

February 14, 2006

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
Marin County Civic Center
San Rafael, California 94903

SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding the Proposed San Rafael Airport Recreation Facility

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that your Board:

1. Discuss issues and questions related to the proposed San Rafael Airport Recreation Facility and provide policy direction to staff

DISCUSSION: The City of San Rafael has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed San Rafael Airport Recreation Facility, which will be located on property adjacent to McInnis Park. The facility includes an 85,700 square foot indoor sports building, an outdoor soccer field, an outdoor baseball field, a café, and parking for approximately 300 vehicles. The City will be accepting comments on the Initial Study until February 28, 2006. Parks staff has reviewed the document and offers the following comments for Board consideration:

- McInnis Park facilities occur within 500 feet of the proposed structure. Views from all major park facilities have not been fairly depicted in the study.
- The proposed building footprint of 70,000 square feet is massive in scale with the surrounding area. In contrast, the Clubhouse at McInnis has a footprint of 10,400 square feet.
- The proposed building height of 39.5 feet above existing grade at the soccer complex is out of scale with other buildings in the surrounding area.
- The mass of the proposed building will not integrate well with the surrounding pastoral environment.
- Effects of lighting, including intrusion into habitat of special status species, have not been fully explored.

- The Biological Assessment included in the Initial Study indicates the California clapper rail is not present within the project area. California clapper rail is known to inhabit the Gallinas Creek adjacent to the project.
- Peak P.M. traffic figures assume the facility is closed from 4-6 p.m., which seems unrealistic for a youth oriented facility.

Based on your discussion of these issues, the department will take appropriate steps to address your Board's concerns.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

ALTERNATIVE TO RECOMMENDED ACTION: Not applicable.

REVIEWED BY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Auditor Controller	<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

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. McNamee
Director

SMM:SP/kbl
Attachment

cc: Ron Paolini
Lynne Kirley