

Attn: Gary O. Phillips, Mayor
Marc Levine, Councilmember
Damon Connolly, Councilmember
Barbara Heller, Councilmember
Andrew McCullough, Councilmember

C/o: Kraig Tambornini, Senior Planner
City of San Rafael, Community Development
PO Box 151560
San Rafael, CA 94915-1560

RE: Proposed Airport Soccer Complex

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

I strongly urge you to not certify the Final Environmental Impact Report for the proposed San Rafael Airport Soccer Complex and not to approve zoning changes that would allow it to go forward.

I am deeply concerned about a number of aspects of this proposal, including:

- Safety of children and adults playing sports 160 feet from an active runway (why set aside state safety regulations and the warnings of Caltrans?). Not to mention the moral and liability issues of such a step. Planes have crashed there and it is not a question of “if” but “when” another will.
- Adult out-of-county leagues would be those most served by this pay to play, commercial project, more than local youth, as most parents in support have been led to believe.
- The public trust has been betrayed. The intent of the Deed of Restrictions on this property should of course be honored, as signatory and former Mayor Larry Mulryan has urged. The applicant/owner has already profited greatly from the development of Autodesk, Embassy Suites and Villa Marin, as was offered in exchange for keeping the airport area open and undeveloped.
- Wetland zoning allowing "low-impact" recreation is well-reasoned and should be kept in place, not rezoned to allow an 86,000 square foot commercial sports building and stadium lights.
- This would be a *calamity* for the quality of life for surrounding neighborhoods. The amount of noise, lights and traffic would seriously degrade people’s ability to enjoy themselves on their own property or in surrounding open space. Prospective home buyers are already awaiting your decision.
- It is (now) a rich wildlife corridor and sensitive wetlands habitat, home to a great many types of animals, insects and plants (including one of the most Endangered Species in California, the Clapper Rail). This is not the place for a 12-hour a day, giant human development.
- Serious flaws in the FEIR have been found, including a lack of mitigation for the federally protected Clapper Rail, or anything close to sufficient mitigation of noise, light and air pollution.
- Other alternatives for creating more soccer sites should be explored, such as revitalizing existing sites and public/private partnerships.

Please, I urge you not to allow this proposed soccer complex to be built. It presents a clear safety hazard and would be devastating to the environment and to nearby communities. This area should remain open space. Now and into the future. It is an inappropriate location for this type of development.

Sincerely,

Signature

Address

Print Name

Date