

PALOMAR AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 22, 2015

AGENDA ITEM #2

PRELIMINARY OPTIONS FOR NEW MASTER PLAN  
FOR MCCLELLAN-PALOMAR AIRPORT

**BACKGROUND**

On June 14, 2011, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to prepare a scope, costs and timeline for a study that would thoroughly examine the question of whether or not the McClellan-Palomar Airport runway could be extended. On September 28, 2011, the Board directed staff to conduct a feasibility study, using an independent consultant, to determine if there were potential improvements, including extending the runway, that could make the Airport better and safer that made sense from an economic perspective. On September 25, 2013 (2), the Board received the completed *Feasibility Study for Potential Improvements to McClellan-Palomar Airport Runway*, dated August 1, 2013, prepared for the County by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. It was reported that options and alternatives from the Feasibility Study would be considered as part of the McClellan-Palomar Airport Master Plan, which was underway.

Following the Board's receipt of the Feasibility Study, work began to incorporate the study's findings into the framework of a new 20-year Airport Master Plan. The Master Plan objective is to develop a planning road map for the future that is flexible, reasonable and justifiable. Cost, phasing, financial feasibility and funding factors are all considered as part of the Master Plan process. The County's consultant, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. is working with County staff on all these aspects of the new Master Plan.

The Master Plan process has included opportunities for the public to be involved in the process, including a dedicated website, interest list, group emails, an introductory meeting and three well-attended public workshops. There have been meetings with the User Group Advisory Committee comprised of tenant, industry and agency representatives. There have also been meetings with targeted groups such as the aviation business owners and pilots.

As the process moved forward, it became clear that there were three leading options for the future classification of the Airport. These options are: 1) keeping the runway classified as a B-II airport; 2) transitioning to C/D-III with full compliance with all standards; or 3) transitioning to C/D-III with modified compliance to some standards. Specifics of these options will be discussed at the Palomar Airport Advisory Committee meeting. Transitioning to either of the C/D-III options would occur over the 20-year planning period covered by the new Master Plan. It was determined it would be best to seek preliminary direction from the Board of Supervisors at this point. This will allow the Master Plan and associated environmental review to focus on a preferred option as the process continues. Prior to Board consideration, Palomar Airport Advisory Committee is asked to review the options and make a recommendation that will be part of the package considered by the Board.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends selecting the modified C/D-III option as the preferred option for further review and consideration. This best meets the current and future needs of all aircraft using the Airport and has the most public, community and business support. Completion of the plan would provide enhanced safety for airport users.

**Next Steps**

After receiving a recommendation from your Committee, staff will present the options to the County Board of Supervisors. Following the Board's preliminary direction, the draft Master Plan will be completed and presented for comments at the fourth Public Workshop in early 2016. Then, as part of the Master Plan process, the options and associated environmental impacts will be thoroughly studied in a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report. The process will continue to include opportunities for public comment. It is anticipated this process will be completed in late 2016 or early 2017, and staff will return to the Board for consideration of the full Master Plan and Certification of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report at that time.

**Recommended Motion**

*“Palomar Airport Advisory Committee recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to proceed with the McClellan-Palomar Airport Master Plan focusing on the modified C/D-III classification as the preferred option, subject to the preparation of a Program-Level Environmental Impact Report.”*