



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**

Board of Supervisors – Airport Subcommittee

**DATE:** March 14, 2003

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** March 25, 2003

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Airport Subcommittee of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** Status Report – San Francisco International Airport (“SFIA”) Runway Modernization Project

**Background**

As noted in prior reports to this Board, SFIA continues to study proposals to modernize its runway configuration, a project which would have significant environmental, economic and social impacts on San Mateo County. The Federal Aviation Administration (the “FAA”) recently granted the County’s request to formally participate in the process of assessing the environmental impacts of the proposed runway project. Further, since this Subcommittee last reported on the project’s status and anticipated environmental review schedule, circumstances have changed sufficiently to warrant a further report on this subject.

**Discussion**

**County Participation in the Environmental Review Process**

This Subcommittee and Board have worked hard to ensure that the views and interests of San Mateo County residents are fully considered throughout the runway project’s environmental review process. Among other things, this Board requested that the FAA permit the County to participate on an interdisciplinary team that, pursuant to the National Environmental Protection Act (“NEPA”), has been studying the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

As a result of the continued efforts of this Subcommittee, and with the assistance of local members of Congress (including Tom Lantos and Anna Eshoo) and the Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta, the FAA recently informed the Subcommittee that the County would be invited to join an interdisciplinary team established pursuant to NEPA to

assist the FAA to assess project-induced environmental impacts. Through this role in the NEPA process, the County will join several other agencies cooperating with the FAA in the preparation of the runway project's EIS. County staff and/or appropriate consultants will be designated to work with the FAA in the Environmental Impact Study preparation process.

### Project Timelines

This Subcommittee last reported that SFIA intended to complete the project's Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") and the Draft Environmental Impact Study ("DEIS") by June 2003 and November 2003, respectively. County staff recently met with SFIA officials to, among other things, confirm the project's environmental review schedule. In the course of this meeting, the County learned of the following revised timelines for key project environmental milestones:

- **DEIR Released November 2003.** SFIA expects that the review process for the DEIR to last approximately one year, with a public comment period of at least 120 days.
- **DEIS Released April-May 2004.** The release of this document is expected to lag four to six months behind the DEIR.
- **Final EIR/Final EIS - Winter 2004 and Spring 2005, respectively**
- **Proposition D Vote on Project - 2005 or 2006.** Proposition D amended the San Francisco City Charter to require a city-wide vote on any San Francisco project, such as the instant one, proposing more than 100 acres of fill in San Francisco Bay.
- **California Public Utilities Code Section 21661.6 Application Process.** SFIA does not anticipate undertaking this process until after certification of the EIR.

### Vision Alignment

The preparation and consideration of this report furthers commitments and assists in achieving goals set forth in the County's Shared Vision 2010 report. Specifically, this report will help the County to achieve the goal of ensuring that "[l]and use decisions consider transportation and other infrastructure needs as well as the impacts on the environment and on surrounding communities."

SUPERVISOR MARK CHURCH



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