



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX**

**75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
January 11, 2008**

Chuck Cox
Federal Aviation Administration
Northwest Mountain Region Office
1601 Lind Avenue, SW
Renton, Washington 98057

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Horizon Air Service to
Mammoth Yosemite Airport Project, Proposed Operations Specifications
Amendment to Provide Scheduled Air Service (CEQ #20070497)

Dear Mr. Cox:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) assesses the proposal for Horizon Air to begin regional air service from Los Angeles Airport (LAX) to Mammoth Yosemite Airport (MMH) in December 2008 with two flights per day during the winter ski season. Winter ski service is projected to increase to a maximum of eight flights per day by the year 2011. Summer service is projected to begin in 2012, with two flights per day for eight weeks in July and August. The establishment of scheduled commercial air service into MMH necessitates a change in the MMH Operating Certificate from Class IV to Class I to accommodate scheduled service by aircraft capable of carrying 30 or more passengers. The additional service does not require construction of new airport facilities. Based on our review, EPA has no objections to this project and has rated this Draft EIS as LO – Lack of Objections (see enclosed “Summary of Rating Definitions”).

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Draft EIS. When the Final EIS is officially filed with our Washington, D.C. office, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact Connell Dunning (dunning.connell@epa.gov; 415-947-4161), the lead reviewer for this project.

Sincerely,

/s/

Nova Blazej, Manager
Environmental Review Office

Enclosure: Summary of Rating Definitions