

Mayor Gary Phillips and Councilmembers
San Rafael City Council
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901



Protecting Marin Since 1934

December 3, 2012

Re: San Rafael Airport Recreational Facility

Dear Mayor Phillips and Councilmembers:

The Marin Conservation League has been following and commenting on the project before you this evening for many years, most recently through a letter from Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger prior to your August 6 aborted meeting. We continue to object to the findings made in your documentation that this project is consistent with San Rafael's General Plan and Land Use regulations since it contradicts the Wetland Overlay zone, the declaration of restrictions, Conservation Element Goals, Safety Policies and the Noise element.

A number of your Conservation Element policies are ignored by putting a facility of this magnitude with night time lighting adjacent to endangered California Clapper Rail habitat. The city continues to make unsubstantiated claims that the birds have or can become habituated to the kind of disturbance you are proposing. My thoroughly urbanized and domesticated dog would be disturbed by a sports facility that close to her "habitat".

The Safety issues are the most egregious since the City was advised that this project violates the California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook, which recommends prohibiting group recreation in the safety zone. Leaded fuel use in such close proximity to children has not been adequately addressed. The responsibility for levee maintenance is vague and needs to be explicitly identified. If the project applicant needs an agreement with the County to clarify how and who will provide the maintenance of all levees protecting the site, then that should be provided by the applicant before any approvals are made. This should include ongoing responsibility as sea levels rise. See attached map.

We feel the City has not adequately addressed the issues that this project will create and therefore recommend that you not certify the FEIR and that you deny the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Stompe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Stompe
President

PHONE: 415.485.6257
FAX: 415.485.6259

EMAIL: mcl@marinconservationleague.org
WEB: marinconservationleague.org

ADDRESS: 175 N. Redwood Dr., Ste. 135
San Rafael, CA 94903-1977

