



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

February 13, 2026

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, currently restricted by OAS for flights to DRTO, 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 (Current contract ends 9/14/2026). A new solicitation for this service is underway, but no selection has been made yet. 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.

Regional Aviation Manager, Concurrence:

JORDAN BLACK
Digitally signed by JORDAN BLACK
Date: 2026.02.17 16:57:10 -05'00'

National Aviation Manager, Concurrence:

KRISTIN SWOBODA
Digitally signed by KRISTIN SWOBODA
Date: 2026.02.18 07:45:14 -07'00'

Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation Management, Approval:

CHRISTOPHER WILCOX
Digitally signed by CHRISTOPHER WILCOX
Date: 2026.02.27 12:57:57 -07'00'

Office of Aviation Services, Approval:

SUSAN BATES
Digitally signed by SUSAN BATES
Date: 2026.02.27 15:55:19 -07'00'