

**MARIN COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

Alex Hinds, Director

NOTICE OF PREPARATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
MARIN COUNTY AIRPORT – GNOSS FIELD
PROPOSED EXTENSION OF RUNWAY 13/31

Marin County will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Marin County Airport – Gness Field Proposed Extension of Runway 13/31. In addition, the Federal Aviation Administration will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), per National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Guidelines. The FAA’s EIS and the County of Marin’s EIR will be produced concurrently.

Marin County Airport- Gness Field
451-A Airport Road
Novato, CA 94945
Parcel # 125-190-24, 125-190-54, and 125-190-70

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** will be the state lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance and the EIR. The FAA has determined that an EIS is required for the proposed project. The County has determined that a full scope EIR is required for the proposed project; therefore pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c) an Initial Study has not been prepared.

The potential environmental effects are described below to the extent known and the project location, background, and description are provided. Additional information is available at the project web site: www.gnessfieldeis-eir.com
The EIR will focus on the following topical issues:

1) Noise Impacts	7) Ecological Resources	13) Transportation and Circulation
2) Compatible Land Use	8) Hydrology	14) Aesthetic and Visual Resources
3) Compliance with Adopted Plans	9) Floodplains	15) Public Services
4) Air Quality	10) Geophysical	16) Utilities and Service Systems
5) Water Quality	11) Historic Resources	17) Socioeconomics
6) Wetlands	12) Hazardous Wastes	

To ensure that the EIS and the EIR for this project are thorough and adequate, and meet all the needs of the agencies reviewing it, the FAA and County are soliciting comments on specific issues to be included in the environmental review. Public comments on the scope of the issues to be evaluated in the EIS and EIR are encouraged. A copy of the Preliminary Design Report is on file with the office of the Marin Department of Public Works, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 404, San Rafael, CA, 94903, and is available for public review between the hours of 8:00am to 12 noon and 1:00pm to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. A summary of the proposed project may be obtained by calling (415) 499-7877.

(EXPANDED NOP PROCEDURE NOTICE)

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Please submit your written comments concerning the scope of the EIS and EIR to the Federal Aviation Administration by August 29, 2008 (written comments must be received no later than 5:00 PM PST on August 29, 2008). **Comments by FAX will not be accepted.** Please direct questions about the EIS and the EIR to Mr. Barry Franklin, Environmental Protection Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration.

SEND COMMENTS TO: Mr. Barry Franklin
Federal Aviation Administration
San Francisco Airports District Office
831 Mitten Road, Room 210
Burlingame, CA 94010-1303

A public scoping meeting will be held for the EIS and for the EIR. The meeting will be held at the Marin Humane Society Auditorium, 171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd, Novato, CA, on August 14, 2008 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Signature:



Tim Haddad, Environmental Coordinator

(July 11, 2008)

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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 (see Figure 1, to the right). The attached map (see Exhibit 1) depicts the proposed runway extension. The subject property address is 451-A Airport Road, Novato, California, 94945.



**FIGURE 1
LOCATION OF GNOSS FIELD AIRPORT**

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

Based on the cumulative findings of the said plans and studies, Marin County as the owner and operator of the Marin County Airport (Gnoss Field), has proposed improvements to enhance the Airport's capability to meet FAA standards for its current users. This joint EIS/EIR will assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed extension of Runway 13/31 and corresponding taxiway and runway safety areas (overruns); associated levee construction and realignment of drainage; and reprogramming of the GPS instrument approach to reflect the extended Runway 13/31. Collectively, these elements comprise the Proposed Project. Approval of the EIS will be required by the FAA to comply with the Federal requirements of NEPA and the County must certify the Final EIR to comply with the State of California's regulations embodied in CEQA.

