



**COLUMBIA HELICOPTERS, INC.**

March 23, 2011

Mr. Christopher Cummings  
Planning & Projects Manager  
Oregon Department of Aviation

By email: Christopher.cummings@state.or.us

Dear Mr. Cummings:

Columbia Helicopters, Inc. (CHI) has occupied approximately 28 acres adjacent to the NE corner of the Aurora State Airport since 1976 and is a proud member of the local community. We moved to Aurora 35 years ago as it provided the land needed for a larger facility to support US and global operations, along with room for future expansion as market opportunities and business conditions dictate.

CHI currently directly employs 625 (some 900 including affiliated organizations) personnel supporting worldwide operation of 20 heavy lift helicopters and a rapidly expanding maintenance services program at the Aurora facility supporting U.S. commercial and military customers, as well as customers in 12 countries. To quantify our present local economic impact: in 2010 we reported to the State of Oregon nearly \$21,000,000 in payroll wages, over \$1,100,000 in withholding taxes and \$600,000 in unemployment taxes. This impact is from over 350 employees who live and spend money in the North Willamette Valley economy. Additionally, our rotational employees and guests utilized approximately 4,000 local motel room nights (and associated consumer services) in support of our Aurora Headquarters operations.

CHI supports modernization and possible extension of the Aurora State Airport Runway to provide for a safer operating environment and future aviation needs; however, it cannot support any proposal that would restrict business development of our property. Significant extension of the runway to the North and/or reduction of approach minimums at the North end would effectively prohibit development of 15+ acres of our buildable property adjacent to the airport. CHI purchased the Type Certificates for the BV107 and BV234 helicopters in 2006 and received the Production Certificate for the BV-107 and BV-234 aircraft in 2009. The type certificates and production certificate represent a major accomplishment, an opportunity for further growth and a major responsibility. As a result, we have already grown our Aurora workforce in excess of 60 employees from December 31, 2009 to current date and expect additional demand for growth as our services and markets continue to expand. As previously provided to the state, and attached herein, CHI has concept plans for expansion and modernization of our facilities on this land, a project expected to occur within the time frame of this Master Plan. Our planned expansion would add over 100,000 square feet of office, production and hangar facilities and should provide well over 100 additional high-paying aviation jobs in the local area.

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 3500 Portland, Oregon 97208-3500 LOCATION: Aurora Airport Aurora, Oregon

TELEPHONE: (503) 678-1222 FAX: (503) 678-5841 WEBSITE: [www.colheli.com](http://www.colheli.com)

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Having reviewed Master Plan alternatives and hybrid options therein, CHI supports a runway extension of no more than 200 feet to the North with any remaining extension to the South. We could alternately accept an FAA exemption to TERPS restrictions affecting our property to facilitate extension of the runway farther North. These options will preserve CHI's development capability and presumably the Keil road connection to Hwy 551. Any plan likely to preclude development of our property will be strongly opposed.

CHI competes globally and our ability to be competitive with U.S. and off shore companies will be compromised if our property is restricted from future growth, endangering our business and its contributions to the North Willamette Valley economy that our state and local governments have enjoyed over the last 35 years.

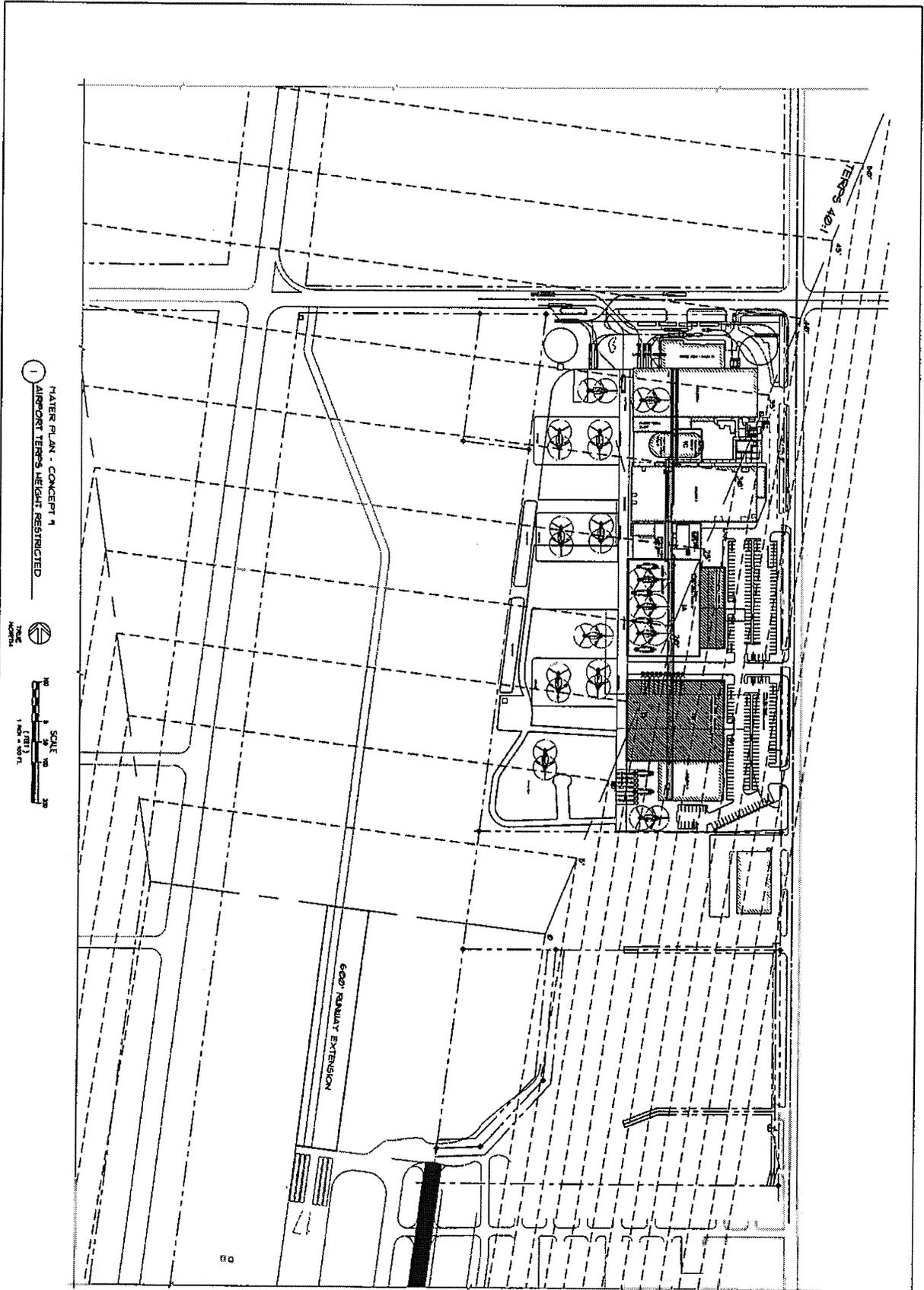
Sincerely,

COLUMBIA HELICOPTERS, INC.



Michael A. Fahey  
President

Enclosures: Aurora State Airport Master Plan Update  
Concept Drawing



1 WATER PLAN - CONCEPT 1  
 AIRPORT TERMS HEIGHT RESTRICTED



SHEET NO. **A0.4.2**  
 SHEET TITLE: **AIRPORT TERMS HEIGHT WATER PLAN - CONCEPT 1**

**SHUR ARCHITECTS LLC**  
 ARCHITECTURE • INDUSTRIAL PLANNING

100 NW STARK STREET  
 SUITE 400  
 PORTLAND, OR 97204  
 TELEPHONE: 503.227.3618

**TEST CELL STRUCTURE**  
 COLUMBIA HELICOPTERS, INC.  
 AURORA STATE AIRPORT  
 AURORA, OREGON 97101

DRAWN BY: WEP	NO.	ISSUE	DATE
CHECKED BY: WEP	1	CONCEPT	01-03-11
PROJECT NO. 1004			
DATE: 01-10-11			