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Folsom sues county over Mather cargo-plane pact

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Published 2:57 pm PST Wednesday, November 21, 2007

Folsom officials announced the filing of a lawsuit Wednesday to reverse Sacramento County's Oct. 23 agreement expanding DHL Express cargo operations at Mather Airport.

The lawsuit requests a temporary restraining order. That order would halt the county's implementation of its new lease amendment with Midwest Development Co. and its sub-tenant, DHL Express, said Kerry Miller, Folsom city manager in a telephone interview Wednesday afternoon.

The Board of Supervisors approved that agreement even though county environmental officials are just now attempting to gauge the impacts of a proposed Mather Airport Master Plan.

That plan envisions possibly dramatic increases in Mather Airport cargo operations - much to dismay of officials and residents in Folsom, El Dorado Hills and other areas affected by jet cargo plane "overflights."

Miller said that for many residents, those overflights are already too low, too loud and too frequent, especially during the hours between midnight and 6 a.m.

The recently approved lease amendment would expand the DHL Mather facility by more than 35,000 square-feet of paved area. It would include expanded employee parking, more parking for big rig trucks and new storage areas for ground support equipment, according to the city's evaluation.

City officials are perturbed because all those DHL improvements are discussed in the draft master plan now supposedly being evaluated.

"It's almost uncanny," Miller said. "It feels like a piecemeal approach to implementation of the master plan."

Miller also called the county's approval of the lease amendment "non-compliant with the required environmental review process."

The Folsom news release notes that the lawsuit has been filed against the Sacramento County Airport System, Sacramento County and the Board of Supervisors.

Karen Doron, a spokeswoman for the airport system, said her officials were too busy dealing with the holiday travel crunch to comment on the city's announcement about the lawsuit.

She also noted that an attorney in the county counsel's office would respond but that official did not answer two calls for comment by late Wednesday afternoon.

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