



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Western-Pacific Region
Office of the Regional Administrator

777 S. Aviation Blvd., Suite 150
El Segundo, CA 90245

NOV 15 2019

Harry Freitas
Director of Roads and Airports
County of Santa Clara
101 Skyport Drive
San Jose, CA 95110-1302

Dear Mr. Freitas:

This letter is in response to your correspondence, dated September 19, 2019, and an update to Exhibit I, submitted by Mr. Eric Peterson, Director County Airports, on October 30, 2019, requesting that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) release airport land located at Reid-Hillview Airport (RHV). The land is located at the southeast corner of RHV, Tully Avenue and Capitol Expressway. The County requests that FAA release this land from federal obligations so that it may be used for non-aeronautical purposes.

We are aware that the County of Santa Clara (County) intends to close RHV, entirely or in part and convert the airport land to non-aeronautical use, including low-income housing. RHV is obligated by Federal grant assurances that require the County to use airport land for aeronautical purposes. Future conversion of airport land from aeronautical uses to non-aeronautical uses, unless approved by the FAA, is contrary to the grant assurances that the County agreed to when it accepted Federal grant funding for improvement to airport facilities.

Order 5190.6B, *FAA Airport Compliance Manual* (Order), designates the Office of Airports as the organization responsible for releases of federal obligated airport property. Section 22.27 of the Order, *FAA Evaluation of Sponsor Requests*, page 22-20, requires FAA to consider the sponsor's past and present compliance record under all its airport agreements and its actions to make available a safe and usable airport for aeronautical use by the public.

On October 18, 2019, the FAA Office of Airports sent a letter to the Mr. Joe Simitian, President of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, expressing the agency's opposition to the closure of RHV. In this letter, the FAA identified airfield safety issues that have gone uncorrected for several years. FAA is awaiting the County's response, indicating how and when they intend to address these safety concerns.

This issue has been assigned to the FAA Office of Airports for further review and action. If you wish to discuss the issue further, please contact Mark McClardy at (424) 405-7300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Raquel Girvin".

for
Raquel Girvin
Regional Administrator

Cc: Mark McClardy, Director, FAA Office of Airports, Western-Pacific Region