pilot Program (iPP) for electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) operations.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this LOI is to memorialize the Parties' shared interest in forming a public-private partnership to pursue participation in the iPP, with the goal of advancing safe, quiet, and zero-emission eVTOL operations that connect Orange County to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games via Archer's planned air-taxi network.

2. Collaboration

The Parties intend to work in good faith to jointly prepare and submit a complete application to the iPP by the announced deadline of December 11, 2025, and to coordinate closely on planning, outreach, and stakeholder engagement as necessary to strengthen the application.

3. Exclusivity

SNA intends to exclusively support Archer Aviation as its lead private partner for this application. Archer intends to name SNA as its lead airport partner in the initial submission to the iPP.

4. Non-Binding Commitment

This LOI reflects the Parties' good faith intentions but does not create any binding legal obligation, financial liability, or commitment by either Party. It is understood that no liability, risk, or cost is anticipated to be borne by SNA as a result of its participation in the development or submission of the iPP application.

5. Term

This LOI shall remain in effect through the submission of the iPP application, unless otherwise agreed in writing by both Parties.

6. Next Steps

Upon mutual execution of this LOI, the Parties will begin work to identify sites, engage stakeholders, and develop the application materials required by the U.S. Department of Transportation.



[Signature Block – John Wayne Airport - Orange County (SNA)]

Name:

Title:

Date:

[Signature Block – Archer Aviation Inc.]

Name:

Title:

Date:

DRAFT