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EDITORIALS

Premature potshots

TO HEAR some critics — and proponents — of the various proposals to build a new home for the San Francisco Giants, one would think the blueprints have been around for months.

In truth, no blueprints exist. Not even any formal, detailed proposals — from East Palo Alto, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Jose or Half Moon Bay — exist. All that exists at this point is the commitment of several leaders in several cities to consider developing a stadium that would attract the Giants to their locale.

That's why much of the protest and promotion is premature. A case in point: The objections of Palo Alto airport officials to a stadium in East Palo Alto.

They point out that the airport's flight path is directly over the proposed stadium site, a 140-acre parcel northeast of Bay Road. While the small, private aircraft that use the airport do depart to the north, the stadium's exact location has not been determined. And it's hard to believe the planes would have no choice but to fly over the diamond.

But the implication is that thousands of lives would be in jeopardy if a stadium were built there. It hasn't been a particularly dangerous site yet — no crashes have been reported in the junk

yards that now occupy the land. And unlike Reid-Hillview airport in San Jose, which has become surrounded by homes and a major shopping center, the Palo Alto airport would still be flanked as it is now by baylands, which have provided emergency landing space in the past.

Also, the Federal Aviation Administration has been known to alter flight paths of existing airports to accommodate major new developments, and there's no reason to believe it couldn't happen in this case.

Other objections to East Palo Alto's interest concern local traffic and the nature of the economic development the stadium would bring. Likewise, the Santa Clara plan is criticized for its proposed sharing of parking spaces with the Great America theme park. The concerns may in fact prove prohibitive. But it's too early to tell. Public officials must now devote their resources to the careful development of specific proposals, the careful assessment of any negative impacts and the exploration of the costs of mitigating the impacts. Only then will they, their constituents and baseball fans throughout the region be able to weigh knowledgeably the pros and cons of each city's proposal.

PATENT PEN



Round



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I WOULD HOPE the mentalists' would ser withdrawing totally from deadly lawsuit that is truction of a safer and way 1 at Devil's Slide. other person was killed pled with the strong