

Contra Costa County Aviation Advisory Committee **2015 Annual Report to Board of Supervisors**

Advisory Board Meeting Time/Location: 10:00 AM on the 2nd Thursday of every month at either Buchanan Field or Byron Airport.

Advisory Body Chair: Ronald Reagan

Airport Staff: Keith Freitas/Beth Lee

Activities

- Monthly review of noise statistics, operations report and airport development projects.
- Discussions of airport projects and programs to disseminate information and solicit input from members and public.
- Discussions of issues facing the airports and airport community.
- Input to the Airport Director, Airport Committee and Board of Supervisors on issues affecting the County's airports and surrounding communities.
- Participation in community outreach efforts.
- Quarterly review of the airports year to date and end of year forecast financial reports.
- Annual review of input on the Part 150 Noise Mitigation recommendations.

Accomplishments

Discussed and advised on the following:

- Contra Costa County Airports website upgrade and associated videos to better promote airport activities and enhance usability
- Buchanan Field and Byron Airport security in to response to incidents at Buchanan Field
- Aerobatic Box Training Advisory Letter to Buchanan Field, and Byron Airport pilots, as well as to other surrounding area airports to increase awareness of public complaints regarding noise and safety concerns associated with aerobatic flights occurring in the Brentwood area
- Buchanan Field East Ramp Pavement and Rehabilitation Project including activities related to temporary displacement of tenant aircraft during resurfacing work
- Byron Airport General Plan Amendment including discussion to modify land use zoning, extend airport access to Vasco road and upgrade utilities to attract a broader tenant revenue base, and increase benefit to east county communities
- Byron Airport Pavement, Signage and Lighting Project including discussion regarding minimizing impact to tenants and airport operations during rejuvenation work
- 7th Annual Tenant Appreciation BBQ held at Buchanan Field in May
- Buchanan Field Museum proposal including discussion of requested lease rate concession, the merits of an aviation museum, and the lack of a formal business plan to evaluate the tangible cost and benefits to the public, airport and county

Accomplishments (continued)

Discussed and advised on the following:

- Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) including providing input regarding efforts to increase airport usage, public benefit and revenue through projects focused on:

Both Airports

1. Marketing/Public Relations
2. Bring More People to Airports
3. Tenant Financial Incentives / Inducements

Buchanan Field

1. Improving Airport Signage
2. Developing Heart of the Airport
3. Dedicated Aircraft Display Area
4. Expand Recreational Opportunities (both public & pilots)
5. Improved Security
6. Improve John Glenn Dr. Appearance

Byron Airport

1. Extend Runway
2. Utility Connections / Services
3. Jet A Fueling Facility
4. Expand/Rehabilitate Facility
5. Improve Security

- 2015 CPI Hangar Rate Increase including recommendation to freeze current rates to make them competitive with other local airports, as well as retain existing tenants and attract new tenants
- Aircraft Tie Down Spaces Storage Box Usage Authorization including encouraging development of airport guidelines in response to tenant requests
- Aircraft Static Display Project including AAC workgroup strategy to develop a volunteer staff to manage activities related to aircraft display safety, scheduling, advertising, and aircraft showing verification.

Completed or performed the following:

- Through the Tenant Recognition Program recognition awards given to:
 - Civil Air Patrol Squadron 44 for their role in locating a downed aircraft based out of Buchanan Field, and
 - Scott Achelis, Richard Johnson, and Roland Williams for fulfilling the aviation wishes of an ailing child
- September 2015 Board of Supervisors Aviation Committee meeting briefed members on AAC activities year to date

Attendance/Representation

- AAC is composed of members representing each of the supervisorial districts, the cities of Concord and Pleasant Hill, Diablo Valley Community College, the Airport Business Association and 2 at-large positions for a total of 11.
- Quorums are achieved at all meetings with good participation from members.
- The AAC is a diverse group of aviation professionals, retired executives, consultants and educators. There is a balanced mix of pilots and non-pilots.
- Several committee members are also involved in other county and city advisory bodies, committees and commissions.

Attendance/Representation (continued)

- Current AAC member roster is as follows:

<u>AAC Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>2015 Appointment Status</u>
Rudi Raab	District 1	
Mike Bruno	Airport Business Assoc.	
DeWitt Hodge	Member at Large	
Ronald Reagan	District 3	Reappointed
Derek Mims	City of Pleasant Hill	Reappointed
Russell Roe	District 5	
Keith McMahan	City of Concord	
Roger Bass	District 2	Reappointed
Maurice Gunderson	Member at Large	Newly appointed
Tom Weber	District 4	
Tina Dodson	DVC	Newly appointed

- Current AAC Officers:

<u>AAC Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Election Status</u>
Ronald Reagan	Chair	Newly elected
Mike Bruno	Vice Chair	Former Chair
DeWitt Hodge	Secretary	Newly elected

Training/Certification

- Committee members requested to review and comply with Brown Act.

Proposed Objectives for 2016

- Continue to review and advise on the Byron Airport General Plan Amendment including encouraging expedited completion of the commissioned study and other efforts to improve infrastructure and road access.
- Continue to review and advise on the Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) including promoting progress on EDIP associated projects.
- Monitor and advise on additional Buchanan Field runway and taxiway maintenance projects planned.
- Continue to oversee AAC workgroup efforts to pilot the aircraft static display concept, and develop a volunteer staff to manage aircraft static display activities.
- Continue to monitor, review and advise on activities and incidents impacting airport security.
- Continue to pursue community and tenant outreach efforts at both airports.
- Continue to review and advise on airport budget, noise statistics and overall operations.
- Continue to work with community members relative to noise concerns or problems.
- Continue regular discussions with Airport Staff on airport development, projects and issues, as well as disseminate information, and offer recommendations and comment.
- Continue to provide the public an open forum for discussing airport matters.

Acknowledgements

Airport Staff:

The airport staff is applauded for the diligence and professionalism exercised in the operations of Buchanan Field and the Byron Airport, as well as their partnership with and support of the AAC. Their attention to detail and responsive customer service is emblematic of their commitment to the communities, tenants and pilots served by these airports. They strive to not only care for these valued resources, but are invested in enhancing their benefit to the public, local commerce and general aviation.

The Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP):

The Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) is a game changing approach to revitalizing and enhancing the services and public benefit offered by Buchanan Field and the Byron Airport. With the guidance provided by airport management, the EDIP Committee and the AAC, EDIP focuses on addressing the challenges that impede the full potential of these facilities as a vibrant economic hub in the community. The program has already put into motion projects to enhance access to airport information and increase public interaction and visits. Other projects to follow with further infrastructure upgrades, increase public awareness and use, and facilitate greater tenant economic opportunities.

This work is exciting, necessary and multifaceted. Those who have come together to make this happen are to be congratulated.