Contra Costa County
Aviation Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
550 Sally Ride Drive, Concord
Thursday, June 11, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

The Aviation Advisory Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who plan to attend its scheduled meetings. Call the Director of Airports Office at (844) 359-8687 at least 24 hours in advance.

Any disclosable public records related to this meeting are available for public inspection at the Director of Airports Office, 550 Sally Ride Drive, Concord, during normal business hours.

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Comments by Chair
3. Public Comment Period
4. Approval of Minutes (May 2015)
5. Consider Consent Items
   b. Relevant Board Actions
   c. Development Project Matrix (No Current or Ongoing Projects)
6. Presentations/Special Reports
   a. Buchanan Field Museum
7. Discussion/Action Items
   a. Items Pulled from Consent
   b. Buchanan Field/Byron Construction
   c. East Ramp Temporary Tenant Relocations
   d. Tenant Recognition Awards
8. Updates and Announcements
   a. Airport Committee Update
   b. What is Happening at Buchanan Field & Byron Airports/Other Airports
   c. Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) Update
   d. AAC Announcements
   e. Airport Staff Announcements
9. Future Agenda Items
10. Adjourn

Next AAC Meeting (Tentative): July 9, 2015 at 10:00 am
Next Airport Committee Meeting (Tentative): September 14, 2015 at 10:30 am
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Was There a Quorum? Y or N

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ABS = Absent  
Y = Present
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
AVIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 14, 2015

MEETING CALLED: Chair Ronald Reagan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Director of Airports Office.

PRESENT: Mike Bruno, Vice Chair, CCC Airports Business Association
Maurice Gunderson, Member at Large
Keith McMahon, City of Concord
Derek Mims, City of Pleasant Hill
Rudi Raab, District I
Ronald Reagan, Chair, District III
Russell Roe, District V
Tom Weber, District IV

ABSENT: Roger Bass, District II
Tina Dodson, DVC
DeWitt Hodge, Secretary, Member at Large

STAFF: Keith Freitas, Director of Airports
Judy Evans, Clerical

OPENING COMMENTS BY CHAIR: Ronald Reagan thanked those in attendance, asked for introductions and to state if there was a specific reason for attending.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None

APPROVAL OF

PRESENTATION/SPECIAL REPORTS

a. Byron General Plan Amendment Update
Will Nelson from the Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) gave an update on the Byron General Plan Amendment.
  • Copies of the "Request for Proposals" for Byron Airport, which were sent to eight (8) consulting firms, were handed out.
  • DCD requested proposals from consultants to do environmental analysis and to refine the aviation/land use list.
  • Deadline for proposals is May 27, 2015.
  • A few firms have dropped out due to timing, but Will hopes to have at least one proposal.
  • Will expressed concern that a list of uses with no parameters may come back expensive and with mitigation measures that are unrealistic. Furthermore, the County would bear the cost.
  • Rudi Raab stated that nothing can be developed without water and sewage.
  • Will responded that in fact, these limitations will limit what can be done on the list.
  • Derek Mims summarized that putting limits on the list will facilitate the process, but limits what can be done.
  • Clarification was made that just because something is not on the list, doesn’t mean it can’t be done. It would just have to go through planning review.
  • There was discussion about the conundrum of trying to encourage development without water and sewage.
  • Mike Bruno stated that the biggest impediment to this process is zoning. The reason there is hesitation to limit the list is because the process is so lengthy that no one wants to go through it again for another use.
  • Ronald Reagan expressed concern about the mindset of Byron Airport. He believes that Byron can be a productive airport like Buchanan Field, but the County must take a positive and proactive approach. For example, enlisting the help of the cities in the area to join the County in improving access. He would like to see more effort towards the promotion of the Byron Airport and make it more attractive.
  • Keith McMahon reminded everyone that this is the foundation work to develop Byron Airport and not to be discouraged by the pace.
  • Russell Roe agreed that zoning has been an issue for many years and expressed his concern about reducing the list.
  • Will Nelson explained that the downside of having leeway on the list is time and cost. If an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required, the cost is approximately $300k and up. However, removing elements that have traffic and air impact is within our control.
  • Mike Bruno and Rudi Raab suggested putting everything on the list and if an EIR is required, remove the use at that time.
• Tom Weber emphasized the importance of zoning and expressed interest in a secondary review process.
• Will Nelson responded that if some uses prove to be problematic, they can be shifted to a different category.
• Ronald Reagan summarized that the major issues are zoning, water and sewage, and road access. He also asked about adding a cost projection for access from Vasco Road to Byron Airport.
• Keith Freitas and Will Nelson responded that it is included in the Airport Connector project, which already is in progress.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Items Pulled from Consent
   None

b. Buchanan Field/Byron Construction
   Keith Freitas reviewed the construction projects at Byron:
   • Rejuvenation of taxiways and runways, removal of markings and replacement of airfield signs.
   • Two bids from contractors are being evaluated by Public Works.
   • Waiting for approval from FAA to fund the project.
   • Cost approximately $850K.
   • September timeframe to start project.
   Construction projects at Buchanan:
   • East ramp paving project
   • $1.5M projected cost, fully funded by Airport Enterprise fund.
   • Projected start time is July 2015 and estimated to take 8-10 weeks.
   • All affected tenants will be reassigned to a tiedown somewhere on the field. Tenants have also been put in contact with the three Field Base Operators (FBO’s) as well as the tenant out in Byron, in case they want to store their aircraft in a hangar.

c. East Ramp Temporary Tenant Relocations
   Keith Freitas gave a brief overview, as part of this topic was covered under item 7.b.
   • The entire transient ramp (approximately 55 spaces) and all the east ramp will be booked. Tenants will also be relocated to John Glenn Drive and the west side tiedowns.
   • Approximately 110 people will be moved to various tiedown spaces.
   • Maurice Gunderson asked if tenants must empty the hangars.
   • Keith responded that tenants do not have to empty the hangars, but will not have access during the construction period.

d. Economic Development Incentive Program
   Keith reported that Airport staff met with the Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) group:
   • Group requests timing and cost of items on the EDIP list, as requested by EDIP.
   • Need consensus on priorities.
   • Prevailing request is for reduction of rent on tiedowns and hangars.
     o Impact: would cost $150K out of Enterprise fund.
• Reduction in revenue limits the ability to fund other priorities.

• Roger Bass sent an email regarding the value of marketing for many of the items on the EDIP list.

• Ronald Reagan commented that the EDIP list does not include improving road access to Byron.
  o After confirming that there is Byron representation on the EDIP committee, Derek Mims expressed that ostensibly there are priorities other than the road, since the list is indicative of their preferences.
  o Keith Freitas explained that the issue regarding access to Byron is already in motion, but may take many years.

• Mike Bruno summarized what was discussed at the EDIP meeting:
  o Cost analysis
  o Request by EDIP group to separate priorities into three categories: Byron, Buchanan, and both, in order to identify what can be done jointly.
  o Identify priorities that can be done quickly to help lower frustration levels.
  o 2016 Super Bowl will be at Levi Stadium in San Jose.
    ▪ Informed by FAA that there will be 1200 jets coming into the Bay Area over a 4-day period.
    ▪ There is only room for 700 jets at the larger airports in the area.
    ▪ Buchanan Field and Byron Airports are in a good location with proximity to Napa Valley, San Francisco, etc.
    ▪ Should use this opportunity to introduce County Airports to as many people as possible.

**e. Airport Rates and Charges**

• Keith reported that the airport rate structure is being updated and will be coming out formally in the next several months.

• Ronald Reagan expressed that nothing should be done to reduce revenue. Must be willing to pay for improvements.

• Russell Roe commented:
  o The decision whether or not to raise rates should occur months prior to the actual increase.
  o Must be a balance between reducing revenue and wanting to attract more business.

• There was discussion about the recent rate increase in fuel flowage/avgas (aviation gas):
  o Cannot ask the Airport to subsidize the businesses.
  o Request for more communication/discussion prior to rate increases.
  o Need to be competitive with other airports, as pilots may go to airports with cheaper gas.
    ▪ Some airports operate their own fuel like Byron and Livermore, so their prices will be lower.
  o Rate increases are part of the lease agreement.
  o Airport has a financial responsibility to the County.
  o There are already more priorities than there is money to pay for them prior to reducing fees.
  o CPI increases were waived two years prior to this year.
f. **Set Meeting Calendar for June 2015 - May 2016**
   AAC meetings will continue to be held on the second Thursday of each month.

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g. **Tenant Recognition Awards**
   - One nomination from the Tenant Appreciation BBQ.
   - Nominations should be substantial. Nominees should be exemplary.
   - Nominees are voted for by the AAC. Nominations that lack substance will not be supported.

   *Ronald Reagan brought up the DVC representative.*
   - Tom Weber reported that Krystal Hinojosa, the Chief of Staff for Supervisor Michoff, has set up a meeting with Peter Garcia, the president of DVC to:
     1. Find a true viable candidate
     2. Open the position to a student (internship)
     3. Make it an At-Large position

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**UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a. **Airport Committee Update**
   None

b. **What is happening at Buchanan Field & Byron Airports/Other Airports**
   Already discussed

c. **Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) Update**
   Tom Weber gave a brief update on the status of the Sustainable Farm project.
   - There will be a meeting next week to discuss the Sustainable Farm project.
   - Met with Geoff Logan and Central Contra Costa Sanitary District to discuss issues and believes the framework is there to make a presentation to the ALUC.
   - Some topics discussed were safety, mitigation of wildlife issues, and specific plans for inspections.

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d. **AAC Announcements**
   - Ronald Reagan informed the AAC that the Patriots Jet Team is conducting their first golf tournament in June.
     - Purpose is to help fund education in the East Bay.
   - Keith Freitas announced that the Collings Foundation will come to Buchanan Field from May 29 through June 1, 2015.
   - Keith relayed that the Tenant BBQ was a success with about 275 to 300 attendees and also mentioned that there was a lot of positive feedback.

e. **Airport Staff Announcements**
   None

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**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/COMMENTS**

- Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP).
- Quick-hit items from EDIP list, specifically: display area and tiedown boxes.
- Roger Bass letter.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:57 a.m.
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
AVIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 9, 2015

MEETING CALLED: Chair Mike Bruno called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the
Director of Airports Office.

PRESENT: Roger Bass, District II
Mike Bruno, Chair, CCC Airports Business Association
Maurice Gunderson, Member at Large
DeWitt Hodge, Member at Large
Keith McMahon, City of Concord
Rudi Raab, District I
Ronald Reagan, District III
Russell Roe, District V
Tom Weber, Vice Chair, District IV

ABSENT: Tina Dodson, DVC
Derek Mims, City of Pleasant Hill

STAFF: Keith Freitas, Director of Airports
Beth Lee, Assistant Director of Airports
Judy Evans, Clerical

OPENING COMMENTS
BY CHAIR: Mike Bruno asked for introductions, thanked everyone for attending
the meeting and reminded attendees that the AAC is a forum to
express issues and concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENT
PERIOD: Duane Allen would like to see 30-35 feet more asphalt along the
north or south edge of the parking area by the clubhouse. Reported
an incident involving loose gravel.

Dianne Cole expressed concern about retroactive rate increase
charge on bill. Mike Bruno recommended this issue be discussed
during the Economic Development portion of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES: Moved by Tom Weber; seconded by DeWitt Hodge. Approved
unanimously. Yes: Roger Bass, Mike Bruno, Maurice
Gunderson, DeWitt Hodge, Keith McMahon, Rudi Raab, Ronald

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS:


PRESENTATION/SPECIAL REPORTS – None

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Items Pulled from Consent
   None

b. AAC Appointments
   • Mike Bruno welcomed Maurice Gunderson, Member at Large.
   • Tom Weber confirmed that Ronald Reagan and Derek Mims have both been reappointed.

c. April Elections of AAC Officers
   • Mike Bruno nominated Ronald Reagan to be the new Chair.
     Moved by Mike Bruno; seconded by Tom Weber. Approved unanimously.
   • Tom Weber nominated Mike Bruno to be Vice Chair.
     Moved by Tom Weber; seconded by Ronald Regan. Approved unanimously.
   • Ronald Reagan nominated DeWitt Hodge to be Secretary.
     Moved by Ronald Reagan; seconded by Mike Bruno. Approved unanimously.

d. Buchanan Field/Byron Construction
   Keith Freitas reviewed Byron construction and used charts for reference.
   • September 2015 timeframe to begin project.
   • Strip pavement markings and then slurry seal pavement to rejuvenate it.
   • 30 to 45 day project
   • Only one (1) runway will be shut down at a time.
   • Signs will also be replaced if there are sufficient funds.
   • Cost estimates:
     o $800k for paving
$200k for signs

- DeWitt Hodge raised concern about construction impact on the Patriots Jet Team.
  - Keith responded that the construction was planned later in the year in order to
    avoid impacting the team during their air show season.

Keith continued with Buchanan Field projects:

- Complete taxiway Echo and Kilo
  - Light taxiway Echo and possibly overlay taxiway Kilo.
  - FAA funded
  - Could happen as early as 2015, but more likely to begin 2016.
- Another project slated for 2016 to 2017 (possibly 2018) is to overlay runway
  14L/32R.
- East Ramp Taxilane:
  - Target start date is July 1, 2015.
  - 107 tenants will be relocated to tiedowns.
  - Buchanan Field FBO’s and hangar businesses at Byron Airport have been
    contacted, as tenants may contact them in order to store planes in hangars.
  - Tenants will not be charged for hangars during displacement.
  - Construction projected to last 8 to 10 weeks.
  - Tenants will not have access to hangars during construction period.
  - Mike Bruno passed on a concern from a tenant who was unable to attend the
    meeting:
    ▪ The gravel section of taxiway F is problematic because cars and/or trucks
      are tracking gravel onto the taxiway. The tenant would like to see it paved
      in order to prevent propeller damage.
      □ Keith responded that it will not be paved at this time due to
        environmental requirements, but there are plans to seal the gravel in
        place.
  - Dewitt Hodge asked about drainage and if there will be capability to filter out
    the oils with the new drainage system.
    ▪ Keith responded there will be a full trench, but no filtration system.
    ▪ Beth Lee explained that there is a slope that extends to the fence line
      between the Airport and the flood control canal and the dirt between the
      two has been eroding. This area will also be treated in order to stabilize it.
  - Construction will take place 5 days per week, roughly 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - Question was raised whether a storage locker could be placed with their
    aircraft outside on the ramp to hold cleaning/maintenance supplies.
    ▪ That is something that will be considered.
  - Question was raised whether the contractors are aware of the phone lines
    near the construction.
    ▪ Discussion was tabled for after the meeting.
  - Mike Bruno asked for clarification regarding the fees during the construction.
    ▪ No charge if plane is left in the hangar.
    ▪ If plane is moved to a tiedown, there will be rent on that tiedown space.
    ▪ Forms will be sent out to tenants when plans are finalized.
  - Construction crews will clean up at the end of each day.

**e. Economic Development Incentive Program**

Mike Bruno proposed hearing from the public first. Following are priorities indicated
by public:
• Storage for tiedown and shade hangar tenants.
• Dedicated aircraft display by public viewing plaza.
  o Bill Austin is retired and can assist with implementation.
• Attempt by airport management to push through good ideas.
• Hangar rates and charges.
• Air show and open house.
• East Ramp plumbing problem.
  o Adjustment for rent when unable to operate aircraft 1 day due to plumbing repair.
• Aviation culture at airport.
  o Need for Airport staff to understand culture.
• Terminal building
  o Affordability is an issue when aviation use is down
• Knox Box storage issues.
  o Question was raised why Knox Box issue would take more than 10 days.
  o Several issues need to be discussed before implementation could take place (liability of prop strikes, who provides, size, location, materials, etc.).
• Space use issues
  o There are several issues if an entity wants to set up a business (FBO competition, etc.).
• Display area
  o There may be space by Mt. Diablo Pilots Association (MDPA) area.
• Mike Bruno expressed that fuel rates need to be more competitive. When an FBO’s fuel flowage rate is increased, the increase has to be passed onto the consumer and causes less use and development on the field.
• Beth Lee provided some context to the Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) conversation. She explained that stakeholders have already and continue to identify issues and prioritize them. Because there are limited resources and funding it is necessary to prioritize.
• The committee members reviewed and commented on the priorities expressed by the public
  o Ronald Reagan wondered why there isn’t more interest in Byron because it has the potential to be as successful as Buchanan. Following are responses from the public:
    ▪ Too far and too costly in gas.
    ▪ Byron Airport is in a remote location and has no amenities.
    ▪ No water and sewage (well water and septic).
    ▪ Needs road access.
    ▪ Cost of developing at Byron is huge.
    ▪ Byron should be shut down.
    ▪ Stockton Airport is in close proximity to Byron and has the means to handle large aviation capacity.
    ▪ Inaccessible and too far away.
    ▪ Byron is no longer in a remote location, but there is no water and sewage. Once there is water and sewage, development will commence.
    ▪ If the possibility of profit existed at Byron, an FBO would already be there. It is not due to a lack of interest, but rather, the problem of generating revenue. A significant number of tenants in Byron would not typically utilize FBO services.
• Zoning issue.
• Commute and traffic issues.
• Byron is a resource drain on Buchanan.
• No population base to support an airport at Byron.
  o Roger Bass stated that it is not accurate to say that Airport staff is looking for ways to say “no” or that nothing is being done. He explained that the EDIP list is long and that it is important to increase marketing and public relations programs to increase the consumer base. He stated that every item on the list is a priority and all come with a cost of time and money.
• Discussion about the need to find ways to get people to the airport and to increase interest in aviation.
  o The idea of a museum was brought up.
• DeWitt Hodge thanked everyone for their time and involvement. He stressed the need to figure out ways to move forward and improve tenant/owner communication.
• Maurice Gunderson pointed out that the common thread is too little communication. He suggested picking a few things on the list to be done by the next AAC meeting to demonstrate that the process is moving forward.
  o Storage boxes could be moved forward to quick implementation.
    • This is a necessary first step to make existing customers happy.
  o Display proposal is an excellent idea and Bill Austin is a great resource for the benefit of the activity and economic benefit of the Airport.
• Short term should be within the year and not 5 years (that is mid-term).
• EDIP information should be on a website board. Suggestion to open the board for people to provide feedback and be more interactive.

f. **Airport Rates and Charges**
   Incorporated in Economic Development Incentive Program discussion.

**g. Tenant BBQ May 7, 2015**
   Keith Freitas reminded everyone that the Tenant Appreciation BBQ is Thursday, May 7th, and to please RSVP and attend the BBQ.

**UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a. **Airport Committee Update**
   None

b. **What is happening at Buchanan Field & Byron Airports/Other Airports**
   • EAA is sponsoring a Ford Tri-Motor April 30 to May 3, 2015.
   • Collings Foundation is coming May 29 to May 31, 2015.
   • Sheriff’s Department will be doing helicopter training the next few weeks at Buchanan Field and hovering at 100 feet for 30 to 40 minutes several days a week.

c. **Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) Update**
   Tom Weber reported:
   • Waiting to hear more definitive proposal from Central Contra Costa Sanitary District regarding proposed Sustainable Farm.
• ALUC has given them restrictions they need to meet and are waiting to hear back from them.

d. AAC Announcements
None

e. Airport Staff Announcements
None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/COMMENTS
• Request was made to put 7.f. (Airport Rates and Charges) back on next agenda.
• Computer idea of open website (message board) opportunity.
  o Suggestion was made to have a broader conversation about enhanced communications (social media, etc.) put on the agenda.
• Tiedown boxes and other EDIP quick hits.
• Display aircraft proposal.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 12:20 p.m.
# Noise Abatement Statistics

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<td><strong>COMPLAINTS PER 10,000 OPERATIONS</strong></td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td><strong>COMPLAINTS PER 10,000 OPERATIONS - BUCHANAN ONLY</strong></td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>-43%</td>
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*Apr - 1 complaint - April 30 Ford Tri-Motor Event
4 complaints (2 multi callers) from Pleasant Hill Area, northwest of DVC
1 complaint - Aerobatics near Brentwood*
# Contra Costa County Airports
## Monthly Operations Report

### April 2015

<table>
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<td>Local Operations</td>
<td>4,582</td>
<td>4,850</td>
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<td>Itinerant Operations</td>
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<td>3,342</td>
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<td>Total Instrument Ops</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>2,904</td>
<td>2,528</td>
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<td>100 Octane</td>
<td>22,019</td>
<td>19,650</td>
<td>80,118</td>
<td>65,313</td>
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<td>Jet Fuel</td>
<td>62,932</td>
<td>46,241</td>
<td>216,327</td>
<td>212,433</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>84,951</td>
<td>65,891</td>
<td>296,445</td>
<td>277,746</td>
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<td><strong>BYRON INFORMATION</strong></td>
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<td>Byron Fuel</td>
<td>5,897</td>
<td>2,794</td>
<td>20,414</td>
<td>11,310</td>
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<td><strong>SKYDIVERS</strong></td>
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<td>Number of Flights</td>
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<td>134</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>469</td>
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<td>Experienced Jumps</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>1,157</td>
<td>3,637</td>
<td>4,591</td>
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<td>First Time Jumps</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>589</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Jumps</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>-18%</td>
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Nominee: PSA

Award Category (check one): ______ Individual  X  Commercial

Award Criteria (check one or more):

X Advancing the airport or aviation in general

_____ Community service

_____ Environmental consciousness

_____ Noise abatement

_____ Quality of products or services

Brief summary of reason(s) for nomination (attach supporting documentation if desired):

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

THEY TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY AIRPLANE.

THEY TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME.

EVERYONE SHOULD BE THIS NICE.

Submitted by:

JACK ROMANSKI  (printed name)  AIRCRAFT: RV-6: N30AK

550 Sally Ride Drive, Concord, CA 94520-5550
Nominee: Scott Achelis, Rich Johnson, Roland Williams

Award Category (check one): X Individual _____ Commercial

Award Criteria (check one or more):

_____ Advancing the airport or aviation in general

X Community service

_____ Environmental consciousness

_____ Noise abatement

_____ Quality of products or services

Brief summary of reason(s) for nomination (attach supporting documentation if desired):

Scott, Rich and Roland went out of their way to help a "make-a-wish" dream come true for Dianne Chinavees and her son Gio, who struggles with Williams Syndrome. Gio is fascinated with airplanes and wished that he might get to ride in one. Dianne reached out to the County Airports hoping that she could surprise Gio for his 9th birthday. Scott was quick to volunteer and coordinated with Rich, who flew Gio and Dianne in his private plane and Roland, who made time for Gio to experience the flight simulator at Sterling Aviation on 4/3/15.

Submitted by: (signature) Date: 5/20/15

Anonymous (printed name)

550 Sally Ride Drive, Concord, CA 94520-5550
Nominee: SHERIFF AEROSUPPORT UNIT

Award Category (check one): ______ Individual ______ Commercial

Award Criteria (check one or more):

______ Advancing the airport or aviation in general

______ Community service

______ Environmental consciousness

______ Noise abatement

______ Quality of products or services

Brief summary of reason(s) for nomination (attach supporting documentation if desired):

SEE ATTACHED! THEY HAVE, SINCE 1997, RESCUED 88 PEOPLE, HAD 101 FLIR CAPTURES, FOUND 127 MISSING PERSONS, PARTICIPATED IN 152 VEHICLE PURSUITS, HAD 301 ARRESTS AND ASSISTED WITH 974 ARRESTS.

Submitted by:

ANONYMOUS (signature) Date: 5/24/15

__________________________________________ (printed name)

550 Sally Ride Drive, Concord, CA 94520-5550
The Office of the Sheriff is responsible for providing public safety in a county that spans over 700 square miles and over 88 square miles of waterways. Dedicated to maintaining a safe and peaceful life for its residents, the Office of the Sheriff established the Air Support Unit in 1997 as an innovative means to better serve the public by reducing crime and increasing boater safety on the Bay and Delta waterways. The program was envisioned to actively promote private and public partnerships to include supporting nearby allied law enforcement agencies by providing directed airborne patrols and support; however, continued budget reductions have prevented local agencies from contracting for airborne law enforcement services today.

**Staffing**

The Air Support Unit is comprised of one full-time contract civilian pilot and two Sheriff’s deputies trained as Tactical Flight Officers. The air crew maintains a flexible flight schedule specifically designed to maximize their ability to support Patrol and Marine Patrol personnel during the busiest hours and days of the week.

**Mission Priorities and Current Capabilities**

The Air Support Unit provides critical assistance to patrol personnel during a variety of calls for service, pursuits of fleeing suspects, searches for criminal suspects, search and rescue missions, transport and deployment of tactical teams, crime scene photography, and aerial surveillance and reconnaissance. The STARR helicopters conduct daily security patrols over the critical infrastructure and key resources within the county to include refineries, bridges, railways, reservoirs, chemical plants, and a military ocean terminal.

The STARR helicopters conduct daily patrols of the vast Delta waterways and support the Sheriff’s Marine Services Unit by conducting timely searches for missing boaters, boaters in distress, providing top cover during boating enforcement stops, and enhancing the security of planned maritime events in the region.

**Aircraft and Equipment**

The Air Support Unit currently operates two helicopters: STARR 1, a 1996 turbine powered Bell 407 and STARR 2, a 2002 turbine powered Bell 206-B3 Jet Ranger. In 2014, the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff purchased a second Bell 407 to replace STARR 2. The new aircraft, STARR 3, is expected to be equipped and delivered by the summer of 2015.

STARR 1 and STARR 3 will soon be equipped with the following law enforcement equipment:

- FLIR Star SAFIRE 380 HDC dual sensor
- SPECTROLAB NightSun XP spotlight
- CHURCHILL GPS moving map system
- Night Vision Capability

Enhancement of Mission Capabilities

The “Morgan Territory Fire” on Mt. Diablo in 2013 burned nearly 3,500 acres of the mountainside and highlighted the pressing need to develop and maintain an effective first strike aerial firefighting capability. The recent acquisition of a second Bell 407 helicopter and the receipt of State Homeland Security Grant Program funding for external load operations has enabled the Air Support Unit to implement a robust long line/short haul program. The implementation of the long line and short haul rescue program will enable the Office of the Sheriff to become the only public safety agency in the county capable of providing the most efficient, cost effective resource for these types of emergencies.

- As the potential for wild fires is greatly increased during the current severe drought conditions, the ability of the STARR helicopters to to provide timely firefighting services will significantly enhance public safety within Contra Costa County.

- A wide variety of outdoor activities for tourists, bikers, boaters, and hikers in the county’s recreational areas presents the need for a timely and effective airborne rescue response to incidents involving serious injury. The Office of the Sheriff Air Support Unit maintains the ability to respond to critical incidents in remote areas within minutes and recently developed the ability to perform safe, efficient technical rescues in an effort to transport victims to immediate medical care personnel.

Short Haul Rescue Program and Fire Bucket Operations

- State Homeland Security Grant provided funds for equipment acquisition and training.
- Consulted with numerous agencies with established long line rescue and firefighting programs.
- The implementation of the program required rigorous daily training.
- Effective collaboration between the members of the Air Support Unit, the Contra Costa Fire District, and the Sheriff’s Search and Rescue team combined with the specialized training provided by Air Rescue Systems have provided the air crew with the ability to conduct effective short haul rescues for years to come.