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L.B. could OK plans for airport expansion

Local: Council will consider giving go-ahead to final design for contentious terminal project.

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LONG BEACH - The City Council on Tuesday will consider authorizing the city to prepare a final design, along with a financing plan and space allocation details, for the airport terminal improvement project.

The final plan should be completed in about 20 months and would return to the council for approval. If it is approved, a three-month bidding period will follow for a construction company that would complete the project around April 2011.

The vote comes a week after the council held a special session to hear a presentation from architectural firm HOK, which reduced the airport's space to 89,995 square feet from 97,545 square feet amid protests from people who questioned the validity of the environmental impact report, or EIR. The terminal now is 56,320 square feet.

The cuts came from scaling back the security screening area, operations office, conference and office rooms, and ticketing areas.

The Long Beach Unified School District and the Long Beach PTA have filed lawsuits challenging the EIR. The school district has argued that the city should provide noise soundproofing for a number of campuses if proposed terminal improvements are built.

In response to the opposition, the council on Tuesday will also consider adding several conditions to the airport terminal project, including a policy to reduce aircraft-related pollution, adding six new noise monitors, creating an airport noise compatibility ordinance legal defense fund, and implementing an air quality monitoring program.

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What: Long Beach City Council meeting

When: 5 p.m. Tuesday

Where: Council Chambers, City Hall, 333 W. Ocean Blvd.

TV: Broadcast live on Charter Cable channel 8 and replayed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday

Internet: Live broadcast and previous council meetings available at www.longbeach.gov/

cityclerk/council_online.asp

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