United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034

In Reply Refer to:

5.B

March 3, 2025

Memorandum

To: Director, Office of Aviation Services

From: Pedro Ramos, Superintendent, Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks

Subject: M Air LLC d/b/a Key West Seaplane Adventures Seat Fare Exemption Request

The National Park Service has an operational need to quickly transport personnel between Everglades National Park and Dry Tortugas National Park (DRTO). DRTO is 70 miles to the west of Key West and only accessible by boat or seaplane. By boat, the trip can take up to 8 hours. The closest NPS fleet amphibious seaplane is based at Homestead airport and may not always be available or practical when considering ferry time to Key West. There are no contracted aircraft available. Seat Fare purchases would be point-to-point between Key West and DRTO, and the National Park Service would be responsible for payment for seat fares.

PM Air LLC d/b/a Key West Seaplane Adventures has maintained OAS approval for seat fares since July 30, 2018, and provides services for visitors to fly to DRTO through a concessions contract and commercial use authorization. This company meets the on-demand criteria and they do not have a published service schedule. They currently maintain 2 aircraft and fly up to 4 flights per day carrying a maximum of 10 passengers.

There is an operational requirement for the National Park Service to transport personnel between Key West and DRTO. Since there are no available fleet or DOI contracted aircraft to meet this need we request an exemption to purchase seat fares as per Operational Procedures Memoranda (OPM) -15.

This exception to policy will remain in effect for one year. The requesting bureau will monitor the following and notify OAS if any of the following occurs: 1) change of ownership of the vendor, 2) change of the vendor's Chief Pilot, 3) request of aircraft change by the vendor or 4) a reportable incident or accident by the vendor. If one of these criteria are met, this exception will be reevaluated.

This request will be submitted by 15 March of each year and OAS will verify with the vendor if there have been any reportable incidents, accidents, or FAA violations(s) over the last 5 years.

If you or your staff need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me via email (john_sullivan@nps.gov) or call 210-396-3304.

Park Superintendent, Requestor: SABRINA DIAZ Digitally signed by SABRINA DIAZ
Date: 2025.03.07 16:24:36 -05'00'

Regional Aviation Manager, Concurrence: JORDAN BLACK Digitally signed by JORDAN BLACK
Date: 2025.03.10 08:54:13 -04'00'

National Aviation Manager, Concurrence: KRISTIN SWOBODA Digitally signed by KRISTIN SWOBODA
Date: 2025.03.10 07:04:31 -06'00'

Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation Management, Approval: Digitally signed by CHRISTOPHER WILCOX
Date: 2025.03.10 12:38:10 -06'00'

Office of Aviation Services, Approval: SUSAN BATES Digitally signed by SUSAN BATES
Date: 2025.03.14 16:55:32 -06'00'