



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: General Services
Department No.: 063
For Agenda Of: November 15, 2016
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: General Services Matthew P. Pontes, Director, 560-1011
Contact Info: Janette Pell, Assistant Director, 568-3096

SUBJECT: Santa Ynez Valley Airport Report; Third Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the attached report titled, "Santa Ynez Valley Airport Review", Third Supervisorial District; and
- b) Find that the proposed action does not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to 14 CCR § 15378(b)(5) (Organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment), and approve and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

This item is being brought to the Board because on May 20, 2014, General Services was asked by the Board to prepare a report on the physical maintenance of the Santa Ynez Valley Airport (Airport), facility improvement plans including Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grants, the Airport's overall budget and administration, and any recommendations for improvements. The Santa Ynez Valley Airport Review has been completed and is attached for Board review.

Background:

The Airport is a 124-acre general aviation airport located mid-County. It has played a vital role in supporting air operations for the County of Santa Barbara's Fire Department and Sheriff Aviation Unit as well as staging United States Fire Service (USFS) wildfire operations. The Santa Ynez Airport Authority (Authority), a non-profit public benefit corporation, has managed the Airport since 1993 when

it took control from the County pursuant to a Master Management Agreement and Lease for Santa Ynez Airport (Agreement) which is effective for 50 years. The Agreement allows either the County or the Authority to terminate the Agreement for cause, without cause, or on the happening of any of the specific events included in the Agreement.

The attached review of the Airport and its management shows that the Airport is financially stable, and has healthy reserves and steady revenue sources. Insurance is adequate and current. The Authority's Board of Directors' meetings appear to be conducted in a professional manner. The Authority's relationship with the County General Services Department is strong and amicable.

The Board of Supervisors approved the current Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and its consistency with the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) in 2012. The FAA subsequently approved the ALP in 2013. The ALP serves as the blueprint for the development of the Airport. ALPs remain current for a five-year period or until major changes are made or are planned to be made at the airport.

The planning process for the FAA and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) grants is a cooperative effort between the County and the Authority. Led by the Authority's airport consultant, the grants have brought in significant funding resulting in a well-maintained airport. A complete maintenance plan is in place for the next five years, and the FAA Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) and Caltrans Airport CIP are aligned during this span. Over the past fourteen years, the grants have brought in over \$7 million of funding.

The attached report identifies several recommendations for the Authority's consideration. It is recommended the Authority review the components of the Brown Act to ensure compliance. A compliance issue with the Brown Act was raised in late 2014. Since that time, to address timely notification of public meetings, the Authority has implemented more frequent website updates. On July 1, 2016, the FAA announced a change in policy for airports that accept federal grants, or are under other federal obligations to allow storage of non-aeronautical items in airport facilities designated for aeronautical use. It is recommended the Authority familiarize themselves with the new policy and be prepared to follow the rules and regulations as written to ensure compliance. To adhere to the policy, the Authority may need to develop a plan to conduct inspections of all hangars, privately-owned and County-owned, to ensure compliance with all FAA policies. The County and Authority should collectively review the Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 4 – Airports (Ordinance 3310) and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for potential updates. The Ordinance has not been updated since the Authority took over management of the Airport.

The Airport is an example of a successful public-private partnership. The County and the Authority have worked cooperatively and have been very effective in securing grant funding to keep the Airport well-maintained.

Performance Measure:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

N/A

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:

None

Special Instructions:

None

Attachments:

- 1) Santa Ynez Valley Airport Review
- 2) CEQA Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

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