

# METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION

Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport

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March 21, 2000

Mr. Ronald Hamack  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
One Water Street, suite 200  
St. Paul, MN 55107

Re: Petition for Boundary Change  
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

Dear Mr. Hamack:

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) is aware that the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) will be considering at its March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, a petition for boundary change from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). The petition as we understand it, seeks to expand the MCWD boundary by 710 acres into land that is owned by the federal government contiguous to the north side of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP).

The petition boundary appears to have been carefully drawn to avoid MAC property however the federal property is occupied by the Air Force Reserve, the Army Reserve, the Naval Reserve, and the Department of Veterans Administration with whom we interact with routinely as airport tenants. As such, we have had recent discussions with representatives of these agencies as they attempt to evaluate this petition. As you know, the federal properties possess a unique challenge in that they likely are not compelled to comply with state law and watershed district jurisdiction.

Coincident with this petition and at the urging of BWSR staff, we have engaged the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) Board of Managers in recent conversation concerning incorporation of MSP into the management area of the LMRWD as almost all drainage from MSP flows to the Minnesota River. It is our desire to work with BWSR, MCWD, the LMRWD and our contiguous federal agencies to establish a comprehensive jurisdiction taking into account hydrologic boundaries and the unique challenges of the adjoining federal properties.

We look forward to discussing this matter with you in detail in the coming weeks. Recognizing the inter-relationship of the current MCWD petition to the MSP/LMRWD affiliation discussion we request that the current petition be expanded to more comprehensively deal with the MSP property and our contiguous tenants.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Should you have any questions, please call me at 612/726-8131.

Sincerely,

Gary G. Warren, P.E.  
Director-Airside Development

cc: Mr. Larry Samstad, LMRWD  
Mr. Terry Schwalbe, LMRWD  
Mr. Dave Swanberg, AFR/MANG

Mr. Mark Buck, Army Reserve  
Mr. Eric Evenson, MCWD  
Mr. John Bocek, VA