



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Quality, Excellence, Innovation

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Marin County Board of Supervisors
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SUBJECT: Gness Field Airport Visioning Workshop Report

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the Visioning Workshop Report.

SUMMARY: A visioning workshop was held in Novato on July 17, 2014, to solicit input and comment from the public on Gness Field, the County's general aviation airport. The impetus for the workshop came about during your Board's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certification review process of the proposed runway extension project in which several airport-related concerns were raised. The workshop was structured to be an inclusive process that solicited stakeholder input and covered airport operations, the proposed runway extension project, and proposed capital improvements. Over 1,500 direct mailers noticing the workshop were sent out to the local community, homeowners' associations, airport tenants, and to government agencies.

The Aviation Commission presided over the visioning workshop, and report drafts were presented at the August 28 and October 2 Aviation Commission meetings. The public had opportunity to comment on the draft report. The Aviation Commission at their October 2 meeting voted to accept the report and send it to the Board of Supervisors.

The comments received were generally in agreement and consistent with currently adopted plans for the airport, including the Master Plan, though concerns were raised about habitat impacts primarily related to the runway extension project. Public comments are consolidated into the attached summary report, with captured comments from the meeting and any follow up comments included in the report's appendix.

At this time, your Board is requested to review the report, take public comment, and accept the report.

DISCUSSION: During the environmental review of the proposed runway extension project several concerns and questions arose on matters not directly related to the runway extension project or its review process. In the interest of capturing these concerns and comments, a visioning process was proposed to

- Accounting
- Airport
- Building Maintenance
- Capital Projects
- Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)
- Communications Maintenance
- County Garage
- Disability Access
- Engineering & Survey
- Flood Control & Water Resources
- Land Development
- Purchasing
- Real Estate
- Reprographic Services
- Road Maintenance
- Stormwater Program
- Transportation & Traffic Operations
- Waste Management

provide an opportunity for the public to obtain information on airport operations, current projects and future plans, and be able to ask questions, provide comments, and suggestions for the future. From these comments and suggestions, a summary Visioning Workshop Report document would be prepared, looking at common themes emerging from the workshop and ideas for additional improvements for consideration, with subsequent updates to the Airport Master Plan and Airport Land Use Plan.

The workshop was held the evening of Thursday, July 17, 2014, at the Novato City Council chambers. Opening remarks were made by Supervisor Arnold. The agenda included an introductory slide presentation with content experts discussing various aspects of airport operations, projects, and plans. Participants then were given the opportunity to visit three different stations to ask more detailed questions of staff and provide comments. Each station focused on a different aspect of the airport. The stations were current operations, runway extension, and capital projects and plans.

After the break out station session, the larger group reconvened and each station representative summarized the comments and ideas expressed. Opportunity for additional comment after the workshop was provided through a comment form that could be emailed or by using an online survey instrument. Written comments were accepted through July 29.

In compiling the comments, several themes emerged, many of which were also consistent with the currently adopted Airport Master Plan and the Airport Land Use Plan, including noise abatement, runway surface improvements, airport amenities, additional hangar space, mitigating environmental concerns, and improved access and directional signage. The Visioning Workshop Report incorporates the themes from the workshop and components of existing plans and studies, which are summarized by:

- Be a good neighbor
- Maintain short term and long term plans for airport operations
- Maintain fiscal stability
- Continuously look for opportunities to improve safety
- Maintain consistency with other adopted plans and policies
- Provide regular opportunities for public input regarding issues at the airport
- Plan for and provide appropriate emergency response

The draft Visioning Workshop Report was presented to the Aviation Commission on August 28 and included a comment period through September 17. A second draft report presentation to the Aviation Commission occurred at their October 2 meeting, at which time the Commission accepted the report and recommended forwarding it to your Board for consideration.

The Visioning Workshop Report is not intended to supplant or supersede any currently adopted plans. Rather, it is a reference document reflecting public input at the time of the workshop for use in preparation of subsequent plans or identification of potential

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priority improvements to the airport for which funding may be sought. It does not identify any airport budget or other fiscal impacts as any future projects not already in the capital plan would require action by your Board at the time those potential projects are considered.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund by this action.

REVIEWED BY:	<input type="checkbox"/>	County Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Department of Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	County Counsel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Very truly yours,



Eric Steger
Assistant Director

cc: Aviation Commission
Dan Jensen

Attachment: Gness Field Airport Visioning Workshop Report

