

SAN DIEGO COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY



PUBLIC & COMMUNITY RELATIONS
P. O. BOX 82776, SAN DIEGO, CA 92138-2776
619.400.2880 WWW.SAN.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steven Shultz 619.400.2881/sshultz@san.org
Sharie Shipley 619.400.2882/sshipley@san.org

Airport Authority Board advances three proposed civilian airport sites for further study

SAN DIEGO, July 15, 2005 At its public meeting July 7, the Board of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority requested further study of three preliminary concepts for proposed airport sites as part of the Airport Site Selection Program. The three concepts include potential civilian, non-military sites in Campo and the Imperial County desert, as well as a possible expansion of San Diego International Airport (SDIA) to add a second runway. The SDIA concept does not include the adjacent Marine Corps Recruit Depot. Board members directed Airport Authority staff to analyze the three concepts for such infrastructure issues as airspace requirements, financial feasibility and potential noise, air-quality and social impacts. A fourth civilian site, in the Borrego Springs area, will remain on the Airport Authority’s list of prospective sites but will not advance for further study at this time.

“This more detailed analysis will answer some big questions about which of these concepts could meet the region’s long-term needs,” said Thella F. Bowens, President/CEO of the Airport Authority.

In addition, five military sites remain on the Airport Authority’s list of prospective sites. However, at the request of the region’s state and Congressional delegations, the Board agreed to defer study of these military sites until the Department of Defense’s Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process concludes later this year.

State legislation calls for the Airport Authority to place an airport site selection measure on the countywide ballot – that vote will take place in November 2006. Over the last two years, a Public Working Group of regional stakeholders has helped establish criteria used to narrow the list of potential airport sites from thirty to the current nine. For more information on the Airport Site Selection Program, visit www.airportsiteselection.org.

The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority was established by state law in 2003 to operate San Diego International Airport and address the region’s long-term air transportation needs. A nine-member appointed Board representing all areas of the County governs the Airport Authority. San Diego International Airport – funded through user fees and not local taxes – is the nation’s busiest single-runway commercial service airport, serving some 16.4 million passengers in 2004.

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