



**Tuesday, May 25, 2004**

## **Upgrade of Mather instrument landing system may affect noise**

**Staff report**

**Tuesday, May 25, 2004**

Cargo aircraft arriving at Mather Airport between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. this summer may deviate from the nighttime noise abatement procedures, while a major upgrade of Mather Airport's Instrument Landing System (ILS) is performed by the Sacramento County Airport System.

Daytime and evening (7 a.m. until 10 p.m.) arrivals may also be affected, but to a lesser extent as they are not required to use the ILS for noise abatement purposes.

The ILS provides precision electronic guidance to aircraft approaching the airport from the east, allowing them to remain aligned with the Runway 22L centerline and to remain on a three-degree approach into the airport.

Use of the ILS at night enables aircraft to remain as high as practical over noise sensitive areas east of the airport.

During the upgrade, the ILS will be unusable and pilots will rely on on-board instruments, visual navigation and air traffic controller guidance to approach the airport.

As a result, residents to the east of the airport may notice a temporary change in aircraft flight tracks and altitudes over their homes.

The airport system will work with the pilots and air traffic controllers on minimizing aircraft noise impacts during this period.

Once the upgrade is complete, the ILS will again be used for air cargo aircraft approaches during the nighttime hours.

The current system dates back to the 1950s and was installed by the military. New equipment, including new guidance systems for giving pilots information on horizontal guidance and descending altitude information, will provide pilots with an improved ability to land during periods of low visibility.

The upgrade will provide precision instrument approach capabilities during weather conditions with visibility as low as a half-mile and cloud ceilings down to 200 feet.

Construction is planned for the summer months to take advantage of clear flying conditions. Once completed, Mather's instrument landing system will work with a wider range of aviation systems and provide the basis for further improvements.