



Airport roundtable takes off

By Ryan Rose

It's about to become a whole lot louder around Mather Airport with the possible creation of a community roundtable to discuss air-noise issues affecting residents of Folsom, Rancho Cordova, El Dorado Hills, and Cameron Park.

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a community roundtable at their regular board March 23.

"I'm glad," said El Dorado County Supervisor Rusty Dupray, who drafted the letter to the Sacramento Board requesting the creation of the roundtable. "We asked for it, and we hope it will be a step in the right direction."

The decision was a long wait for Dupray and the proponents of the community roundtable. The Sacramento Board received Dupray's letter in December of 2003, and tabled the item until after the board was finished reviewing the master plan for the airport. Four months later, the board finally responded to Dupray's request.

Area residents have voiced concerns over noise since the transfer of commercial cargo planes from Sacramento International Airport to the former military base. Located in Rancho Cordova, Mather Airport draws planes from all over the skies, affecting residents from Sacramento to Placerville.

The Sacramento County Airport System has 90 days to determine the duties of the roundtable, the nature of the committee's authority, and who will participate. Ultimately, SCAS said they want to provide a forum for distressed residents. The first meeting date will be set in June.

The plea for the roundtable sprung from a desire for proper governmental representation on the issue. Although the Sacramento Board of Supervisors exercises total control over Mather Airport, some residents in Sacramento County, namely those in Folsom, claimed their requests went unanswered. El Dorado County residents were in an even worse position, having no body of government that could claim jurisdiction in the matter.

The roundtable may change all of this-providing affected residents the opportunity to unload some noise of their own.

For more information on the Mather Community Roundtable, visit sacairports.com.