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DEBATE OVER SAFETY OF BUILDING NEAR AIRPORT

Last Updated:
04-03-07 at 6:02PM

There is renewed debate over the Sunroad tower and the safety of flyers and pilots at nearby Montgomery Field. Those who oppose the tower say it's just too high for planes taking off or landing at the airport.

San Diego Councilwoman Donna Frye calls the 12-story building under construction near Montgomery Field a hazard. She wants Sunroad Enterprises to halt work on the top 20 feet of the structure to comply with the Federal Aviation Administration.

"We are calling on Mayor Sanders to enforce the stop work orders for the Sunroad office building," Frye said during a press conference. "Putting profit above the public safety is unacceptable," Frye said.

The 6th District representative was surrounded by concerned pilots and by members of the Community Airfields Association.

"Pilots have to follow FAA rules in order to fly safely, and the developments around the airport, and the developments around the airfield should also follow federal and state regulations to ensure public safety," Community Airfields Association President Rick Beach said.

Sunroad Enterprises Vice President of Development Tom Story says there is a way to solve the issue without having to tear down the top of the building.

Sunroad has put out a four-minute [video](#) with commentary by two veteran pilots who say the building is not a hazard.

Some of the concerns have centered around weather conditions when there are low clouds and winds are out of the



VIDEO: [Watch Video](#)

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NEWS 8 WEB POLL

Should work be completed on a 12-story office building next to Montgomery Field?

- No, it's a hazard to pilots.
- Yes, it's safe.

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Tom Story says if the FAA had any doubts about his project, they would have pulled the plug on it.


"We believe it is not a safety hazard, the FAA has not said there is a safety issue here," Story said. "We understand from our FAA attorneys that in fact if the FAA thought that it was unsafe, they would tear it down and would have done that months ago."


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