Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Richard J. Bruckner
Director

Date: June 23, 2011

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Richard J. Bruckner
Director

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF LAND USE COMPATIBILITY PLANS FOR COUNTY–OWNED AIRPORTS

On May 17, 2011 your Board adopted a resolution authorizing the Department of Regional Planning to apply for a grant to develop an airport land use compatibility plan for Brackett Field Airport. Your Board also directed the Director of Planning to consult with the Director of Public Works and report back in 60 days with a schedule to submit grant applications for the preparation of airport land use compatibility plans for the remaining county-owned airports without an updated compatibility plan. These airports include Compton/Woodley, El Monte and Whiteman.

AIRPORT BACKGROUND

Compton Woodley Airport

Compton/Woodley Airport, established in 1924, is the oldest general aviation airport in the Los Angeles Basin and its 77 acres are located entirely within the City of Compton in the Second Supervisorial District. The surrounding land uses are low, medium and high density residential and open space. The Airport Master Plan dates from August 1991. The Airport Layout Plan was last updated in February 2007.

Whiteman Airport

Whiteman Airport is a general aviation airport of 183 acres established in 1946. It is located entirely within the City of Los Angeles in the northeast San Fernando Valley community of Pacoima in the Third Supervisorial District. The surrounding land uses are single-family and multi-family residential, commercial, public facilities, and open space. No Airport Master Plan has been completed for this airport. The Airport Layout Plan was last updated in June 2002.

El Monte Airport

El Monte Airport is a general aviation airport of 103 acres established in 1947. It is located entirely within the City of El Monte in the First Supervisorial District. The surrounding land uses are low and medium density residential, regional and general commercial and public facilities including schools. No Airport Master Plan has been completed for this airport. The Airport Layout Plan was last updated in April 2007.

AIRPORT LAND USE COMPATIBILITY PLANNING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The California Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics provides Acquisition and Development (A&D) grants through its Capital Improvements Program (CIP) which is a biennial list of eligible projects for A&D grants. CIP eligible airports include general aviation airports that are owned by public agencies and are not commercial service or reliever airports. Projects that are selected for A&D grants from the CIP are included in the State's biennial Aeronautics Program in accordance with criteria adopted by the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

The next round of A&D grants will be made available in the 2013/2014 fiscal year. Caltrans will send qualifying agencies a letter providing the appropriate application materials in October 2012 with completed applications due in January 2013. Announcement of the projects that are awarded grants are sent to airport managers and posted on the Caltrans website by November of 2013, with the projects funded and ready to go forward in 2014. There is a local agency matching component for the A&D grants; the rate is set annually. The current rate of 10% has been in place for the past 5 years and is likely to remain at that rate in future grant cycles. If the matching rate changes for upcoming years, all applicants will be notified by Caltrans in advance.

Currently, no federal funding is available through the Federal Aviation Administration for airport land use compatibility planning at general aviation airports. Under Vision 100, funding was limited to the fiscal years 2004 through 2007 and only for large and medium hub airports that have never had a Part 150 noise compatibility study or had not updated such a program in the previous 10 years.

GRANT APPLICATION SCHEDULE

The table below provides a schedule to submit grant applications for state Acquisition and Development grants for the remaining county-owned airports:

Acquisition and Development Grant Cycle	Airport(s)
Fiscal Year 2013/2014	Whiteman
Fiscal Year 2013/2014	Compton/Woodley
Fiscal Year 2017/2018	El Monte

CONCLUSION

Thoughtful airport land use compatibility planning in coordination with the cities that the airports are located in can result in land use policies and regulations which reduce the public's exposure to safety hazards and aircraft noise; provide for safer operation of aircraft; and help protect airports from encroachment of incompatible land uses. If funding remains available, the Department will have an opportunity to submit grant applications for the next grant cycle for two County-owned airports: Compton/Woodley and Whiteman. The Department will also continue to monitor for additional compatibility planning funding opportunities.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Susana Franco-Rogan or David McDonald at 213-974-6425.

RJB:JS:SFR:DM

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Director, Department of Public Works