

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

**STATUS OF SUPPLEMENT TO THE JUNE 2014
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**EXTENSION OF RUNWAY 13/31
GNOSS FIELD AIRPORT
NOVATO, MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

AND

**DISCUSSION OF METHODOLOGY TO IDENTIFY AVIATION ACTIVITY AND
PREPARATION OF AN UPDATED PURPOSE AND NEED WORKING PAPER**

**MAY 18, 2017
MARIN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER
3501 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, ROOM 330
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
7:00 P.M.**

APRIL 18, 2017. FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of public workshop to update the public on the status of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Supplement to the June 2014 Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Extension of Runway 13/31, Gness Field Airport, Novato, Marin County, California. The public workshop will also discuss the methodology for voluntary data submissions of aviation activity by pilots/aircraft owners at the airport and preparation of an updated Purpose and Need Working Paper.

BACKGROUND

The FAA published a Final EIS for the Gness Field Airport, Extension of Runway 13/31 in June 2014. As the FAA reviewed comments on the Final EIS, and prepared to issue a Record of Decision on the EIS, it concluded that the level of aviation activity at Gness Field Airport may have changed from the level of aviation activity identified in the Final EIS. Since the FAA must evaluate proposed aviation development based on a current, FAA-approved aviation forecast, the FAA required an updated aviation forecast be prepared and approved.

In May 2016, the FAA issued a Purpose and Need Working Paper regarding the proposed Extension of Runway 13/31 at Gness Field Airport, which included a current FAA-approved aviation forecast. That Working Paper described a change in forecasted aviation activity at Gness Field Airport and included a revised purpose and need for the runway extension project based on the change in aviation activity. Specifically, the aviation forecast identified a change in the critical aircraft, which is the aircraft used to determine airport design standards and

dimensions. As a result of that change, the Purpose and Need Working Paper determined the total necessary runway length to accommodate the current critical aircraft at Gness Field Airport was 3,600 feet. The prior June 2014 Final EIS had identified the necessary runway length as 4,400 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.

Public commenters on the May 2016 Purpose and Need Working Paper stated that document may have underestimated the amount of aviation activity at Gness Field Airport by aircraft with more demanding runway length requirements. Based on those comments, the FAA concluded a further examination of aviation activity by potential critical aircraft at the airport is warranted. This workshop will provide information on how the FAA will examine previous assumptions regarding this issue, including providing the voluntary opportunity for pilots and aircraft owners to provide further documentation regarding their level of aviation activity, and the process by which the FAA will subsequently review that information and issue an updated Purpose and Need Working Paper for public comment.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP/MEETING

The public meeting will be held on May 18, 2017 at the Marin County Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive – Room 330, San Rafael, California, at 7:00 P.M. The May 2016 Purpose and Need Working Paper and the June 2014 Final EIS are available on the project website at www.gnessfieldeis-eir.com.

Please provide any written public comments to the point of contact below:

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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.