



Orange County Taxpayers Association

25 Orchard, Lake Forest, CA 92630
phone (949) 768-8131 • fax (949) 768-1601 • www.octax.org

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Airport food contract good for O. C. budget

Posted by W. Alexander

The County of Orange is deliberating between two food service vendors at John Wayne Airport for the next ten years: the incumbent, HMSHost, versus a challenger, Delaware North. (Disclosure: HMSHost is a member of OCTax.) A committee evaluated the competing proposals on five criteria, each weighted at 20%: experience and qualifications, financial viability and background, proposed rent payments, store concepts and improvement plans. The staff evaluation committee rated the two vendors within 3% of each other.

That tiny margin of 3% masks the most relevant fact: HMSHost offers the airport \$18.2 million more in revenue during the life of the contract. The Orange County Taxpayers Association (OCTax) assumes, and hopes, that was the basis for the Orange County Airport Commission's wise and unanimous recommendation to our Board of Supervisors to award the contract to HMSHost.

Money issues will be paramount in Orange County's economy for the foreseeable future. Orange County is still paying off our debt from our bankruptcy in 1994, and we're trying to climb out of recession. The HMSHost restaurants would solidify the Orange County "brand" at the airport and contribute directly to the county's economy and workforce.

This food fight is scheduled to conclude in the Board of Supervisors' meeting on January 11. OCTax urges our Honorable Supervisors to choose HMSHost because of its experience as the incumbent vendor, its strong lineup of Orange County restaurants, its selection by the Airport Commission, its superior Orange County branding and - above all - its additional \$18.2 million benefit to the airport and the county economy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reed L. Royalty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President, Orange County Taxpayers Association (OCTax)