

# Imperial Valley Press

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## Filner says regional airport with high-speed rail could work here

As your readers know, a San Diego working group assigned to cut down a list of sites for a new regional airport identified "fatal flaws" that seemed to eliminate every current San Diego County proposal!

I believe San Diego's answer lies in looking to the east and focusing on a site right here in Imperial Valley — a site that could be serviced by a high-speed rail line. I believe that the people of the Valley would welcome the airport and the incredible economic boom it would bring. And with a high-speed rail link, the airport would be accessible from San Diego in less than 30 minutes!

Most people in both San Diego and the Valley are skeptical of this vision. They acknowledge that building an airport in Imperial Valley is a viable option. But they think that the high-speed rail line is a pie-in-the-sky dream. But wait! Let's get the facts first! A high-speed rail station could be built in San Diego close to major highways and existing mass transit links. A high-speed train could whisk travelers to the Valley at speeds reaching 300 mph! This vision is feasible — and we should do all the necessary studies to prove it.

The pending water transfer is just the most recent proof that San Diego and

the Valley constitute one region. And our region needs a world-class airport to guarantee our future prosperity. We must not shy away from proposals that seem visionary.

I hope the San Diego airport working group will have the courage to do what previous airport site selection groups have failed to do: think in terms of solutions for the next 50 years and forget the failed proposals of yesteryear.

**BOB FILNER**  
Congressman  
5th District