



June 29, 2026

**Mayor**

Lauren Kleiman

**Mayor Pro Tem**

Noah Blom

**Council Members**

Michelle Barto

Robyn Grant

Joe Stapleton

Sara J. Weber

Erik Kenneth Weigand

The Honorable Lori Wilson  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 8110  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 431 (Wilson) Advanced Air Mobility Infrastructure Act  
Oppose Unless Amended – City of Newport Beach**

Dear Assemblymember Wilson,

I write to you on behalf of the City of Newport Beach in respectful opposition to AB 431, unless the bill is amended to provide greater clarity surrounding local regulation of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) facilities.

The City supports the inclusion of AAM in the next update to the California Transportation Plan, as well as the working group to support the development and implementation in California. The concern with this legislation is in Section 21724(a) in which the bill language states that “This chapter shall not be construed to interfere with or suspend...state zoning laws or regulations, including but not limited to, zoning laws or regulations relating to land use, development, or the construction of facilities within the jurisdiction of the local zoning authority”. As currently written, this bill could be construed to preempt local regulation of AAM facilities as local regulations are not specifically mentioned in the bill text.

The City is located directly adjacent to John Wayne Airport, a large passenger airport that is poised to become a core hub for AAM. Already we have seen major infrastructure changes at the airport as companies have begun installing electric air taxi chargers with the intent of using them for AAM projects. Several companies are also looking at installing vertiports surrounding the airport. If this bill is enacted and interpreted to preempt local zoning regulations surrounding AAM and vertiports, this could lead to the City to forcibly approving new AAM projects in locations that were deemed unsafe.

We are requesting that this bill be amended to include language that expressly states that local regulation is not preempted. If this bill is interpreted to preempt local regulation, cities would not have control

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over where AAM facilities would be located within their jurisdictions which could lead to dangerous conditions in certain areas where cities have determined that AAM facilities would not be viable. Local control over zoning is particularly critical when determining the location for new transportation facilities, especially AAM, a new technology that will likely require high energy demand, among other resources.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach maintains an oppose unless amended position unless language is added to expressly state that local regulations will not be preempted by this legislation.

Thank you and please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lauren Kleiman  
Mayor  
City of Newport Beach

Cc: Newport Beach City Council