



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

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January 30, 2009

Mr. Fred Watts  
Airport Director  
City of Venice  
150 Airport Avenue  
Venice, Florida 34285

Dear Mr. Watts:

RE: Venice Municipal Airport; Venice, Florida  
Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Florida Scrub-jay

This letter is written in response to your request for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidance regarding the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Florida Scrub-jay on airport property. The HCP proposes an easement to create a habitat that would attract the scrub-jay onto airport property.

We object to the designation of any portion of the airport as a scrub-jay habitat. We further object to granting an easement on airport property for the purposes of creating a wildlife attractant/ wildlife habitat. The HCP does not indicate evidence of existing, naturally formed wildlife habitats on airport property currently inhabited by the Florida scrub-jay. It would be counterintuitive to create a wildlife habitat to attract wildlife onto airport property because of the safety risks associated with wildlife on airports (e.g. bird strikes.)

The City of Venice is obligated to adhere to FAA regulations and Advisory Circulars. We refer you the Advisory Circular 150/5200 – 33B “Hazardous Wildlife Attractants on or Near Airports” for additional guidance related to maintaining safety on the airport relative to existing and/or proposed wildlife attractants.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Krystal G. Ritchey, P.E.  
Program Manager

cc: Nancy Woodley, City of Venice  
James Ley, Sarasota County Administrator  
Aaron Smith, FDOT/Central Office  
Ed Martin, City of Venice