



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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THOMAS J. POST  
CLERK OF THE BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS

**BILL HORN**

CHAIRMAN  
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**AGENDA ITEM**

**DATE:** June 14, 2011

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** OUTLINING A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE McCLELLAN-PALOMAR AIRPORT RUNWAY (DISTRICT: 5)

**SUMMARY:**

**Overview**

McClellan-Palomar Airport, located in the City of Carlsbad, is a County owned airport that covers an area of 487 acres, with a single runway measuring 4,897 feet. Palomar Airport has been upgraded significantly over the past several years. Using Airport Enterprise Funds and Federal Aviation Administration grants, the County built a new terminal, parking facilities, and a restaurant on the airport campus, and added a U.S. Customs user fee Port of Entry facility. These improvements, along with approximately \$100 million in private investments made by airport tenants and lessees, have helped to make Palomar Airport an attractive facility for airlines, businesses, and passengers alike.

At the request of airport lessees and aviation stakeholders, and with the support of key members in the City of Carlsbad, the recommendation below asks that the County determine the scope of work, costs, and a timeline for a feasibility study that would thoroughly examine the question of whether or not the Palomar Airport runway can be extended, as well as any potential benefits or drawbacks of doing so.

**Recommendation(s)**

**CHAIRMAN BILL HORN:**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board of Supervisors within 90 days with the scope, cost, and a timeline for conducting a feasibility study for a potential extension of the McClellan-Palomar Airport Runway.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**Business Impact Statement**

N/A

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**Advisory Board Statement**

N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

McClellan-Palomar Airport, located in the City of Carlsbad, is a County owned airport that covers an area of 487 acres, with a single runway measuring 4,897 feet. Palomar Airport has been upgraded significantly over the past several years. Since 1994, County Airports has invested \$55.6 million in capital improvements at Palomar Airport. Using Airport Enterprise Funds and FAA grants, the County built a new terminal, parking facilities, and a restaurant on the airport campus, and added a U.S. Customs user fee Port of Entry facility. These improvements, along with approximately \$100 million in private investments made by airport tenants and lessees, have helped to make Palomar Airport an attractive facility for airlines, businesses, and passengers alike.

Palomar Airport, known as "CRQ" to the FAA, has consistently been recognized as an economic driver for North County and a crucial part of the regional aviation system. In 2008 alone, Palomar Airport saw 192,965 takeoffs and landings. An economic vitality study was provided to the County that same year, in order to assess the importance, value, and economic impact of Palomar Airport to our region. The results of the study were staggering. Approximately \$116.62 million in business revenue was generated by airport industries in the Palomar Airport area, and \$61.76 million in business sales was generated by visiting passengers. Those sizeable figures do not take into account the estimated \$10.23 million in local and State tax revenues generated, or the \$21.96 million in personal income earned by the 360 people who worked at the airport that year. Palomar Airport is a top 20 employer in the City of Carlsbad, and its importance to the economy in North County and our region as a whole should not be underestimated.

The San Diego County Airport Authority recently completed a study, called the Regional Airports Strategic Plan or "RASP", which analyzed several options to maximize the regional aviation capacity as a result of dwindling space and limited expansion options at Lindbergh Field. In each of the scenarios analyzed within the RASP, it was taken as given that the Palomar Airport runway would be extended by 1,100 feet, despite the fact that the County currently has no such plans. Complicating matters, a runway extension would likely involve extending the runway over an old landfill property, something that has rarely if ever been done before.

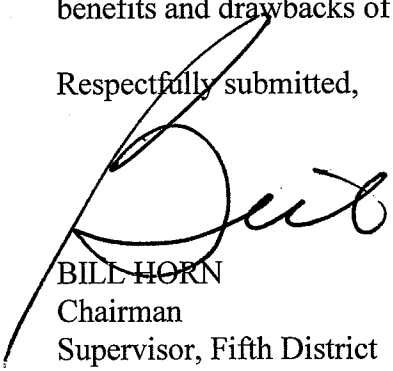
The environmental and engineering challenges involved require that any potential extension of the runway be studied and analyzed thoroughly before the County can evaluate whether a runway extension would be a worthy project to undertake. It is also likely that the FAA would require thorough analysis before considering investing grant funding in a runway extension.

At the request of airport lessees and aviation stakeholders, and with the support of key members in the City of Carlsbad, the recommendation above asks County staff to determine the scope of work, costs, and a timeline for a feasibility study that would thoroughly examine the question of

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whether or not an extension of the Palomar Airport runway can be done, and the potential  
benefits and drawbacks of doing so.

Respectfully submitted,



BILL HORN  
Chairman  
Supervisor, Fifth District



**ATTACHMENTS:**  
N/A

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**CONCURRENCE(S)**

<b>COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>Other Concurrence(s):</b>	N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Chairman Bill Horn

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**  
(continued)

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**

**CONTRACT NUMBER(S):**