

MARIN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

BRIAN C. CRAWFORD, DIRECTOR

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

November 28, 2011

SCH# 2008072037

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) has been completed for the /Gnoss 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 Draft EIR may be obtained from the Department of Public Works. A copy of the DEIR can also be accessed from a link on our website, "<http://www.gnossfieldeis-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 Draft EIR 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.

In addition to this Notice of Completion, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is issuing a Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Gnoss Field Airport, Proposed Extension of Runway 13/31 in the *Federal Register*, per National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Guidelines. The FAA's Draft EIS and the County of Marin's Draft EIR are being distributed for public review concurrently.

Pursuant to federal, state and local guidelines, the **FAA** will be the Federal lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and EIS, and the **County of Marin** will be the state lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance and the EIR.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Marin County Airport (Gnoss 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 attached map (see Exhibit 1) depicts the proposed runway extension. 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

Gnoss 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 95,000 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 (RSAs) 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
- Re-program the Navigational Aids (NAVAIDs) that pilots use to land at the Airport to reflect the extended runway.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that this Notice of Completion of the Draft EIR commences a 60-day public review period. Interested persons are invited to review and comment on the Draft EIR. Written comments on the Draft EIR must be submitted to:

Doug Pomeroy
Federal Aviation Administration
San Francisco Airports District Office
1000 Marina Boulevard, Suite 220
Brisbane, CA 94005-1835

Written comments may also be submitted by FAX. Comments submitted by FAX must be addressed to Mr. Doug Pomeroy. The FAX number is (650) 872-1430. Comments by E-mail will not be accepted.

WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE Draft EIR MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN Monday, February 6, 2012. Commenters are advised to mail or FAX written comments postmarked on or before February 6, 2012.

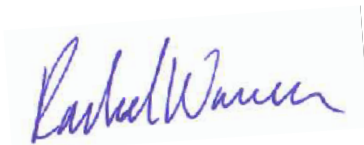
The EIR evaluates the project with respect to the following topical issues:

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

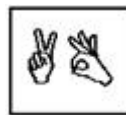
The Draft EIR finds that the projects would result in significant or potentially significant environmental impacts related to topical issues# 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, & 14 and recommends the implementation of feasible mitigation measures to either avoid or reduce to a level of insignificance the identified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

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that a joint public hearing on the Draft EIR and Draft EIS will be conducted by the Marin County Board of Supervisors and the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA). Oral and written comments on the Draft EIR and Draft EIS 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 PM 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. Please call Marin County Public Works at (415) 499-6528. on or after Friday, January 6, 2012 to obtain a copy of the staff report, or visit our website at “<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/main/index.cfm>” 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 Doug Pomeroy at 650-827-7612. Questions about the project itself should be directed to Reuel Brady, Associate Civil Engineer, Marin County Public Works 415-499-6525.

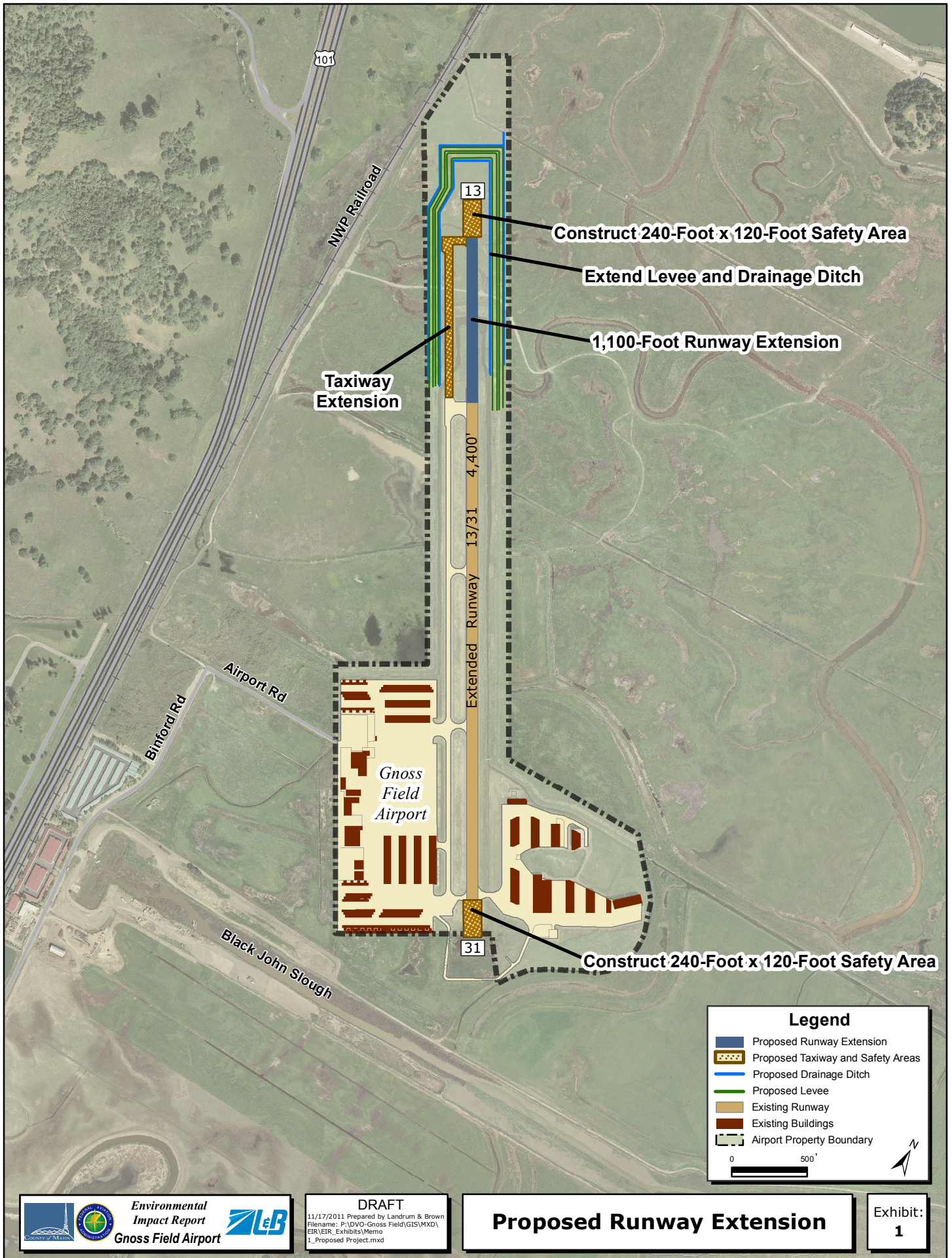


Rachel Warner
Interim Environmental Coordinator



Late agenda material can be inspected in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Clerk of the Board office is located in Room 329 Marin County Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael. All County public meetings are conducted in accessible locations. If you require American Sign Language interpreters, assistive listening devices or other accommodations to participate in this meeting, these may be requested by calling (415) 499-7331 (voice) or (415) 499-6172 (TTY) at least 72 hours in advance. Copies of documents used in this meeting are available in accessible formats upon written request. The agenda is available on the Internet at <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/efiles/BS/AgMn/cybaqnda.htm>. The Board meeting is broadcast live over the Internet at <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/Archive/Meetings.cfm>

A copy of the agenda will be faxed upon request by dialing (415) 499-6060 and entering "181" after the brief introductory message. If you are a person with a disability and require this document in an alternate format (example: Braille, Large Print, Audiotape, CD-ROM), you may request an alternate format by calling the Disability Access Program at (415) 473-4381, or (415) 473-3232 TTY or by e-mail at disabilityaccess@co.marin.ca.us at least **four working days** in advance of the event.



101

NWP Railroad

13

Construct 240-Foot x 120-Foot Safety Area

Extend Levee and Drainage Ditch

1,100-Foot Runway Extension

Taxiway Extension

Extended Runway 13/31 4,400'

Binford Rd

Airport Rd

Gross Field Airport

31

Construct 240-Foot x 120-Foot Safety Area

Legend

- Proposed Runway Extension
- Proposed Taxiway and Safety Areas
- Proposed Drainage Ditch
- Proposed Levee
- Existing Runway
- Existing Buildings
- Airport Property Boundary

0 500'