



Ad Hoc Committee on Airport Competitiveness Issue Document

Regional Airport Study

1. Issue Description:

A group of Bay Area regional agencies is conducting a Regional Airport Study looking at what actions are required to handle growth in long-term commercial aviation demand short of constructing new runways or airports. The focus of the study is the significant imbalance between projected demand and San Francisco Airport's capacity constraints. Scenarios being explored include spreading more air service to the Oakland and San Jose airports, expanding airline service to alternate airports, accommodating some air passengers on high speed rail, deploying new air traffic control technologies, and putting controls on flights at San Francisco Airport so that its runways can operate efficiently. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) are conducting the study through the Regional Airport Planning Committee (RAPC), which is comprised of officials appointed by the 3 regional agencies plus staff representatives from various agencies including the 3 major airports. The study will be completed in 2011.

The potential of re-balancing air service more equitably among the three major Bay Area airports is an issue of high interest to SJC staff.

2. Key Issue Elements:

While the study is focusing on solutions for Bay Area airport congestion in the long-term future (2035), San Francisco International Airport is currently operating at near capacity on its airfield and is now the nation's most flight-delayed airport. In the meantime, each week thousands of Silicon Valley residents must fly out of San Francisco because there is little or no air service to their desired destinations at San Jose. As the problem of air traffic congestion at San Francisco is thus happening now, actions are needed in the short term to re-balance air service among the three Bay Area airports for passenger convenience and operational efficiency is needed now.

Key questions include: 1) What can/should be done to support RAPC's efforts to recommend and pursue a re-balancing of air service in the near term? 2) Assuming there is agreement on this particular solution, how could it be achieved? 3) What kind of regional organizational structure would be needed to implement and sustain a re-balance of Bay Area air service?

3. Estimated budget savings or cost impacts on the Airport:

Increased air service at SJC as the result of re-balancing Bay Area air service will increase passenger activity and passenger and airline-generated revenues that will help improve the Airport's financial condition. However, at this time it is not possible to reliably estimate how may impact the Airport.

4. Council action required?

To be determined.

5. Implementation Schedule/Timetable:

To be determined.