

# County of Santa Clara

Roads & Airports Department

Airports Division  
Reid-Hillview & San Martin Airports  
2500 Cunningham Avenue  
San Jose, California 95148  
(408) 918-7700 FAX (408) 929-8617  
[www.countyairports.org](http://www.countyairports.org)



October 26, 2015

Robert Lee  
FAA ADO Office  
1000 Marina Blvd., Suite 220  
Brisbane, CA 94005-1853  
Sent via e-mail

Dear Mr. Lee:

The County of Santa Clara is the owner and sponsor for Reid-Hillview (RHV) and San Martin (E16) airports in the San Jose California area. As such we are tasked with the responsibility to operate these airports in the most fiscally prudent manner while providing the necessary aviation services required of our constituents, and creating the smallest impact possible on the residents of Santa Clara County.

In an effort to reduce overall green-house gases, the County contracted with SunPower (vendor) to develop solar power generating facilities on county owned property. A parcel at both Reid-Hillview and San Martin airports was identified as prime real estate for such a purpose.

Use of these two parcels of property for solar voltaic use is a win-win for the County, for the Airports Division, for the FAA, and for the all those who use Santa Clara County airports. The reduction in greenhouse gasses will cause incremental environmental improvements for the entire county, while the potential income will be used to fund much needed improvements at both airports; improvements that are either not AIP eligible or projects with an otherwise unattainable AIP match. In short, as our budget gets tighter, these two parcels will help to keep the airport fiscal solvent for the near future.

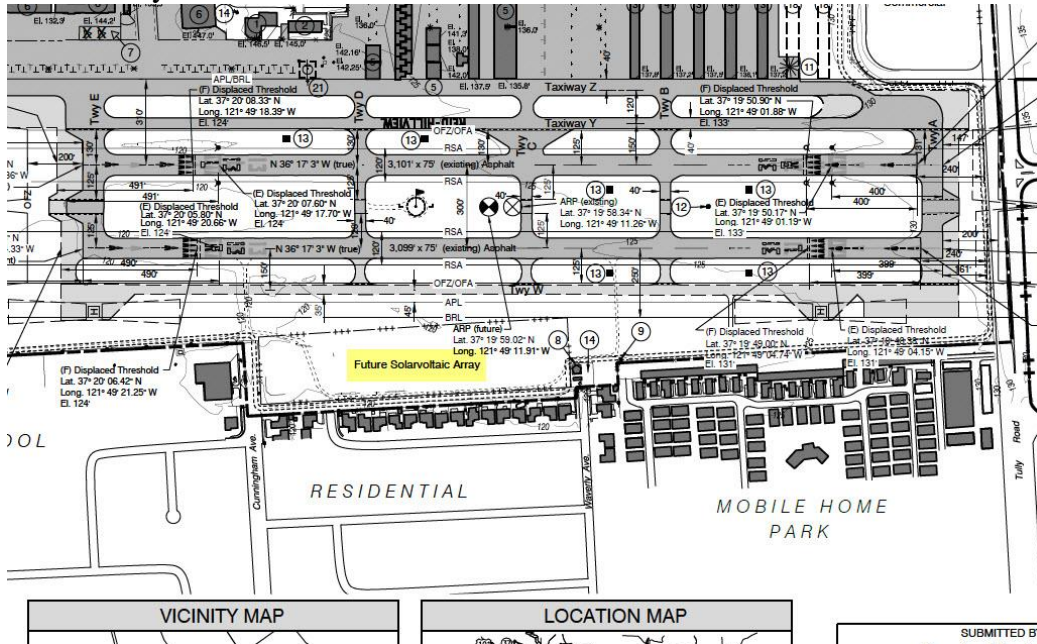
As currently planned, the vendor will install a ground based solar array at both airports, with the generated power being credited to the overall power usage of the County. Annually, the County would reconcile the cost savings from these arrays, and make an equivalent deposit into the Airport Enterprise Fund (AEF), minus the loan repayment and a small management fee. If the County is able to execute this project in a timely manner, low-cost funds have been identified that will allow the County to own the system, resulting in a much quicker return on investment.

*C:\Users\eric.peterson\Desktop\FAA Release Request 2015 10-23.docx*

Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager, S. Joseph Simitian  
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith

## Reid-Hillview Property

The parcel at Reid-Hillview is located in an area that is designated on the current ALP as future solar voltaic array.



The property in question is covered by two different federal grants: [9-04-125-D201](#) in 1962 and [9-04-125-D503](#) in 1964.

The County originally purchased the airport from the Reid brothers in 1961. In 1962 the County requested FAA participation in the procurement cost of the airport and purchase of additional property, through grant 9-04-125-D201, resulting in a \$363,285 grant awarded. Due to continued expansion at the airport, the County purchased additional property on the western edge of the airport; where most of the solar array will reside. In 1964 the County again requested FAA participation in the purchase of the property through grant 9-04-125-D503, resulting in a \$346,570 grant award.

A glare study for the proposed project was completed and a 7460-1 (ANS:2015-AWP-231-NRA) approved on 5/27/2015.

## San Martin Property

The parcel at San Martin airport - the yellow outlined section in the following image- is at the southern edge of the airport property in an area separated from the primary airport parcel by an access road to an animal shelter;



The E16 parcel was purchased by the County around 1968 as they began development of the airport. Although several grant requests were made of the FAA, from 1965-1970, for reimbursement for the purchase of this property, there are no records that such federal participation ever occurred.

A glare study was completed for this project and 7460-1 (ASN: 2015-AWP-939-NRA) approved on 7/01/2015.

Project planning has been ongoing for some time with final construction plans recently submitted. The County is eager to move forward as they have identified a low-cost funding source that would allow the County to own the system instead of utilizing the more common power purchase agreement. However, these funds have a quickly approaching expiration date. During our recent ACIP meeting with your office, I brought up this project where it was recommended that I connect with you to request release of this property for non-aviation use.

By this letter the County is requesting FAA concurrence to release this property for non-aviation use, with the understanding that the property will not be sold, it will be used to construct a solar voltaic array, and all revenue from power generation on the solar field, minus the costs of management and ownership, will be deposited into the AEF for aviation use.

I look forward to hearing from you on our next steps to ensure FAA release of this property.

Best Wishes,

Eric Peterson

Acting Director County Airports  
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