



# City of Sacramento City Council

4

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814  
[www.CityofSacramento.org](http://www.CityofSacramento.org)

**Meeting Date:** 1/11/2011

**Report Type:** Consent

**Title:** Heliport Approval Authority

**Report ID:** 2011-00076

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Adopt 1) a resolution delegating to the City Planning Commission authority to approve the plan of construction for new heliports; 2) a resolution approving the plan for construction of a helistop at Kaiser South Sacramento Hospital.

**Contact:** Gregory Bitter, Principal Planner, (916)808-7816, Community Development Department

**Presenter:** Lindsey Alagozian, Senior Planner, (916)808-2659, Community Development Department

**Department:** Community Development Dept

**Division:** Current Planning

**Dept ID:**

**Attachments:**

---

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 3 - Resolution Delegating Authority.doc
- 4 - Resolution Kaiser South Helistop.doc

---

### **City Attorney Review**

Approved as to Form  
Sabina D. Gilbert  
1/6/2011 3:16:55 PM

### **City Treasurer Review**

Prior Council Financial Policy Approval or  
Outside City Treasurer Scope  
Russell Fehr  
1/3/2011 2:49:17 PM

### **Approvals/Acknowledgements**

Department Director or Designee: Max Fernandez - 1/5/2011 11:40:34 AM

Assistant City Manager: John Dangberg - 1/6/2011 1:34:39 PM



# RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

## APPROVING THE PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A HELISTOP AT KAISER SOUTH SACRAMENTO HOSPITAL (P04-185)

### BACKGROUND

- A. The California Public Utilities Code section 21661.5 requires City Council approval of the plan for construction of a helistop as evidence of local approval.
- B. Under Sacramento City Code Title 17 (the Zoning Code) the Planning Commission approved, with conditions, a special permit for a helistop as a part of the Kaiser South Sacramento Hospital Expansion (P04-185), after appropriate environmental review and public hearings.

### BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. On July 13, 2006, the Planning Commission certified an Environmental Impact Report and approved a Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the Kaiser South Sacramento Hospital Expansion (P04-185). The action included approval of a special permit for the construction and operation of a helipad. To attenuate potential long-term operational impacts on sensitive receptors from helicopter flights, mitigation measure 10-6 was included to require that helicopter flight paths follow busy roadways so that roadway noise would mask the noise from helicopters. In addition, low altitude fly-overs will be avoided, and the hospital will take action to ensure that patients who require special conditions for sleep are located away from the side of the building closest to helicopter operations.

Section 2. The City Council has reviewed and considered the Planning Commission's record of decision on the special permit and the proposed plan of construction for the Kaiser South Hospital Expansion helistop.

Section 3. Pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 21661.5, and consistent with the Planning Commission's approval with conditions, the City Council approves the plan of construction for the Kaiser South Hospital Expansion helistop.



# RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

## DELEGATING TO THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE PLAN OF CONSTRUCTION FOR NEW HELIPORTS PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE SECTION 21661.5

### BACKGROUND

- A. California Public Utilities Code section 21661.5 requires City Council approval of plans for construction of new helicopter landing and takeoff areas (heliports) as evidence of local approval. California Public Utilities Code 21661.5(b) authorizes the City Council to delegate its responsibility for the approval of plans for construction of new heliports to a planning agency. The Planning Commission is the planning agency for the City of Sacramento.
- B. Sacramento City Code Title 17 (the Zoning Code) requires approval of a special permit by the Planning Commission for the construction and operation of certain heliports, after appropriate environmental review and public hearings.
- C. The City Council desires to delegate to the Planning Commission the responsibility to approve plans for construction of new heliports that are subject to the requirement to obtain a special permit.

### BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. Pursuant to California Public Utilities Code section 21661.5(b), the City Council hereby delegates to the Planning Commission the responsibility to approve plans for construction of new heliports that are subject to the requirement to obtain a special permit under Sacramento City Code section 17.24.030 and section 17.24.050 Footnote 57. Approval of the special permit by the Planning Commission shall be deemed to be approval of the plan of construction for the heliport.
- Section 2. Pursuant to California Public Utilities Code section 21661.5, the City Council retains the responsibility and authority to approve plans of construction of heliports not subject to the requirement to obtain a special permit under Sacramento City Code section 17.24.030 and section 17.24.050 Footnote 57.



## Description/Analysis

**Issue:** The California Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics (Division of Aeronautics) has requested that the City Council, by formal resolution, (1) approve the plan for construction for a new helicopter landing and takeoff area (heliport/helistop) for the Kaiser South Sacramento Hospital, and (2) formalize its delegation of authority to approve plans for construction for helipads and heliports to the Planning Commission.

California Public Utilities Code (PUC) 21661.5(b) authorizes the City Council to delegate its responsibility for the approval of plans for construction for new heliports to a planning agency. The Zoning Code identifies the Planning Commission as the planning agency for the City of Sacramento, grants to the Planning Commission final approval authority for special permits for certain heliports and helistops, and states that the special permit approval shall be deemed approval of the plan for construction under the Public Utilities Code. (Sacramento City Code §17.24.050(57)(b).) On July 13, 2006, the Planning Commission approved a special permit for the construction of the helistop at Kaiser South Sacramento Hospital (P04-185). The Division of Aeronautics, however, is now requiring a City Council resolution specifically delegating the city responsibility to approve heliports under PUC 21661.5 in order to demonstrate compliance and allowing the issuance of an operating permit for the Kaiser helistop. To satisfy this request, this staff report includes two resolutions: 1) a Resolution approving the plan for construction for the helistop for the Kaiser South Sacramento Hospital; and 2) a Resolution delegating the Council's authority to approve plans for construction for certain heliports/helistops to the Planning Commission. The first resolution will satisfy the Division of Aeronautics requirements to issue an operating permit for the Kaiser helistop, and the latter resolution will satisfy the Division of Aeronautics requirements for any future helipad/helistop that receives Planning Commission approval.

**Policy Considerations:** None.

**Environmental Considerations:** In accordance with CEQA Guidelines, Section 15081, Environmental Planning Services (EPS) determined that an EIR should be prepared for the Kaiser South Sacramento Hospital Expansion which includes construction of a helistop. On July 13, 2006, the Planning Commission certified an Environmental Impact Report and approved a Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the Kaiser South Sacramento Hospital Expansion (P04-185). The action included approval of a special permit for the construction and operation of a helistop.

**Commission/Committee Action:** On July 13, 2006, the Planning Commission certified an Environmental Impact Report and approved a Mitigation Monitoring Plan, a Special Permit, and additional entitlements for the Kaiser South Sacramento Hospital Expansion project (P04-185).

**Rationale for Recommendation:** Under the Sacramento City Code Title 17 (the Zoning Code), the Planning Commission approved the Kaiser South Sacramento Hospital project

including construction of a helistop. The Zoning Code indicates that all helicopter landing and takeoff areas be subject to the approval of a Planning Commission Special Permit and shall be deemed to be approval of the plan of construction for the heliport or helistop under California Public Utilities Code Section 21661.5. In order to satisfy the Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics (Division of Aeronautics) interpretation of PUC 21661.5, for both the Kaiser South Sacramento Hospital and any future helipad/helistop, the attached resolutions are required.

**Financial Considerations:** None.

**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):** None.