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POLLUTION CONTROL HEARINGS BOARD  
FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEARINGS OFFICE

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3	AIRPORT COMMUNITIES COALITION,	)	No. 01-133
4	Appellant,	)	No. 01-160
5	v.	)	DECLARATION OF ROBERT
6	STATE OF WASHINGTON,	)	OLANDER IN SUPPORT OF ACC'S
7	DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY; and	)	MOTION FOR STAY
8	THE PORT OF SEATTLE,	)	(Section 401 Certification No.
9	Respondents.	)	1996-4-02325 and CZMA concurrency
10		)	statement, issued August 10, 2001,
11		)	Reissued September 21, 2001, under No.
12		)	1996-4-02325 (Amended-1))

Robert Olander declares as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18, am competent to testify, and have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein.

2. I am City Manager of the City of Des Moines and have served in that position since February of 1996. Prior to that I served as Assistant City Manager for the City of Des Moines from February of 1988. In those capacities I, I have followed and participated in proceedings of the Puget Sound Regional Council concerning airport planning. I served as a member of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Advisory Committee charged with studying sites for a supplemental airport for the Puget Sound Region, I participated in PSRC meetings, read PSRC documents and reports on airport issues and testified before the PSRC on airport issues.

3. I have reviewed the Declarations of Gina Marie Lindsay and related submissions by the Port to the Board, as well as the Port's Memorandum Opposing ACC's Motion for Stay, concerning

DECLARATION OF ROBERT OLANDER IN  
SUPPORT OF ACC'S MOTION FOR STAY - 1

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AR 007115

1 the actions of the Puget Sound Regional Council on the Port of Seattle's proposed Third Runway.  
2 These statements appear to suggest that the Pollution Control Hearings Board's review of the Airport  
3 Communities Coalition request for a stay of Ecology's Clean Water Act section 401 certification  
4 should be denied because the PSRC has adopted a resolution for construction of the third Runway. I  
5 submit this statement to give the Board the context in which the PSRC resolution was adopted and,  
6 further, to point out to the Board that there is nothing in the resolution which addresses Clean Water  
7 Act concerns or suggests that they need not be reviewed thoroughly before the project proceeds.

8  
9 4. From approximately 1992 through 1994 the PSRC undertook a process to review  
10 regional air capacity to determine if a major supplemental airport in the Puget Sound region was  
11 feasible and might serve as an alternative to construction of a third runway at Seattle-Tacoma  
12 International Airport (STIA). The PSRC hired a consulting firm and appointed a Technical Advisory  
13 Committee to undertake this study and to make recommendations to the full board of the PSRC. Under  
14 the terms of the authorizing resolutions, if the advisory committee found any sites that passed initial  
15 cost, feasibility, and environmental review, the PSRC would then proceed with more detailed  
16 feasibility studies on the finalist sites. PSRC Resolution A-93-03: Implementation Steps, states in  
17 Section I.C.2., "If sites exist, consultants continue with environmental, financial, legal and market  
18 feasibility studies."  
19  
20

21 5. However, the PSRC process to search for alternatives to a third runway at STIA was  
22 fundamentally flawed from the beginning and throughout the process. The advisory committee was  
23 restricted in writing from even considering Paine Field as an alternative site (*see* PSRC Resolution  
24

25 DECLARATION OF ROBERT OLANDER IN  
SUPPORT OF ACC'S MOTION FOR STAY - 2

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**AR 007116**

1 A-93-03, Item 6). Paine Field, with its 11,000+-foot runway and full instrument landing capability,  
2 with good freeway access and location, was and is a logical alternative to consider. However, for  
3 purely political reasons the PSRC advisory committee and its consultants were precluded from even  
4 considering the most logical alternative within Puget Sound.  
5

6 6. After reviewing 26 potential sites for a major supplemental airport as an alternative to  
7 expanding STIA, our advisory committee and Tams Consultants, Inc. concluded that three sites passed  
8 initial feasibility, cost, location, and environmental review and were worthy of additional detailed  
9 study. These sites were near Arlington in Snohomish County, near Tanawax Lake in Pierce County,  
10 and in east King County. In accord with the PSRC enabling resolutions, the recommendations of the  
11 advisory committee were to proceed to additional study. However, again for purely political reasons  
12 the full PSRC Board rescinded these instructions and voted to not proceed with any additional studies.  
13 This decision was not based upon any additional scientific, environmental, or economic analysis.  
14

15 7. Significantly, the PSRC Resolution ultimately adopted for the Third Runway also  
16 includes a requirement for siting a new regional airport. That provision has never been pursued or  
17 implemented, although the need for such an airport has been generally acknowledged. At best then, if  
18 needed at all, the Third Runway's role was to be a stopgap until such a new airport was built.  
19

20 8. Recent events have suggested that whatever public interest there was in construction of  
21 the Third Runway has been severely diminished in light of uncertainty about the future nature of air  
22 travel and of airports themselves. Questions of access and configuration, frequency of flights, and  
23 financing, must all be assessed. Nothing in the PSRC resolution addressed these extraordinary issues,  
24

25 DECLARATION OF ROBERT OLANDER IN  
SUPPORT OF ACC'S MOTION FOR STAY - 3

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**AR 007117**

1 just as environmental ones were not addressed. Neither the PSRC nor any other body, in my  
 2 experience, have ever identified a public interest in construction of a Third Runway which would  
 3 "override" the public interest in proper clean water review and, now, in the wake of September 1, in a  
 4 careful assessment of whether there is any public interest, let alone an overriding one, in continuing  
 5 with the project.  
 6

7 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing  
 8 is true and correct.

9 DATED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2001, at Des Moines, Washington.

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 11   
 12 Robert Olander

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 24  
 25 **DECLARATION OF ROBERT OLANDER IN  
 SUPPORT OF ACC'S MOTION FOR STAY - 4**

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