

Frequently asked Questions Reid-Hillview Site

1. Q. Who owns the Reid - Hillview site?

A. The County purchased the Reid - Hillview site in 1961 and continues to own and operate it today.

2. Q. How large is the Reid - Hillview site?

A. The site is approximately 180 acres.

3. Q. What is the relationship between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the County?

A. The County owns and operates the airport. The FAA manages the airspace, operates and staffs the air traffic control tower, regulates use of the airspace and the airport and provides capital improvement funding through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). The FAA has general regulatory authority over airports in the United States under federal law and specific authority over RHV through the Grant Assurances that the County agreed to accept in exchange for federal grants that the County has received in the past.

4. Q. Why did the County end FAA grant funding?

A. FAA grants come with specific requirements (grant assurances) for how to operate and maintain the airport, as well as how long the airport must remain functioning. The County would like to exercise more control over future operations of the airport and so decided to stop receiving grant funding.

5. Q. How long will the County be in contract with FAA?

A. There are two distinct types of grant obligations that Santa Clara County must contend with. Grant funding for capital improvements like runway paving, planning documents or runway lighting include obligations to operate the airport while following FAA regulations for twenty years. The agreement that came with the most recent capital grant expires in 2031. Grant funding associated with property purchases includes the same obligations, but they last until the airport operator gets authorization from the FAA to close the airport. The County accepted grant funding to purchase all of the airport property in the 1960s. The FAA contends that the grant assurances tied to those property purchases do not expire meaning the County will remain obligated to operate the airport past 2031. This is a complex legal issue that will be decided sometime in the future.

6. **Q. Why was the airborne lead study requested for the Reid – Hillview site?**
A. At the December 18, 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board requested that an airborne lead study be conducted. The County has concerns about lead in the environment and its possible affect on the community. Since small aircraft use leaded fuel and the community is concerned about presence of lead the County directed the completion of a study.
7. **Q. What is the importance of the airborne lead study? When will the study be finalized?**
A. The study is very important in order to establish a science-based understanding of the effect of lead in the community. The report is scheduled to be complete by December of 2020.
8. **Q. How will the airborne lead study results impact the community? How will the results impact the airport?**
A. This is unknown. Much depends on the findings of the study.
9. **Q. The County is hosting two community workshops, why?**
A. In December 2018, the Board of Supervisors asked Roads & Airports and the Facilities and Fleet department to engage the community and explore possible options for how the Reid Hillview site could be reused if it is no longer operated as an airport.
10. **Q. What are the community workshops about? Will there be more in the future?**
A. The goal of the workshops was to capture the ideas and concerns for the future of the community, brainstorm possible uses, engage the community in the long-term process and participate in a collaborative vision for the Reid-Hillview site. The County **held one workshop on Tuesday, February 25th, 2020. The workshop scheduled for Wednesday March 18th, 2020 has been postponed.**
11. **Q. I did not attend a community workshop; how can I share my comments?**
A. webpage was created for the Reid – Hillview site. On the site there is an option to give feedback. For more information visit **www.sccgov.org/rhv**.

12. **Q. How will the County notify the community about updates on the Reid -Hillview site?**

A. Generally, by Email, direct mail, direct contact with community organizations, schools, and through your elected officials.

13. **Q. What are next steps after the County has received community feedback?**

A. Roads & Airports and the Facilities and Fleet department will submit their findings to the Board of Supervisors in April 2020.

14. **Q. When all the reports are presented to the Board of Supervisors in April what will be decided on? Or will it be presented as an informational piece?**

A. The staff anticipates that the report will require approval from the Board of Supervisors.