

AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 20, 2008

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Whitehurst called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. in the Board Chambers on the third floor of the Merced County Administration Building, located at 2222 'M' Street, Merced, California.

II. ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Present: Tony Whitehurst, Chairman
Frederick Honore, Vice Chairman
Gail McCullough
Al Romero
Rick Eason

Commissioners Absent: Scott Malta

Staff Present: Robert A. Lewis, ALUC Secretary
William Nicholson, ALUC Staff
Celeste Aguirre, ALUC Recording Secretary

Legal Staff: Bob Gabriele, ALUC Legal Counsel

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: M/S MCCULLOUGH / EASON, AND CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 5-0, THE COMMISSION APPROVES THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2007.

IV. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. REVIEW OF PROPOSED FUTURE HIGH SCHOOL SITE FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE ALUC LAND USE COMPATIBILITY PLAN AS REQUESTED BY THE MERCED UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR A LAND ACQUISITION AT TYLER ROAD AND GERARD AVENUE.

MR. NICHOLSON GAVE A BRIEF PRESENTATION DESCRIBING THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

MOTION: M/S EASON / MCCULLOUGH, AND CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 5-0, THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE SCHOOL STATING THAT THIS IS A COMPATIBLE LAND USE AND THE COMMISSION APPROVES OF IT.

B. REVIEW OF THE MERCY MEDICAL CENTER MERCED HELIPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE ALUC LAND USE COMPATIBILITY PLAN.

MR. NICHOLSON GAVE A BRIEF PRESENTATION DESCRIBING THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

RICHARDA BENETTE, HELIPORT CONSULTANTS, STATED CURRENTLY THE HOSPITAL HAS PATIENTS TRANSFERRED FROM MERCED MUNI-AIRPORT. THIS IS NOT THE BEST FOR PATIENTS AND ON-SITE LOCATION WILL SPEED PATIENT TRANSPORT TO VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. SHE ALSO WENT OVER EXISTING AND PLANNED LAND USES.

CHAIRMAN MCCULLOUGH STATED SHE IS IN FAVOR OF THE PROJECT.

COMMISSIONER EASON STATES HE FEELS WITH THE HELIPORT ONSITE WILL BE A REDUCTION IN TIME AND EXPENSE.

JOAN ARAUJO, HOSPITAL DIRECTOR OF TRANSITION PLANNING, STATED THAT IT TAKES AN EXTRA HOUR TO GET A PATIENT FROM MERCY TO MERCED MUNI AIRPORT SO THE HELIPORT WILL SAVE TIME AND EXPENSE.

COMMISSIONER MCCULLOUGH CONFIRMED THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A CREW OR FUELING BECAUSE THE HELIPORT IS FOR EMERGENCY ONLY.

CHAIRMAN WHITEHURST STATED THE FAA CONDITIONS AND CLARIFIED THE HELIPORT IS LIMITED TO PRIVATE USE AND ALSO STATED THE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

MOTION: M/S EASON / MCCULLOUGH, AND CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 5-0, THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE MOTION TO FIND THAT THE MERCED HELIPORT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICIES IN SECTION 3.31 AND DIRECT STAFF TO WRITE A LETTER STATING COMMISSIONS DETERMINATION.

C. CONTINUED REVIEW OF THE LOS BANOS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE.

MR. LEWIS STATED THAT ALUC STAFF HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY CORRESPONDENCE SINCE THE DECEMBER 20, 2007 MEETING REGARDING THE LOS BANOS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE.

NO CITY REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE.

CHAIRMAN WHITEHURST GAVE A SUMMARY ON THE STATUS OF THE LOS BANOS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE. HE ALSO STATED THAT MICHAEL DYETT, GP CONSULTANT, IS WORKING ON OVERLAY DESIGNATION OR POLICY. AS OF TODAY THE MASTER PLAN HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. REPLACEMENT FOR LLOYD PARTIN ON THE COMMISSION.

MR. LEWIS STATED THAT WE RECEIVED LATE CORRESPONDENCE FROM COMMISSIONER SCOTT MALTA AND UNFORTUNATELY HE IS NOT PRESENT AT THIS MEETING BECAUSE HE WAS GOING TO SPEAK ON THESE THREE ITEMS. IT IS UP TO THE AIRPORT MANAGERS TO APPOINT THE NEW COMMISSIONER.

B. FUNDING/APPLICATION FOR THE UPDATE TO THE ALUCP.

MR. LEWIS STATED THAT COMMISSIONER MALTA IS WORKING ON THIS WITH AIRPORT MANAGERS TO IDENTIFY THE 10% MATCH.

C. CASTLE AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN DRAFT CONCEPT.

MR. LEWIS INFORMED THE COMMISSION THAT MR. MALTA SUBMITTED A PACKET FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW.

JIM PICKNER, ASSISTANT AIRPORT MANAGER AT CASTLE, STATED THERE ARE TWO ALTERNATES BEING REVISED FOR THE LAYOUT PLAN. HE ALSO WENT OVER SHORT TERM, MID-TERM, AND ULTIMATE LONG TERM PLANS. HE STATED THE DESIRE FOR MORE HANGER SPACE AND DISCUSSED PASSENGER TERMINAL PROGRESS.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:00 P.M.