



Reid's Hillview Airport, once an isolated Eastside airstrip for light planes, now is nearly ringed by schools, school sites and subdivisions. The county has purchased the existing airport property (shown in white) and plans to expand it to the west by buying vacant land (lined area), the 10-acre

city park site and part of the city's proposed Swift Lane renewal area. City planning commissioners have recommended against closing Cunningham avenue and selling the park site after hearing Frank Fiscalini, superintendent of the East Side High School District, protesting expansion

of the airport. The approximate outer limits of the airport's existing flight pattern are shown by the dotted line in this aerial picture by News chief photographer Paige Abbott. Hillview Golf Course lies just south of the airfield at the bottom of the photo-

graph. Existing airport runways, which stop short of Cunningham, would be lengthened and may run almost diagonally across the expanded airport. Expansion of the facilities also is expected to widen the flight pattern area.

Court Fight Promised If County Tries To Expand Airport

By HOWARD WATKINS
News Staff Writer

The East Side Union High School District isn't alone in its opposition to expansion of the now county-owned Reid's Hillview Airport.

Today the owners of Hillview Golf Course said they not only oppose expansion, but will battle it in the courts.

San Jose City Councilman Robert Welch said he never has and still doesn't like the expansion plan and has "real doubts" that the Federal Housing Administration will approve building loans on subdivisions adjacent to the airport.

Supervisor Sam P. Della Maggiore said before last week's meeting of the Board that he would ask the county supervisor to express his opinion about the controversy. Della Maggiore said he would not file a motion asking for an official stand, but only wants to know what each thinks about the county's vote to block the port expansion.

Last week the planning commission, hearing arguments of Superintendent Frank Fiscalini of the East Side Union High School District, recom-

mended against abandoning the extension of Cunningham avenue and a planned 10-acre city park to permit construction of a new runway at the airport.

Earlier, the City Council had gone on record supporting county acquisition and development of Reid's Hillview.

County Supervisor Ralph Mehrkens said he was amazed by the commission action.

San Jose, he said, had told the Board of Supervisors it did not have the money to develop the airport for small planes and urged the county to take over the task.

"We had every reason to believe on the basis of conferences that the City Council and city officials would back the expansion plans," Mehrkens said.

Likewise, said Supervisor Sam P. Della Maggiore.

"This I can't understand. We've been talking about it for a year and a half and no one protested. We said the airport would be expanded during purchase discussions."

Councilman Robert Doerr said he did too. "I'm a little perplexed by the whole thing," he said.

"I thought the agreement between the city and the county had already been firmecup."

Fiscalini on Tuesday argued before the planning commission that an expanded airport would be a hazard to children in adjacent schools, that subdivision growth would be discouraged and that flight patterns would bring planes close to existing and planned schools.

The commission concurred, rejected the planning staff's proposal to abandon Cunningham and the park site so the county could qualify for federal airport expansion aid, but agreeing with Antonacci that there should be a restudy of the airport location to determine if the site is right for the future.

The effect was to pull the rug out from under the Council.

What will happen tonight is a matter of speculation.

Asst. City Mgr. Frank Knofler, acting for the vacationing Mgr. A. P. Hamann, said he can't comment because he hasn't yet discussed the issue with councilmen.

Councilman Louis Solari said, "We will have to work it out with the county."

But Welch said he was unaware of the stepped-up air traffic expansion would produce and although he chastized Fiscalini for protesting so late, he said:

"Even if the school officials were negligent, we still have to look out for the welfare of children."

Fiscalini said he wasn't aware until last week of the magnitude of the expansion. But last year, he said, he outlined school problems as related to the airport with county planning officials and then in December detailed them in a letter to County Executive Howard W. Campen.

Although Antonacci's personal feelings are against expansion of the airport, he said he must support the Council's earlier position of endorsement.

Manny Goulart, spokesman for Hillview Golf Course owners, said they are opposed to any expansion, will not give an easement for air traffic and will fight it through the courts if necessary.

"Planes would sweep over even more fairways than they now do and further endanger golfers," said Goulart. "Five planes have crashed onto the golf course in the last 15 years." (A sixth crashed Sunday night, killing two men.)

In summation, one county official said: "It would put us in a bad position if the city refuses to close Cunningham avenue."

"Without the expansion we can't serve the small aircraft needs."