

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2000

Jane F. Garvey, Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

The Honorable Willie L. Brown, Jr.
City Hall, Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Administrator Garvey and Mayor Brown:

We appreciate the opportunity provided by the Federal Aviation Administration and the City of San Francisco for additional input on the Environmental Impact Statement and the Environmental Impact Review for Airfield Development at San Francisco International Airport. We believe the EIR/EIS must meet all state and federal laws, and achieve the environmental standards necessary to earn the public support needed to proceed with any version of the project.

San Francisco Bay is a unique estuary of local, national and international ecological significance which has already sustained over a century of abuse and degradation. The Bay is one of the most highly altered estuarine systems in the United States and one of the most valuable to society.

San Francisco International Airport is an important international gateway to the United States and a vital economic engine for the Bay Area. It serves millions of passengers and employs thousands of people. Efficient and reliable operations at SFO are vital for businesses, residents and visitors to our region.

SFO operations affect the entire region, not just the immediate vicinity of the Airport. Because the proposed runway reconfiguration project will affect the entire region and the Bay we all share, it should be considered within the context of regional transportation and growth planning.

For these reasons, the EIR/EIS on SFO's runway proposal must explore all environmental impacts of the airport's proposal to put new runways in the Bay, and all reasonable alternatives to provide improvements in operations and to meet the whole region's needs while minimizing further damage to the Bay.

In brief, we request that you address the following issues in the EIR/EIS: Establish priorities among the purposes for the project; attempt to address the questions raised by the NOAA Scientific Panel Report; examine the range of environmental impacts, including air, noise, traffic, recreation, cultural and cumulative impacts; review the most appropriate and adequate standard for assessing alternatives to address noise impacts on Bay Area residents; and analyze the mitigation of significant, unavoidable project impacts.

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In addition, we encourage you not to dismiss prematurely alternatives for reducing capacity at the Airport. Finding ways to facilitate more direct delivery of passengers and cargo destined for the Central Valley, for example, is a possible alternative for reducing demand on the Bay Area's crowded airspace.


We appreciate your efforts to seek input on this important project affecting the San Francisco Bay Area, and we encourage you to enlist the full range of creative talent in the Bay Area's business, environmental and other interest communities to generate solutions that will benefit the entire region. Thank you for considering our comments as you conduct your environmental review.

Sincerely,


NANCY PELOSI


ANNA ESHOO

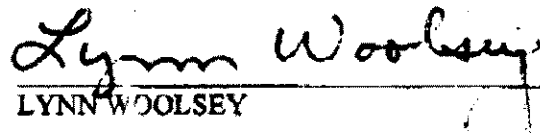

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