

# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

## Aviation Advisory Committee

---

### 2020 Annual Report

**Advisory Board Meeting Time/Location:** 10:00am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every one (1) month at either Buchanan Field or Byron Airport. Under the County's shelter-in-place order, these meetings have moved to a virtual format via Zoom.

**Advisory Body Chair:** Maurice Gunderson

**Airport Staff:** Keith Freitas/Beth Lee/Russell Milburn

### **Activities**

- Monthly review of noise statistics, operations report, airport development projects, airfield updates
- 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 Airports Director, Airport Committee, and Board of Supervisors on issues affecting the Contra Costa County 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:

- Airport administration activities to enhance airport economic development including:
  - Progress on updating the Byron General Plan Amendment to bring conformity between the adopted Airport Master Plan and County General Plan relative to allowable uses at both Airports
  - The Bay Area Aviation Technology Test Site (BAATTS) initiative, starting in 2019 by airport management to attract new aviation technology startups to both airports has had several successes. The airport's proximity to Silicon Valley and San Francisco has created a significant opportunity to serve as preferred engineering, development, and test sites, with the ultimate goal of growing to production and operation bases, with corresponding potential for new jobs on both the Buchanan and Byron

communities. Several new BAATTS tenants are now in discussion. The AAC strongly and enthusiastically supports the BAATTS initiative.

- Commercial Development of Non-Aviation Sites at Buchanan Field. Increasing development is an important continuing item that is significant to the Airport Enterprise Fund. Several undeveloped parcels, which are designated for non-aviation use, are part of the Buchanan Field and Byron Airport properties. These include sites at the corners of Marsh Drive and Solano Way, and Marsh Drive and Sally Ride Drive, as well as other sites not needed for aviation use. Airport staff has requested releases from the FAA to allow for non-aviation development of these sites and has also solicited proposals for commercial or light industrial development of these sites. The AAC continues to express strong support for the projects. Each of these projects will contribute to the Enterprise Fund and will provide jobs and other economic benefits to the area surrounding Buchanan Field and Byron Airport.
- Airport noise impact on communities including:
  - Addressing various Buchanan Field & Byron noise complaints through phone and in-person meetings between residents and airport staff and/or AAC members.
  - Reminding pilots training after appropriate hours of the airports' noise stipulations, even if those pilots are coming from other airports.
- Buchanan Field and Byron Airport projects including:
  - Security enhancements to both Airports which include:
    - New signage and discussions on gate etiquette to prevent piggy-backing of cars into restricted airport areas without proper authorization.
    - Bushes were trimmed on the property to increase vehicle visibility while traversing near hangers.
- Encouraged AAC members and Board of Supervisors, as well as the general public to be more involved with Contra Costa County Airports and aviation communities.
- Updated the Contra Costa County Airports website.

### **Attendance/Representation**

- AAC is composed of members representing each of the supervisorial districts, the cities of Concord and Pleasant Hill, the Airport Business Association, community of Pacheco, surrounding communities of Byron Airport (Brentwood, Byron, Knightsen, Discovery Bay), and three at large positions for a total of 13 members.
- Quorums have been achieved with good participation from members for 2020.
- The AAC is a diverse group of aviation professionals, retired executives, members of the public, 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.

**Current AAC member roster is as follows:**

<b><u>AAC Members</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>2020 Appointment Status</u></b>	<b><u>Term Expiration Date</u></b>
Dale Roberts	District I	Recruiting	2/29/2023
Cody Moore	Airport Business Association		2/28/2022
Eric Meinbress	Member at large	Reappointed	2/29/2023
Ronald Reagan	District III	Reappointed	2/28/2021
Derek Mims	City of Pleasant Hill	Reappointed	2/28/2021
Christopher Baker	District V	Appointed	2/29/2024
Keith McMahon	City of Concord	Reappointed	2/28/2022
Roger Bass	District II	Reappointed	2/28/2021
Maurice Gunderson	Member at large	Reappointed	2/29/2024
Tom Weber	District IV	Recruiting	2/29/2023
Emily Barnett	Member at large	Reappointed	2/28/2022
Donna Dietrich	Pacheco Neighbor	Reappointed	2/29/2024
Steven Starratt	Byron Neighbor	Reappointed	2/29/2024

**Current AAC Officers:**

<b><u>AAC Member</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Election Status</u></b>
Maurice Gunderson	Chair	Elected
Emily Barnett	Vice-Chair	Elected
Tom Weber	Secretary	Elected

**Training/Certification**

- It is mandatory for all Committee members to complete County training regarding the Ralph M. Brown Act and the County’s Better Government Ordinance and complete the County’s Ethics Orientation within 90 days of the appointment. All members have completed training.

**Proposed Objectives for 2021**

- Continue to work with the County in working with the contractor assigned to the Byron Airport General Plan Amendment to adhere to project milestones with deadlines to enforce expedited completion of the commissioned study and other efforts to improve growth, infrastructure and road access at Byron Airport
- Continue to advise and review the EDIP program including promoting progress on EDIP and strategic priority projects

- Continue to advise, monitor, and review the Buchanan Field and Byron Airports' construction and maintenance projects
- Continue to advise, monitor, and review activities and incidents impacting airport security
- Continue to grow and develop community and tenant outreach efforts for both airports
- Continue to advise, monitor, and review the Airports' budget, noise statistics, and overall operations
- Continue to work with the surrounding communities regarding noise concerns and other aviation-related issues
- Continue regular discussions with Airport Staff on various airport developments (current and future), projects and issues, as well as disseminate information and offer recommendations
- Continue to advise Airport Staff on the design of the new Buchanan Airport Terminal
- Continue to provide the general public an open forum for discussions on aviation-related matters

MG:EB:es

G:\AAC\Annual Reports\2020\2020 AAC Annual Report.doc

c: Keith Freitas, Director of Airports  
Beth Lee, Assistant Director of Airports-Administration  
Russell Milburn, Assistant Director of Airports-Operations  
Maurice Gunderson, AAC Chair  
Emily Barnett, AAC Vice-Chair  
Tom Weber, AAC Secretary