

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Proposed Extension of Runway 13/31 at Gross Field Airport (DVO), Marin County, California; Notice of Action Affecting Wetlands; Notice of Action Occurring in a Floodplain; and Notice of Public Hearing Date, Time, and Location

AGENCY: The lead Federal agency is the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT). Marin County is concurrently preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), to meet California state requirements to analyze and disclose the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed runway extension. The FAA and Marin County are circulating the Draft EIS and Draft EIR together so the public can comment on both documents at the same time. The FAA EIS is Volume 1. The Marin County EIR is Volume 2. Technical Appendices for Volumes 1 and 2 are included in Volume 3.

ACTION: Notice of availability, notice of public comment period, notice of public information meeting and public hearing.

SUMMARY: The FAA is issuing this Notice of Availability to advise the public that a Draft EIS was distributed to be available for public review beginning December 2, 2011. The document was prepared pursuant to major environmental directives to comply with NEPA: Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as implemented by 36 CFR 800.8, *Coordination with the*

National Environmental Policy Act; Executive Order 11988 *Floodplain Management*; Executive Order 11990 *Protection of Wetlands*; and other applicable Federal and state environmental laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and statutes.

The document was prepared in response to a proposal presented to the FAA by Marin County, the owner and operator of DVO and identified in the Draft EIS as the Airport Sponsor, for environmental review.

The FAA prepared this Draft EIS to analyze and disclose potential environmental impacts related to possible Federal actions at DVO. Numerous Federal actions would be necessary if airfield development were to be implemented. Proposed improvements include extension of Runway 13/31 and other airfield projects (see below).

The Draft EIS presents the purpose and need for the proposed Federal action, analysis of reasonable alternatives, including the No Action alternative, discussion of impacts for each reasonable alternative, and supporting appendices. The FAA will consider all information contained in this Draft EIS and additional information that may be provided during the public comment period before issuing a Final EIS and Agency decision regarding the possible alternatives and Federal actions.

Marin County proposes to extend Runway 13/31 by 1,100 feet from 3,300 feet to 4,400 feet, while maintaining the 75-foot width of the existing runway; extend the adjacent taxiway to the full length of the runway; extend the existing Runway Safety Areas (RSA) along the sides of Runway 13/31; extend the RSA to 240 feet long beyond each end of Runway 13/31 to meet FAA B-I (small) airport design standards; realign the drainage channels to drain the extended runway and taxiway; re-program the navigational aids that pilots use to land at the Airport; and

adjust the lot line for the County to gain exclusive use of 0.1 acre of land south of the airport. This additional runway length would allow existing aircraft operating at DVO to operate at Maximum Gross Take Off Weight under hot weather and other adverse weather conditions.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND INFORMATION WORKSHOP/PUBLIC HEARING: The 60-day public comment period on the Draft EIS will start December 9, 2011 and will end on February 6, 2012. A joint public hearing on the Draft EIR and Draft EIS will be conducted by the Marin County Board of Supervisors and the FAA. Oral and written comments on the Draft EIS and Draft EIR may be presented at the hearing. The hearing is scheduled for the regular meeting of the Marin County Board of Supervisors on **Tuesday January 10, 2012**, at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers (Room #330 – Administration Building) Civic Center, San Rafael, California, at which time any and all persons interested in this matter may appear and be heard.

Comments can only be accepted with the full name and address of the individual commenting. Mail and fax comments are to be submitted to Mr. Doug Pomeroy of the FAA, at the address shown in FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. The cutoff date for comment submission is **Monday, February 6, 2012**. Please allow adequate time for mailing. To be considered, mailed comments must be **postmarked** on or before February 6, 2012 and faxed comments must be **received** on or before February 6, 2012. The Draft EIS may be reviewed for comment during regular business hours at the following locations:

1. Federal Aviation Administration, 1000 Marina Boulevard, Suite 220, Brisbane, CA 94005-1835 (Telephone: (650) 827-7612)
2. Marin County Department of Public Works, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 404, San Rafael, CA, 94903 (Telephone: (415) 499-7877)

3. Gross Field Airport, 451-A Airport Road, Novato, CA 94945
(Telephone: (415) 897-1754)
4. Marin County Library, Novato Branch, 1720 Novato Blvd, Novato, CA 94947
(Telephone: (415) 897-1142)
5. Marin County Library, South Novato Branch, 6 Hamilton Landing, Suite 140A, Novato, CA 94949 (Telephone: (415) 506-3168)
6. San Rafael Public Library, 1100 E Street, San Rafael, CA 94901
(Telephone: (415) 485-3323)
7. Marin County Library, Civic Center Branch, 3501 Civic Center Drive # 427, San Rafael, CA 94903 (Telephone: (415) 499-6058)
8. Marin County Library, Bolinas Branch, 14 Wharf Road, Bolinas, CA 94924 (Telephone: (415) 868-1171)
9. Marin County Library, Corte Madera Branch, 707 Meadowsweet Drive , Corte Madera, CA 94925 (Telephone: (415) 924-6444)
10. Marin County Library, Fairfax Branch, 2097 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Fairfax, CA 94930
(Telephone: (415) 457-5629)
11. Marin County Library, Inverness Branch, 15 Park Avenue, Inverness CA, 94937
(Telephone: (415) 669-1288)
12. Marin County Library, Marin City Branch, 164 Donahue St., Marin City, CA 94965
(Telephone: (415) 332-6157)
13. Marin County Library, Point Reyes Branch, 11431 State Route One, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956 (Telephone: (415) 663-8375)
14. Marin County Library, Stinson Beach Branch, 3521 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach CA 94970 (Telephone: (415) 868-0252)
15. Sonoma County Library, Petaluma Branch, 100 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952
(Telephone: (707) 763-9801)
16. San Anselmo Public Library, 110 Tunstead Avenue, San Anselmo , CA 94960
(Telephone: (415) 258-4656)
17. Tiburon - Belvedere Library, 1501 Tiburon Blvd, Tiburon, CA 94920-2530
(Telephone: (415) 789-2665)

18. Mill Valley Public Library, 375 Throckmorton Ave, Mill Valley, CA 94941
(Telephone: (415) 389-4292)
19. Larkspur Public Library, 400 Magnolia Ave, Larkspur, CA 94939-2035
(Telephone: (415) 927-5005)
20. Sausalito Public Library, 420 Litho Street, Sausalito, CA 94965
(Telephone: (415) 289-4121)
21. Gross Field (DVO) EIS/EIR Website, <http://www.grossfieldeis-eir.com/>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments should be as specific as possible and address the analysis of potential environmental impacts and the adequacy for the proposed action or merits of its alternatives and the mitigation being considered. Reviewers should organize their participation so that it is meaningful and makes the agency aware of the viewers' interests and concerns using quotations and other specific references to the text of the Draft EIS and related documents. Matters that could have been raised with specificity during the comment period on the Draft EIS may not be considered if they are raised for the first time later in the decision process. This commenting procedure is intended to ensure that substantive comments and concerns are made available to the FAA in a timely manner so that the FAA has an opportunity to address them.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Doug Pomeroy, FAA San Francisco Airports District Office, 1000 Marina Boulevard, Suite 220, Brisbane, California 94005-1835. Telephone: (650) 827-7612, Fax: (650) 872-1430

Issued in Brisbane, California on December 9, 2011.

FAA San Francisco Airports District Office