

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Robert Beaumont
DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE MARIN COUNTY AIRPORT – GNOSS FIELD, PROPOSED EXTENSION OF RUNWAY 13/31

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November 8, 2013

SCH# 2008072037

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) has been completed for the Gness Field Airport, Proposed Extension of Runway 13/31, and is on file with the Marin County Department of Public Works, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 404, San Rafael, California, and available for public review between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Digital copies of the Final EIR may be obtained from the Department of Public Works. A copy of the FEIR can also be accessed from a link on our website, "<http://www.gnessfieldeis-eir.com>" In addition, a hard copy is available for review at the Marin County Civic Center Library, and other library branches including the Novato Library. All relevant documents incorporated into the FEIR by reference are also available for public review at the Marin County Department of Public Works Office, Marin Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 404.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Marin County Airport (Gness Field) is located in an unincorporated portion of Marin County just north of the City of Novato, California and east of U.S. Highway 101. The subject property address is 451-A Airport Road, Novato, California, 94945. Assessor's Parcels # 125-190-24, 125-190-54, and 125-190-70.

BACKGROUND

Gness Field Airport serves as an important link in the regional transportation network by providing air travel options for residents and businesses of Marin County. The Airport has one runway (Runway 13/31) that is 3,300 feet long and 75 feet wide. On an annual basis, approximately 85,500 takeoffs and landings occur at the Airport. Typical aircraft types include single and twin engine propeller aircraft, as well as small business jet aircraft. The existing runway is surrounded by a system of levees and ditches that protect the airport from flooding and channel drainage through the surrounding area.

An *Airport Master Plan* was adopted by the County of Marin in 1989, then updated in March of 1997. An *Airport Land Use Plan* was adopted by the County in 1991. A *Preliminary Design Report for a Runway Extension*, prepared in 2002, together with an *Aviation Demand Forecast* both document the need for runway improvements to serve existing and anticipated aircraft and activity levels, as well as current and future changes in small aircraft design.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed extension of runway 13/31 consists of the following elements:

- Extend Runway 13/31 from its current length of 3,300 feet to a total length of 4,400 feet with Runway Safety Areas (RSA) that meet current FAA guidelines;
- Extend the corresponding taxiway to the full length of the runway;
- Corresponding realignment of drainage channels to drain the extended runway and taxiway;
- Corresponding levee extension to protect the extended runway and taxiway from flooding ; and
- Relocate the Navigational Aids (NAVAIDs) that pilots use to land at the Airport to reflect the extended runway.
- Lot Line Adjustment to gain exclusive use of small piece of land south of the Airport necessary to provide for a 204-foot long RSA on the south end of Runway 13/31.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that this Notice of Availability of the FEIR commences a 18-day public review period beginning on November 8, 2013. Interested persons are invited to review and submit **written comments only** on the FEIR. Written comments on the FEIR must be submitted to the County of Marin Public Works Department, to the attention of Bob Goralka, Principal Civil Engineer at 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 304, San Rafael, CA 94903, NO LATER THAN **4 p.m.**, Monday November 25, 2013. Comments can also be sent via email to gnessfieldcomments@marincounty.org or faxed to the County of Marin Public Works Department at (415) 473-7847

The FEIR evaluates the project with respect to the following topical issues:

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 1) Land Use & Planning | 9) Hazards and Hazardous magterials |
| 2) Geophysical | 10) Noise |
| 3) Water Quality | 11) Public Services |
| 4) Air Quality | 12) Utilities & Service Systems |
| 5) Hydrology & Flooding | 13) Aesthetic/Visual Resources |
| 6) Traffic/Parking/Circulation | 14) Cultural Resources |
| 7) Biological Resources | 15) Green House Gases & Climate Change |
| 8) Energy & natural Resources | |

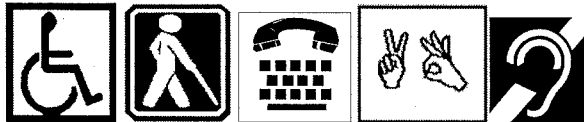
The FEIR finds that the project would result in significant or potentially significant environmental impacts related to topical issues# 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, & 14 and recommends the implementation of feasible mitigation measures to either avoid or reduce to a level of insignificance the identified environmental impacts. The FEIR finds that the proposed project would not result in significant unavoidable impacts or significant unavoidable cumulative impacts.

The Final EIR contains the text of the Draft EIR (DEIR) as revised to reflect responses to comments on the DEIR. The revisions to the DEIR text are denoted by ~~strikeouts~~ for deletions and underlining for additions. The Final EIR also includes all the comments that the County received on the DEIR (Appendix P) and the County's written responses to those comments (Appendix Q).

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that a public hearing will be conducted by the Marin County Board of Supervisors to consider certification of the Final EIR. The public hearing is scheduled for the regular meeting of the Marin County Board of Supervisors on **Tuesday January 7, 2014** in the Board of Supervisors Chambers (Room #330 – Administration Building) Civic Center, San Rafael, California. Please call Marin County Public Works at (415) 473-6528. on or after Thursday, January 2, 2014 to obtain a copy of the staff report, or visit our website at "<http://www.marincounty.org/depts/bs/meeting-archive>" Written material should not be mailed or delivered directly to the Board of Supervisors because it will not be accepted or considered as part of the administrative record for the project. Please direct questions about the environmental review process for this project to Reuel Brady, Associate Civil Engineer, Marin County Public Works 415-473-6525.



Bob Goralka
Principal Civil Engineer



All public meetings and events sponsored or conducted by the County of Marin are held in accessible sites. Requests for accommodations may be made by calling (415) 473-4381 (Voice) 473-3232 (TDD/TTY) or by e-mail at disabilityaccess@marincounty.org at least four work days in advance of the event. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon request.