

Southern Arizona Hiking Club

P O B o x 3 2 2 5 7 T u c s o n , A Z 8 5 7 5 1

30 April 2017

To: Suzanne Shields, P.E.
Director, Pima County Regional Flood Control District

From: James Terlep
Access Trail Coordinator
Southern Arizona Hiking Club

Dear Ms. Shields,

A model airplane club is proposing to use Pima County Flood Control land for a new airstrip. This property is located near an existing parking lot and staging area for the hikers, bicyclist and equestrians who use the parking lot to access the CDO portion of the LOOP trail system at Overton Road.

The Southern Arizona Hiking Club opposes the presence of an airstrip for model airplanes at this location as fundamentally incompatible with the public's current use of this area. It is a safety hazard, especially to equestrians, whose horses may act unpredictably and in a dangerous manner to the noise and physical presence of model airplanes which themselves cannot be guaranteed to always be under control.

The parking lot, in its present condition, provides an excellent staging area for horse and horse trailers and has been modified to accommodate equestrians with horse step overs and steps for mounting horses. With development, this type of quality access has been dwindling in the Tucson area, limiting opportunities for trail rides such as the CDO wash.

The Southern Arizona Hiking Club regularly hikes 'The Loop' which includes the trail segments which are accessed by the Overton Road Trail Head. We request that the integrity of the county linear trail system be maintained and that the model airplane landing strip be located at another distant location from developed trails.

Thank You,

James Terlep
5751 W. Placita Del Risco
Tucson, Arizona 85745
520-743-9664
Jterlep2000@yahoo.com