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SAN MATEO COUNTY Board of Supervisors

Date: April 18 2001

TO: Honorable Board Members
FROM: Supervisor Mark Church District 1 *mc*
SUBJECT: San Francisco International Airport Proposed Runway Expansion Program

Recommendation: Establish a Board Subcommittee on the San Francisco International Airport Proposed Runway Expansion

Background

An analysis of the alternatives for the proposed San Francisco International Airport runway reconfiguration program is currently being completed. These alternatives include restricting access to SFO including limiting the number, type and hours of flights; establishing revenue sharing for regional pricing among SFO-Oakland-San Jose airports; shifting general aviation and air cargo to other airports; building a new regional airport at Moffett Field or Travis Air Force Base, making technological improvements to the Air Traffic Control System; and expanding or reconfiguring runways on Bay fill.

The analysis by SFO's consultants, Charles Rivers Associates of Washington, D C, is scheduled to be released on April 23 2001.

All of the proposed alternatives have impacts on San Mateo County's residents, economy and natural resources as well as potential financial impacts on the County itself. No analysis of these impacts has been conducted by San Mateo County.

Proposal

As the Supervisor representing the First District, which includes San Francisco International Airport, I propose the appointment of a Board Subcommittee on the San Francisco International Airport Expansion. The Subcommittee would be charged with

1. Recommending to the Board the retention of an expert consultant to review and analyze the SFO expansion alternatives relative impacts, costs and benefits to San Mateo County,
2. Upon completion of that analysis recommending appropriate mitigations,
3. Reaching out to other entities and local agencies including cities, school districts and special districts to pursue best alternative(s), as determined by the Board of Supervisors, for San Mateo County.

4. Advocating preferred San Mateo County alternative(s), as determined by the Board of Supervisors with the City and County of San Francisco, Airport Commission and other regulatory agencies,
5. If necessary, recommending to the Board of Supervisors state and federal legislation to protect and enhance San Mateo County's position relative to San Francisco International Airport, and
6. Meeting as necessary with representatives of the City and County of San Francisco and San Francisco International Airport regarding the expansion mitigation and other unresolved issues.

Discussion

The benefits of a Board Subcommittee on the San Francisco International Airport Expansion include

- establishing a much needed focal point and source of accurate and ongoing public information on the alternatives, not just for the Board of Supervisors and other affected local agencies but moreover for the broader San Mateo County citizenry that should be fully informed throughout what is expected to be a lengthy process,
- developing knowledge and information on a complex and challenging issue;
- providing the City and County of San Francisco, as well local and regional agencies with an identified body with which to work directly throughout the public process
- defining a single body to discuss and negotiate subject to Board approval, the numerous unresolved issues with the City and County of San Francisco
- providing an effective method to propose, oppose and monitor airport-related legislation; and
- taking a proactive, inclusive and unified approach on airport-related issues

Conclusion

It is timely and appropriate for San Mateo County to evaluate the likely impacts of the proposed SFO expansion on the County and its residents with the assistance of an expert, and to formulate a strategy in connection therewith. Such a strategy should be comprehensive in nature, and should include not only airport-related issues but also other unresolved issues with the City and County of San Francisco. A Board Subcommittee will facilitate that process and provide a single-body and an effective mechanism for ongoing communications with the City and County of San Francisco and the Airport Commission.