

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

**WHAT'S IN THIS DOCUMENT?** This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Volume 1) was prepared by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Final EIS examines the potential environmental impacts of two proposed development alternatives to extend the existing runway at Gness Field Airport, Novato, Marin County, California and a No Action Alternative. Marin County previously released a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (Volume 2) for this project on November 8, 2013 to meet California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. Volume 3 includes Technical Appendices for the Final EIS and Public Comments and Responses to Comments on the Draft EIS/EIR. Alternative B, Extend Runway to the Northwest by 1,100 Feet, is the FAA's preferred alternative in the EIS and Marin County's preferred alternative in the EIR.

**BACKGROUND.** A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on July 11, 2008. Scoping Meetings for agencies and the public were held on August 14, 2008 to provide an opportunity to comment on the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in the Draft EIS and Draft EIR. The Draft EIS and Draft EIR were released on December 9, 2011. A Public Hearing on the Draft EIS and Draft EIR was conducted on January 10, 2012 at the Marin County Civic Center Board of Supervisors Chambers, San Rafael, California. The comment period for the Draft EIS and Draft EIR was open from December 9, 2011 to February 6, 2012. Marin County accepted public comment on its Final EIR from November 8, 2013 to December 9, 2013. Marin County held an additional public hearing and certified the Final EIR as meeting CEQA requirements on February 11, 2014. Notices of these opportunities to comment on the EIS and EIR were sent to individuals and organizations who expressed interest in commenting on the proposed project and also published in one local newspaper.

The document presented herein represents the Final EIS for the federal decision-making process, in fulfillment of FAA's policies and procedures relative to NEPA and other related federal requirements. Copies of the document are available for inspection at various libraries in Marin County, Gness Field Airport, at the FAA San Francisco Airports District Office in Brisbane, California, and at the FAA Western-Pacific Region Office in Hawthorne, California. The addresses for these locations are provided in Chapter 7 of this Final EIS. Some copies of the Final EIS have been distributed on compact disk to conserve environmental resources. Full printed versions of this EIS and EIR are available at the Marin County libraries and FAA offices.

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THIS?** The FAA may issue a Record of Decision (ROD) 30 days after distribution of this Final EIS to the public. Issuance of a ROD would complete National Environmental Policy Act requirements for the project pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, § 1506.10. The project may begin as funds become available.