



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Western-Pacific Region
Airports Division

San Francisco Airports District Office
1000 Marina Blvd, Suite 220
Brisbane, CA 94005-1835

January 18, 2013

Len Erickson
Midcoast Community Council
P. O. Box 248
Moss Beach, California 94038

Subject: Midcoast California Coastal Trail and Highway 1 Safety and Mobility
Improvement Planning Near Half Moon Bay Airport, County of San Mateo,
California

Dear Mr. Erickson:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently became aware of planning efforts for establishment of pedestrian, bicycle and recreationalist trails designed to increase safety, recreational opportunities and mobility in the coastal area. Due to its proximity to Highway 1 and its presence in the coastal environment the study areas for the subject proposals include the Half Moon Bay Airport. As such, the FAA encourages the Midcoast Community Council to work with the San Mateo County Department of Public Works, Airports Division to ensure that all proposed trails or similar routes do not encompass any dedicated airport property and remain at a safe distance from aviation operations.

The Half Moon Bay Airport was deeded to San Mateo County through the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended, for the sole use as a public airport. The deed requires that San Mateo County, as the transferee, maintain and protect the public airport use and prevent any land use on airport property that could be hazardous to aviation operations or would otherwise limit its usefulness as an airport. Placement of a trail or other public access improvement on dedicated airport property would be considered a release of airport property which would not be permitted under the terms of the land transfer. Additionally, a public use trail is considered a recreational activity that could result in unintended release of airport property through Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, currently codified as 49 United States Code Section 303(c).

Because of the reasons stated above the FAA could not concur with placement of a trail or other such improvement if it were to include Half Moon Bay Airport property.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, I am available at (650) 827-7602 or you may contact Robert Y. Lee, of my staff, at (650) 827-7629.

Sincerely,

Arlene B. Draper

Assistant Manager, San Francisco Airports District Office

cc Gretchen Kelly, SMC Airports