



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **International Partnership Supports Soaring and Tourism**

October 22, 2010. Minden, Nevada. The Douglas County Board of Commissioners formally approved a sister community partnership with the Waitaki District, New Zealand on October 6, 2010. The partnership was spurred by long-time relationships that already exist between gliding enthusiasts in Douglas County and the Waitaki District, as both communities are widely recognized as world destinations for soaring. Soaring NV, a local glider operator at the Minden-Tahoe Airport has established a strong relationship with Glide Omarama, a glider operator at the Omarama Airfield in the Waitaki District. During initial discussions to create the partnership at a cross-country glider camp in Minden last summer, many other natural commonalities were discovered between Douglas County and the Waitaki District, including proud rural lifestyles, outdoor recreation, agriculture, soaring, fishing, climate, tourism and friendly people.

“We are excited about this partnership and the opportunities that exist to promote soaring, tourism and new business ventures in our communities,” said Commissioner Mike Olson, Chair of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners.

Sister community programs are recognized as a catalyst for economic vitality, fostering communication across borders, creating a mutual exchange of ideas, education, culture and sport, and promoting tourism and trade. Formalizing the relationship between Douglas County and the Waitaki District through a sister community partnership sends a message to both communities that we value the mutual exchange of ideas, people and materials, and we wish to promote the common links between our communities.

“This is another great step in the right direction to make our community and Airport the premiere world destination for soaring,” said Laurie Harden, also known as Glider Girl, and owner of Soaring NV at the Minden-Tahoe Airport.

The partnership does not require any financial commitment from Douglas County.

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