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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: January 18, 1994

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: ADVISORY MEASURE FOR JUNE 1994 BALLOT REGARDING USE OF NAS MIRAMAR AS A CIVILIAN AIRPORT

FROM: Supervisors Leon L. Williams and Dianne Jacob

SUMMARY:

Issue

Should the Board of Supervisors place an advisory ballot measure on the June 1994 ballot regarding relocating Charles A. Lindbergh International Airport to Miramar if the Navy decides to make NAS Miramar available for civilian use?

Recommendation

SUPERVISORS WILLIAMS and JACOB:

1) Approve the following language to be submitted as an advisory measure for the June 1994 ballot:

> "If the Navy decides to make NAS Miramar available for civilian airport use, should all government officials cooperate to make every effort to relocate Charles A. Lindbergh International Airport to Miramar?"

2) Direct County Counsel to prepare the necessary documents and return to the Board within 30 days for final approval.

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BACKGROUND

Shortcomings Associated with Lindbergh Field International Airport

The convenience of Lindbergh Field International Airport has long been overshadowed by safety concerns, inadequate capacity, its inability to accommodate jumbo jets, and noise problems. Over the years, the Board of Supervisors, SANDAG, the City Council and other agencies have listened to compelling expert testimony regarding: 1) the serious economic impacts of not having a world class airport which is able to accommodate jumbo jets; 2) the significant safety hazards at Lindbergh Field including that it does not meet FAA minimum standards for landing approaches and that pilots are not able to use precision approach instruments when landing; and 3) the inevitable and increasing problem of traffic congestion --both ground and air-- which is creating gridlock at Lindbergh Field.

A History of San Diego's International Airport Site Option

In 1981, a SANDAG study concluded that Miramar was the best alternative to replace Lindbergh Field as San Diego's International Airport. In 1984, the SANDAG Board of Directors reiterated in its Regional Transportation Plan that Miramar should be pursued as the region's air carrier airport. And again, in 1990, SANDAG identified three "viable" options for a regional airport: Miramar, Miramar East and Otay Mesa in its Air Carrier Airport Site Selection Study.

In response to these extensive regional studies and the overwhelming need, Supervisors Williams and Bilbray docketed a board letter on February 6, 1990, asking the Board to support NAS Miramar as the preferred international site alternative to Lindbergh Field. The vote was 4 to 1 in favor of this resolution.

At that time, however, there was no indication that the Navy was willing to share and/or leave NAS Miramar, and the local consensus was to pursue the Otay Mesa option first. After several years of effort in that direction, including many trips to Mexico and Washington DC, it became evident that there was a lack of interest on Mexico's part to venture into a binational airport when the benefits to Mexico were so ambiguous.

Window of Opportunity

Currently the San Diego Airport Foundation, which is comprised of more than 200 elected officials, business leaders, community planning council representatives, environmentalists, military personnel and other supporters is aggressively working on this project. The Foundation has retained architects, noise/sound consultants, traffic engineers and consulted with a prominent New York bond counselor, to design and implement a plan whereby an international airport can be built, equipped to provide transportation to Miramar for up to 20 million people annually. The Foundation is moving on this project and we need to support its efforts.

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BACKGROUND continued

We have a unique window of opportunity available to pursue Miramar. The Navy is slated to leave Miramar and the Marines are expected to replace them. It is during this in between period -- prior to any new established use -- that San Diego needs to call for the civilian use of Miramar in a unified voice. We need to put it before the people of San Diego and, once and for all, establish whether they feel the need for a state of the art airport to take us into the next century.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon L. Williams
Supervisor, Fourth District

Dianne Jacob
Supervisor, Second District

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SUPV. DIST.: All

COUNTY COUNSEL APPROVAL: Form and Legality [X] Yes [ ] N/A
[X] Standard Form [ ] Ordinance [ ] Resolution

AUDITOR APPROVAL: [ ] N/A [X] Yes 4 VOTES: [X] Yes [ ] No

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW: [X] Yes [ ] No

CONTRACT REVIEW PANEL: [ ] Approved_____ [X] N/A

CONTRACT NUMBER(S):

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTION:

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE: n/a

CITIZEN COMMITTEE STATEMENT: n/a

CONCURRENCE(S): n/a

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors, District Four

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