

You Can't Fight Progress... Or Can You?

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Almost inevitably, land development around airfields eventually leads to proposed developments that may potentially act as bird attractants (e.g. landfills, quarries, lakes and ponds), which will predictably increase the bird strike hazards already faced at these locations. Oftentimes, airfields would prefer to block these types of developments entirely. Unfortunately it is generally not practical to achieve this goal. The first reaction of the airfield is typically to attempt to outright prevent the construction of these proposed developments. This may, however, not be the best reaction. An adversarial and obstructive stance can often lead to extensive legal battles, poor public relations, and protracted disputes over the development that can negatively impact all parties. This presentation will look at using a cooperative, rather than an oppositional, method of dealing with new wildlife attractions on lands surrounding airfields. Specifically we will discuss the utilization of letters/contracts of agreement between the owning entity of the airfield and the owners of the proposed development. Several case studies will be examined to illustrate how these arrangements should be drafted, as well as why supporting these developments, while counterintuitive, may ultimately produce a better and safer end result than taking a hostile stance.