



MEDIA RELEASE

COUNTY OF SONOMA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sonoma County Announces Community Engagement Process On Proposed Airport Safety and Improvement Project

Sonoma County Airport is regional economic engine and dialogues will provide public with first hand opportunity for feedback and access to vital information.

Santa Rosa, CA – The County of Sonoma is pleased to announce that the Charles M. Schulz - Sonoma County Airport staff will be engaging the community in a series of public meetings to discuss and receive feedback on the upcoming Airport safety and improvement projects. These meetings will take place throughout the Spring and Summer of 2011 and will provide the public a firsthand opportunity to receive detailed information about the Airport plans for safety improvements and other airport improvement projects. In addition, these outreach efforts provide access to technical staff on the project.

Chair of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, Efren Carrillo, commented, “The Sonoma County Airport is a vital part of the regional economy. These improvements will complement our local economic development efforts and support business travel and tourism.”

Supervisor Mike McGuire commented, “The community’s participation is an essential part of the process. The County has established a proactive plan for a community wide discussion which will ensure the most complete and transparent dialogue regarding one of our region’s most critical economic development engines, the Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport.”

Additional details on these meetings will be released as they are finalized.

Tentative Airport Public Meeting Schedule:

First Quarter 2011 - Stakeholder community organization meetings – A series of meetings with critical stakeholders have taken/will be taking place during the first quarter. Jon Stout, Manager, Sonoma County Airport and the appropriate staff and consultants will be meeting with business leaders, community groups and representatives from the environmental community at these various forums.

Late Spring Early Summer- (Date to be determined) - Presentation to the Windsor Town Council and Santa Rosa City Council: Jon Stout, Manager, Sonoma County Airport and the appropriate staff and consultants will provide the Windsor Town Council and residents an update on the environmental review process along with an overall project update. This meeting is tentatively being scheduled for late spring early summer 2011 with exact dates yet to be determined. This meeting will be after the draft Environmental Document is released for public review and input. A similar meeting will be held before the Santa Rosa City Council for Santa Rosa residents as well.

Late Spring Early Summer- Airport Project Open House - This public forum will be an opportunity for additional information on the Environmental Impact Report Attendees will be encouraged to ask questions and provide comments. Several informational stations will be erected, all addressing the various components of the project including the runway safety areas and improvement project. This event will be scheduled with FAA staff present. Public feedback will be captured as well for inclusion in the public comment process.

Sonoma County Planning Commission Hearings:

Late Spring Early Summer - The Sonoma County Planning Commission will hold the first hearing addressing the Sonoma County Airport Project in the Town of Windsor. This meeting will occur during the forty-five (45) day public comment period.

Summer - The Sonoma County Planning Commission will hold a hearing in Santa Rosa at the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Chambers. Additional hearings may be warranted and have yet to be determined.

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Hearings:

Upon final recommendation by the Sonoma County Planning Commission, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors will be hosting meetings/hearings on this project once the Planning Commission makes a final recommendation.

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The County of Sonoma is comprised of 26 departments and agencies that provide a full range of services to the community. It encompasses over 1600 square miles and is home to almost 500,000 residents. Sonoma County government has a history of providing excellent and responsive public service while operating under sound fiscal principles.

Located less than one hour north of San Francisco, Sonoma County combines in one location the beautiful Pacific coastline, award-winning wineries, majestic redwoods, historic towns, fine dining, and a wide variety of entertainment and cultural activities.