

**Informational Updates from the Aviation Advisory Committee (AAC) for the
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors – Airport Committee
September 2, 2022**

1. Meeting Consistency With Virtual Format

As mentioned in the June 8, 2021, and September 8, 2021, reports, AAC members had remained engaged despite virtual meetings. However, recent attendance has proven a bit more challenging with meeting quorum requirements. Summer vacations and current committee vacancies have been the cause. The Committee continues to see an increase in public attendance due to the topics and ease of participation with a virtual format.

2. Vacancies on AAC

There are three current vacancies on the AAC. The District 1, Airport Neighbor – Byron, and Member at Large seats are currently vacant.

3. Airport Operations Continue to Increase

Mid-year data reports show the airports' total operations and public inquiries/complaints in 2022 compared similarly to 2021 mid-year total operations and public inquiries/complaints. These operations include local takeoffs/landings, itinerate operations (airport-to-airport flights), and fuel purchases.

2020 Full Year	Total Operations – 73,438	Total Inquiries/Complaints – 116
2021 Full Year	Total Operations – 108,935	Total Inquiries/Complaints – 141
2022 Mid-Year Data	Total Operations as of June 2022 – 47,285	Total Inquiries/Complaints – 42

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 continue to move back to offices and on hybrid schedules. 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, Airport staff, fuel providers, and interested public members to address several fuel issues, including fuel prices, a new self-serve fuel option, and preparing for new unleaded fuel options. The first sub-committee meeting was 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. Steel framing and wall panels, and internal infrastructure is progressing quickly. 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 in the Fall of this year or shortly thereafter. 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 update was completed. The Committee will now stay abreast of the implementation of the Plan.

e) Public and Committee Economic Development Learning Opportunities

The AAC has made a commitment to bring in Airports' partners that are using facilities to test drone and autonomous transportation technologies. This allows the public to hear details about the County's economic development work.

f) Filling Vacancies

The AAC posted and promoted the opportunity for the public to participate on the Committee to fill the three vacancies.