



County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

JOHN L. SNYDER
DIRECTOR

5555 OVERLAND AVE, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123-1295
(858) 694-2212 FAX: (858) 268-0461
Web Site: sdcdpw.org

June 23, 2004

Gillespie Pilots Association
Phyllis Trombi, President
P.O. Box 712881
Santee, CA 92072

Dear Ms Trombi:

This letter is written in response to your May 8, 2004 correspondence regarding the ALP Narrative. Issues you have raised are noted below in bold and are followed by Airports response.

“The Air Traffic Control Tower would be best placed on the north side of the field, allowing better sighting of aircraft operations. It should be moved in Phase I, and as such will signal the beginning of compliance with FAA airport standards.”

→ This project is estimated at 4.5 million dollars. The FAA has advised Airports that building a new ATCT facility would not be grant eligible at this time.

“Property to be purchased at the south end of Runway 17/35 should be accomplished in Phase I. A perimeter road constructed subsequent to the land acquisition will ensure no loss of runway length.”

→ The proposed ALP identifies the property south of R17/35 to be acquired in Phase 1 of the implementation plan. The acquisition and easements still need approval and budgeting through the normal process.

“We support the non-aviation use of the divorced property west of Marshall Avenue. A parcel of one acre or larger needs to be set aside for the ‘Bob Dennis Memorial Park.’”

→ Comment noted.

“The present Terminal Building is appropriately located and need not be moved. Instead, we suggest a remodel and possible addition of a second story restaurant. The transient ramp, never full, is also appropriately located there.”

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→ Comment noted.

“An Administration Building for DPW, if needed, could be build on the non-aviation property on Marshall Avenue, rather than the 70 acre parcel known as the ‘Brucker Lease.’”

→ Comment noted.

“The proposed light helicopter area near the junction of the two runways is deemed to be a distraction to other aircraft operations and a safety hazard. All future helicopter areas should be moved to the south end of the airport subsequent to the above mentioned land acquisition.”

→ Comment noted.

“The proposed additional transient ramp at the west end of the airport should be only temporary use of that acreage. Consideration should be given to future land development incorporating the use of the adjacent trolley, enabling airport access by the larger general community. Positive community relations will be enhanced if members of the public traveled by trolley to visit a museum or other such public benefit activity located there.”

→ It has been determined that it is prudent for County Airports to retain control of a portion of the west side of the airport to accommodate future needs. It is normal and customary for a public transient ramp to be owned and operated by a public agency. This area is burdened by a sewer easement that would make most types of development difficult. When County Airports develops the area west of Allen Airways, a pedestrian ramp will be considered, to tie into a multi-modal transportation center.

If you if have any further questions please contact Principal Airport Manager, Sherry Miller at (619) 956-4800.

Sincerely,

Peter Drinkwater
Director of Airports

PD:jk