

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

EXTENSION OF RUNWAY 13/31

**GNOSS FIELD AIRPORT
MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC HEARING

February 16, 2018. FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of availability of an updated Purpose and Need Working Paper and notice of a public hearing on March 20, 2018, to update the public on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Environmental Impact Statement and to gather comments on the Updated Purpose and Need Working Paper for the Gness Field Airport, Proposed Extension of Runway 13/31.

BACKGROUND

The FAA distributed a Purpose and Need Working Paper for public comment in May 2016 to provide additional information to the public and regulatory agencies regarding the proposed extension of Runway 13/31 at Gness Field Airport, Marin County, California. This Working Paper described a change in forecasted aviation activity at Gness Field Airport and included a determination that the critical aircraft had changed since preparation of the June 2014 Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The analysis in the 2016 Purpose and Need Working Paper reduced the total necessary runway length at Gness Field Airport from 4,400 feet, as identified in the June 2014 Final EIS, to 3,600 feet. As Runway 13/31 is currently 3,300 feet long, the current total necessary runway length of 3,600 feet could be obtained with a 300-foot runway extension, instead of the 1,100-foot runway extension identified in the June 2014 Final EIS.

Many commenters on the 2016 Working Paper stated that they believed that the number of operations (takeoffs and landings) of jet aircraft identified for Gness Field Airport in the 2016 Working Paper were lower than the actual number of operations for jet aircraft at the airport. In order to resolve whether the number of aircraft operations, particularly of the most demanding jet aircraft, had been undercounted, the FAA undertook an update to the aviation activity demand forecast with an increased focus on the operating levels of jet aircraft. The FAA is now distributing the February 2018 *Gness Field Airport, Proposed Extension of Runway 13/31, Updated Purpose and Need Working Paper* for public comment. This 2018 Working Paper describes a change in forecasted aviation activity at Gness Field Airport, including additional data confirming that the critical aircraft for the airport has changed since preparation of the 2014 Final EIS, and that the necessary runway length for the airport is 3,600 feet. The purpose and need for the proposed project – to allow existing aircraft, as represented by the family grouping of critical aircraft at Gness Field Airport, to operate without operational weight restrictions under hot weather conditions – is unchanged.

The June 2014 Final EIS, the 2016 Purpose and Need Working Paper, and the 2018 Updated Purpose and Need Working Paper are available on the project website at www.gnossfieldeis-ir.com. If you would like to review a printed copy, please contact FAA at the address below.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD

A public hearing will be held on March 20, 2018 at the Marin County Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive – Room 330, San Rafael, California, at 7:00 P.M. The comment period for the Updated Purpose and Need Working Paper will begin on February 16, 2018 and end on April 6, 2018.

To request additional information or to provide any written public comments, please contact:

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Please note: Before including your name, address and telephone number, email or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.