

**From:** Kantar, Derek A@DOT [<mailto:derek.kantar@dot.ca.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016 3:17 PM  
**To:** Swanson, Andrew  
**Subject:** Invite: SFO Class B Airspace Workshop  
**Importance:** High

Hello,

You are invited to be part of an Ad Hoc Class B Airspace Advisory Committee workshop for San Francisco International Airport. The workshop will be held at SFO on March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Please note this is a two day workshop with the main focus being a technical discussion of FAA's proposed design of SFO's airspace. It is the intent to be very efficient and prepare a recommendation to the FAA by the end of the day Tuesday. In that case, no further meetings would be necessary. If you are not the appropriate person from your organization to participate, please forward this invitation to the right person. The group needs to be kept to a tight and workable number to facilitate a focused discussion producing recommendations by the end of the day Tuesday. We are requesting that individual agencies/organizations assign a single representative rather than attending in mass. Lunch will be on your own. You will have access to the food court but the food will need to be ordered To Go; this needs to be a working lunch.

Once you have confirmed the right person from your organization, please RSVP to me by March 17. I will send out additional information on the exact meeting room, directions, and the draft airspace plan.

I have provided some initial background information regarding the process below.

Feel free to contact me at 916-651-0597 / [derek.kantar@dot.ca.gov](mailto:derek.kantar@dot.ca.gov) if you have immediate questions.

The design team looks forward to your participation at this important workshop.

Respectfully,

Derek Kantar

Derek Kantar  
Aviation Planner  
Caltrans, Division of Aeronautics

## **Background Information:**

### **SFO Class B Airspace**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is conducting a study to determine the feasibility of proposed changes to the SFO Class B airspace, to address changes in air traffic. The purpose of Class B airspace is to reduce midair collision potential in the congested airspace surrounding airports with high density air traffic. It provides an area in which all aircraft are subject to certain stringent operating rules and equipment requirements.

It is in the federal, state, and local interests that the aviation system operates safely and efficiently. In order to run safe and efficient operations, Class B airspace must be modified to ensure containment of aircraft operating to and from SFO.

The FAA Headquarters Airspace and Rules Manager is responsible for oversight of the Class B airspace designation/modification process. The Western Service Center Operations Support Group (WSC OSG) is responsible for coordination to determine Class B airspace candidacy, or the need for modifications to an existing area. As part of this process, Northern California TRACON (NCT) prepared a staff study to analyze modifications to SFO's Class B Airspace and was authorized by the Airspace and Rules Group to proceed with establishment of an ad hoc advisory committee.

The ad hoc committee step involves coordination with airspace users before formulating any planned Class B airspace area design. Ad hoc airspace advisory committees function as independent entities, to provide input to the FAA on the proposed Class B airspace modification. Such committees typically meet anywhere from two to four times to review the issues and provide a recommendation to the FAA. The committee provides feedback consisting of possible impacts of the proposed airspace modification, as well as alternate designs for the modification. The ad hoc committee will submit a written proposal to the FAA with the committee's recommendations to address the airspace issues presented by the FAA.

### **Objectives**

Caltrans, Division of Aeronautics, has been asked by the FAA to initiate the assembly of an ad hoc advisory committee, comprised of local airspace user representatives, to present input and recommendations to the FAA regarding the proposed design of the Class B airspace area. FAA and SFO personnel will attend only as technical advisors to the committee. The WSC OSG will provide advice on the Class B airspace modification process upon request.

### **How will the SFO Ad Hoc Committee meet these objectives?**

- Select ad hoc committee representatives
- Select a facilitator from among the committee representatives
- Select meeting location and dates
- Prepare agendas and meeting materials in coordination with NCT staff and WSC OSG
- Conduct a two-day ad hoc advisory committee workshop to review and provide comments to NCT and WSC OST.

- Submit rosters of meeting attendees to the WSC OSG (location, date, name, organization, phone, email)
- Submit ad hoc committee recommendation document to the FAA

## Draft Agenda Items

- Introductions and Roles
- Ad Hoc Committee Purpose and Tasking
- Class B Airspace Criteria (JO7400.2)
- Class B Airspace Configuration Guidelines (JO7400.2)
- Class B Airspace modification Process
  - Staff Study
  - Ad Hoc Committee meeting
  - Public Outreach Process
  - Rulemaking
  - Charting of VFR Sectional
- Background (Short description of the Class B airspace and how it came to be established)
- Issue/Problem (limitations with the Current Class B design)
- Assumptions
- Recommendations

## Next steps

After the ad hoc advisory committee meets and submits its proposal to the FAA, the committee disbands, and the following actions will take place:

- Conduct informal airspace meeting(s) in accordance with JO 7400.2G.
- Based on the results of the airspace analysis and the staff study, the WSC OSG will determine whether the effort should be continued to Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) or terminated. The WSC OSG will forward the proposal, all pertinent documentation (including advisory committee and informal airspace meeting input), and the WSC OSG's recommendations to the Airspace and Rules office for further action. If it is determined to proceed with the rulemaking process, Airspace and Rules will prepare the NPRM.
- Post NPRM, the WSC OSG will:
  - Review all comments received in response to the NPRM and informal airspace meeting(s).
  - Coordinate with the concerned facility to address all substantive aeronautical comments.
  - Forward a discussion of how each substantive comment was addressed, along with the WSC OSG's recommendation for final action on the proposal to Airspace and Rules.