

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

Agenda Number:

Prepared on: 7/22/03
Department: Public Works
Budget Unit: 054
Agenda Date: 8/12/03
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: No time
Continued Item: No

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phillip M. Demery, Director
Public Works Department

STAFF CONTACT: Dave Rickard, 739-8761
Project Manager, Public Works

SUBJECT: Santa Ynez Airport Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS)
Project No.862247 - Third Supervisorial District

Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve the Project and the Categorical Exemption pursuant to the County's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines for the Santa Ynez Airport Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) Project, County Project No. 862247; and
- B. Authorize the Director of Public Works to advertise for construction bids for Santa Ynez Airport Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS), County Project No. 862247.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2: Ensure the Public Health and Safety and Provide Essential Infrastructure.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The project consists of installing an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) on the south side of runway 26/8. The AWOS system collects and verifies weather data from an array of sensors. This data includes: altimeter, wind speed and direction, temperature, dew point, density altitude, visibility, cloud height and sky cover, precipitation identification, lightning and thunderstorm information. AWOS is an FAA approved, stand-alone source of weather information. This information increases operational safety for Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) rated pilots.

Currently, pilots may request minimal weather information from the airport UNICOM. However airport staff are not certified weather observers and may answer pilots only in an advisory capacity. Also, staff has multiple other responsibilities that may not allow them to answer the UNICOM. AWOS users will receive current weather information by VHF radio or they may also call the AWOS by phone 24 hours per day.

Installation of the AWOS system includes: Site Survey; FAA 7460-I application to modify the airport facility; FCC Form 601 (which is a application for ground radio station authorization in the aviation services); Site preparation which is the pre-installation phase where the trenching, cable laying, concrete and any general construction is performed; AWOS III/PT (or equivalent) system is installed; Maintenance (maintenance can only be done by FAA certified technician).

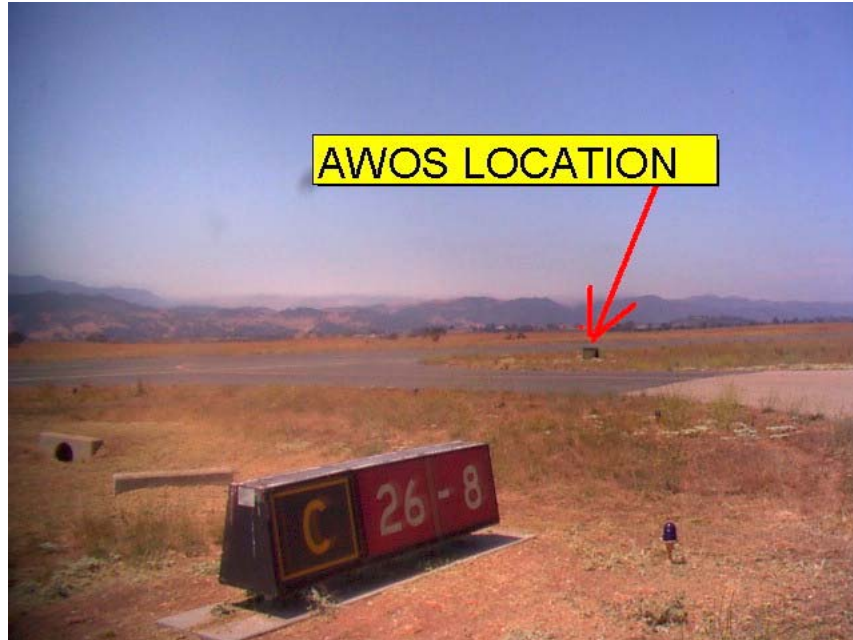


Photo: Santa Ynez Airport – Runway 26-8 Area

This project is funded by a Federal grant administered through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Projects are Federally funded to 90% with 5.5% match from the local sponsor (Santa Ynez Valley Airport Authority) and 4.5% from the State of California through Caltrans, Division of Aeronautics.

Pursuant to the County's CEQA guidelines, this project has been determined to be exempt from further environmental review (See attached Notice of Exemption). Approval of the Notice of Exemption shall indicate the Board of Supervisors' approval of this project and will commence the appeal period, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

Sealed proposals will be received at the Public Works Department front counter in the County Engineering Building at 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or at Public Works North County facility at 2400 Professional Parkway, Suite 150, Santa Maria, CA 93455 and will be opened and publicly read aloud at a date to be determined.

The "Notice to Contractors" will be published prior to the date set for the opening of the bids.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Direction by the Board of Supervisors will not change the programs or service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Funding for this project is provided by a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); 90% of project is being funded by FAA, 4.5% funded by the State of California-Department of Transportation State Matching Grant (on hold due to State Budgetary problems) The Santa Ynez Valley Airport authority is paying the local share of 5.5%. Fund No. 0052, Dept. No. 054, Account No. 7460, Program No. 1920.

Special Instructions:

Please forward a copy of the Minute Order to Cecelia Barnes, Transportation Section. Please post a copy of the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval.

Concurrence:

None

Attachments:

Notice of Exception