

**Informational Updates from the Aviation Advisory Committee (AAC) for the
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors – Airport Committee
March 9, 2022**

1. Meeting Consistency Despite Virtual Format

As mentioned in the June 8, 2021, and September 8, 2021, reports, AAC members remain highly engaged despite virtual meetings. Attendance continues to meet and often exceed quorum requirements. Public participation has also increased extensively. The increase in attendance is likely topic-driven (see item 5a), but public members continue to find the virtual format conducive to participation. The February 2022 AAC meeting saw over 15 public members participate.

2. Vacancies on AAC

There are two current vacancies on the AAC. The District 1 and District 4 seats are currently vacant.

Another upcoming vacancy is the Member At Large seat, currently held by Emily Barnett. The term for the Member At Large expires on February 28, 2022. The interview process for the vacancy is scheduled for March 9, 2022.

3. Airport Operations Continue to Increase

The airport continues to show positive signs of rebounding, with a 48% increase in operations in 2021 compared to 2020. These operations include local takeoffs/landings, itinerate operations (airport-to-airport flights), and fuel purchases. With the increase in airport operations, it is unsurprising that public inquiries and concerns have also increased. With an increase in operations of 48%, complaints have also increased by 22% over the previous year.

2020 Full Year	Total Operations – 73,438	Total Complaints – 116
2021 Full Year	Total Operations – 108,935	Total Complaints – 141

As mentioned in prior reports, considering public behavior has changed with the pandemic, with more people working in their homes around the airports, the increase complaints paralleling the increase in operations is not unexpected. It will be interesting to monitor complaints to determine if a reduction occurs as workers move back to offices. The AAC will continue to monitor public concerns and look for trends that need to be addressed to further positive public relations.

4. AAC Honors 15-year Committee Member Tom Weber

Recently, Tom Weber retired from the District 4 seat. Mr. Weber has been a tireless advocate for the airports and surrounding communities. He has served with commitment and distinction for over 15 years. The AAC honored him with a signed letter of thank you for his esteemed service and adjourned the February 10, 2022 meeting in his honor.

5. Upcoming Areas of Focus for the AAC

a) Fuel Services

The February 2022 AAC meeting hosted a vocal group of public participants to discuss the agenda item of Buchanan Airport fuel prices. The discussion was positive and complex. All parties had a deep desire to address rising fuel prices at the airport. The AAC has developed a sub-committee with AAC committee members, Airports staff, fuel providers, and interested public members to address several fuel issues, including fuel prices, a new self-serve fuel option, preparing for new unleaded fuel options. The first sub-committee meeting will be held on February 28, 2022.

b) Progress of the New Terminal Building

The Terminal Building is progressing. Water and sewer utility lines were permanently moved to accommodate the new footprint of the terminal building. Approximately 60% of the building's footings are completed. After completing new ground conduits for communications lines and other necessary utilities, the next phase will begin with the steel installation. The projected construction completion is Fall of this year. Airport staff will be working to ensure safety issues are addressed immediately. AAC members will continue to be sensitive to identifying/addressing concerns during the construction process.

c) Airport Development Projects

The AAC has been pleased with the substantial amount of development projects in process. Drone testing at both airports continues to be the main draw for companies who want two well-positioned airports for testing in both the Class D airspace of Buchanan and Class G airspace of Byron. Urban Air Mobility executed the second phase lease in their three-phase new aviation development at the Byron Airport to meet the hangar demand for UAS companies. The possibilities for significant, long-term benefits from these partnerships continue for the community. The Board of Supervisors approved a long-term ground lease for an approximate 4.5-acre parcel at Buchanan Field. The new lease was effective on February 1, 2022, and the developer anticipates breaking ground on the new self storage facility in April upon approval of their building permits from the City of Concord. Three Exclusive Negotiating Rights Agreements (ENRA) have been executed for three new aviation developments at Buchanan Field. The ENRAs will better enable the development team to market their projects to prospective tenants.

d) Byron General Plan Update

The Byron General Plan continues to move forward. A total of four public comments were received and addressed. The plan is expected to be on the agenda for approval at the March 9, 2022, Planning Commission. The Board of Supervisors may hear the item at the end of March or early April Board meeting.