COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2006 JUN 20 PM 1:30
THE CLERK

# County of San Diego

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

DATE: July 26, 2006

TO: Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT: Board Conference: Presentation by the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Regarding Proposed Joint-Use of MCAS Miramar (District: ALL)**

**Overview:**

On June 5, 2006, the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (SDCRAA) voted to place on the November 7, 2006 General Election ballot an advisory initiative seeking joint civilian – military use of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

We have asked representatives of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority and MCAS Miramar to share their perspective and provide information and analysis related to the proposed joint-use of MCAS Miramar. This will provide the public, as well as community leaders an opportunity to speak to the issue at a public meeting. The public may also view the proceedings on television.

**Recommendation:**
VICE CHAIRMAN RON ROBERTS and SUPERVISOR PAM SLATER-PRICE

Receive the briefing of representatives from the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority and MCAS Miramar.

**Background:**

On June 5, 2006, the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (SDCRAA) voted to place on the November 7, 2006 General Election ballot an initiative seeking joint use of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The proposed ballot language states:

> *To provide for San Diego's long-term air transportation needs, shall the Airport Authority and government officials work to obtain approximately 3,000 of 23,000 acres at MCAS Miramar by 2020 for a commercial airport provided necessary traffic*

*and freeway improvements are made, military readiness is maintained without expense to the military for modifying or relocating operations, no local taxes are used on the airport, overall noise impacts are reduced, and necessary Lindbergh Field improvements are completed?*

The purpose of this presentation is to give the public and decision-makers vital insight and information related to joint-use of MCAS Miramar. Information will be presented about and how joint-use would affect the region's economy, impact the region's environment, and other quality of life issues, as well as issues unique to America's military – such as security, training, and military readiness.

Respectfully submitted,

RON ROBERTS
VICE CHAIRMAN,
FOURTH DISTRICT

PAM SLATER-PRICE
SUPERVISOR,
THIRD DISTRICT

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2016 JUN 20 PM 1:38

THOMAS J. ... CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM
INFORMATION SHEET

SUBJECT: **Presentation by the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Regarding Proposed Joint-Use of MCAS Miramar (District: ALL)**

SUPV. DIST.: Three and Four

COUNTY COUNSEL APPROVAL: Form and Legality () Yes (X) N/A
( ) Standard Form ( ) Ordinance ( ) Resolution

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REVIEW: ( ) Yes ( X ) No
4 VOTES: ( ) Yes ( X ) No

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES [ ] Yes [X ] No

CONTRACT REVIEW PANEL: ( ) Approved ( X ) N/A

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTION: N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE: N/A

CITIZEN COMMITTEE STATEMENT: N/A

CONCURRENCES: N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Districts 3 and 4

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CONTACT PERSON: | John Weil | District 3 | 531-5533 | MS A500 |
| | Darren Pudgil | District 4 | 531-5544 | MS A500 |

DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

MEETING DATE

1

# ENDANGERED HABITATS LEAGUE

DEDICATED TO ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

EHL

July 20, 2006

The Hon. Bill Horn, Chair
ATTN: Clerk of the Board
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm. 402
San Diego, CA 92101

**RE: Board Conference Regarding Proposed Joint Use of MCAS Miramar (July 26, 2006)**

Dear Chairman Horn and Board Members:

The Endangered Habitats League (EHL) opposes the siting of a commercial airport at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The severe impacts involved – loss of unique habitats, compromised military readiness, and harm to long-standing communities – are not justified. Furthermore, as a member of the Airport Site Selection Program Public Working Group, EHL found that there are more viable alternatives for meeting air cargo and transportation needs.

Focusing on the environment, the base is an outstanding and irreplaceable natural resource, comprising a large "core" area of over 19,000 acres, situated in a coastal setting otherwise severely depleted. According to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, the diverse mosaic of habitat on the base supports 9 species of amphibians, 21 species of reptiles, 31 species of mammals (including mountain lion), and over 200 species of birds. This list includes sixteen federally protected species including a key population of California gnatcatchers. Several scenic canyons on the base form east-west and north-south linkages that interconnect MSCP reserve units at Mission Trails Regional Park and Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

The most special feature of Miramar is its vernal pools. These ephemeral water bodies and their watersheds support a rich and specialized community of life, including migratory birds. Approximately 95% have already been lost in Southern California. For this reason, in a report for the California Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife, Jones and Stokes (1987) stated, "The severity of habitat loss and species endangerment makes the San Diego vernal pools one of the natural communities most urgently in need of site protection in California." The vernal pool complex at Miramar is crucial. It supports 7 federally listed species, including species endemic to San Diego, meaning they are found no where else on earth. According to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan,

> The vernal pool resource at MCAS Miramar is the largest and most contiguous in southern California, supporting the most important and least disturbed examples of endangered and sensitive species dependent on vernal pools in the region (Bauder and Wier 1991). Approximately 80% of the known vernal pools remaining in San Diego County occur on MSAC Miramar (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] 1996a).

8424-A SANTA MONICA BLVD., #592, LOS ANGELES, CA 90069-4267 ♦ WWW.EHLEAGUE.ORG ♦ PHONE 213.804.2750 ♦ FAX 323.654.1931

1

The irreplaceable habitat lands at Miramar currently benefit from a limited and compatible military use, as well as from responsible stewardship by the Marine Corps. Currently, only 1,363 acres are improved with intensive uses. All this would change with a commercial airport. Expanded facilities – runways, parking lots, terminals, storage, maintenance, etc. – would of necessity target the vernal pools and their watersheds, which lie directly adjacent to the existing runways. In future years, a commercial airport would be enormously growth-inducing, with airport-related development (hotels, office commercial, warehouses, etc.) eventually compromising the larger habitat and regional connectivity values, as more and more of the base was converted to development.

Our conclusion from the Public Working Group was that other options, alone or in combination, are available and should be utilized. For passenger travel, there is the build-out of the current Lindbergh Field Master Plan, or other expansions, and joint use of Rodriguez Airport. Furthermore, implementation of intercity high speed rail – currently proposed for the 2010 ballot – can markedly reduce airport demand for shorter trips and free up capacity at Lindbergh. It can also provide rapid transportation to LAX for personal international flights. Cargo capacity can be increased through more effective use of existing cargo facilities in the San Diego area (Palomar, Brown Field, Rodriquez). Many of these operations could come under the *unified* management of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, increasing efficiency. Use of the March "Inland Port" in Riverside County can also increase cargo capacity.

In conclusion, the burden of proof for causing severe environmental harm, compromising military mission, and transferring of community noise and traffic impacts has not been met. Thank you for your careful consideration of these complex issues.

Sincerely,

Dan Silver
Executive Director