



Reno/Tahoe International Airport

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September 23, 2004

Federal Aviation Administration
Airports Financial Assistance Division
APP-500
ATTN: Mr. Kendall Ball, Room 619
800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Room PL-401
Washington, D.C. 20591

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APP-500

RE: Docket No. FAA - 2004 - 18925 - 4

Dear Mr. Ball:

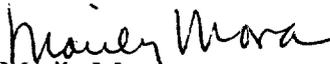
The staff at Reno/Tahoe International Airport has reviewed the Airport Improvement Grant Assurances; Proposed Modifications and Opportunity to Comment which was published in the Federal Register on August 24, 2004.

We take this opportunity to make the following comment:

Section C, Paragraph 19(b) states that the airport owner or operator will take necessary action to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that at least 10% of all businesses at the airport selling consumer products or consumer services to the public are DBEs. It is our understanding that as of the effective date of 49 CFR Part 26, there is no longer a 10% DBE requirement. It is our understanding, based on guidance issued by the FAA Office of Civil Rights, that DBE goals are to be set for these types of businesses in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26. The goals are to be based on the relative availability of DBE firms who are ready, willing and able to perform the contract. The goal may be more or less than 10%, depending upon the results of the research into availability. The overall goal for the airport will be an amalgamation of the individual contract goals which are set based on the research. Based on this, we recommend that the language be changed to reflect the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26.

The Reno/Tahoe International Airport appreciates the opportunity to provide a response to the proposed rule. We hope that our comments are of assistance in formulating a final rule.

Sincerely,


Marilyn Mora
Deputy Executive Director