



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Aviation Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 8, 2025

10:00 AM Byron Airport, 760 Osprey Court, Byron

Join via Zoom: <https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/82582758074>

Calling in: (214) 765-0478 or Toll Free (888) 278-0254

Conference code: 232255

The public may attend this meeting in person at above location. The public may also attend this meeting remotely via Zoom or call-in.

Persons who wish to address the Aviation Advisory Committee during public comment or with respect to an item on the agenda may comment in person or may call in during the meeting by dialing (214) 765-0478 followed by the access code 232255#. Those participating via Zoom should indicate they wish to speak on an agenda item by using the “raise your hand” feature in the Zoom app. Those calling in should indicate they wish to speak by pushing “#2” on their phone.

Public comments generally will be limited to two minutes per speaker. In the interest of facilitating the business of the committee, the total amount of time that a member of the public may use in addressing the committee on all agenda items is 10 minutes. Your patience is appreciated.

For assistance in advance of the meeting with remote access contact Airports staff at (925) 608-8000 or email airport.team@airport.cccounty.us.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Stappen welcomed everyone to Byron Airport and thanked the Patriots Jet Team for hosting. He announced that the next Airport Committee meeting will be June 5, 2025, at 10:00AM. Don Paiva, Executive Director for Patriots Jet Team gave a safety briefing.

Present Gareth Ashley, Christopher Baker, Peter Baker, Emily Barnett, Keith McMahon, Eric Meinbress, Vincent Salimi, and Shawn Stappen

Absent Richard Celestre, and Elizabeth Leddy

1.a. Aviation Advisory Committee Attendance Roster

[25-1676](#)

Attachments: [AAC Attendance Roster 3-13-25](#)

2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

Chair Stappen reported that Dean Hickman-Smith has resigned as the representative of the Byron

Neighbor Seat on the AAC as he no longer resides in this County.

3. Approval of the Aviation Advisory Committee's March 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes [25-1677](#)

Attachments: [AAC Meeting Minutes 3-13-25](#)

Motion: McMahon

Second: Salimi

Aye: Ashley, Baker, Baker, McMahon, Meinbress, Salimi, and Stappen

Absent: Celestre, and Leddy

Late: Barnett

Result: Passed

4. Consider Consent Items

- 4.a. Accept relevant Staff Reports for March and April 2025 [25-1678](#)

Attachments: [March 2025 Staff Reports](#)
[April 2025 Staff Reports](#)

Motion: McMahon

Second: Baker

Aye: Ashley, Baker, Baker, McMahon, Meinbress, Salimi, and Stappen

Absent: Celestre, and Leddy

Late: Barnett

Result: Passed

- 4.b. Accept the Airport Noise and Statistics Report for February and March 2025 [25-1679](#)

Attachments: [Noise Abatement Charts February 2025](#)
[Noise Abatement Stats February 2025](#)
[Operations February 2025](#)
[Noise Abatement Charts March 2025](#)
[Noise Abatement Stats March 2025](#)
[Operations March 2025](#)

Motion: Baker

Second: Ashley

Aye: Ashley, Baker, Baker, McMahon, Meinbress, Salimi, and Stappen

Absent: Celestre, and Leddy

Late: Barnett

Result: Passed

5. Discussion/Action Items

- 5.a. Temporarily eliminate fuel flowage fees for unleaded avgas [25-1680](#)

Director Baer explained that the Airports Division is working with Pacific States Aviation

(PSA) to add unleaded aviation fuel, in addition to leaded avgas. Because unleaded fuel is a new option, supply and demand will dictate the retail cost and it's expected there will be a significant price gap between unleaded and leaded fuel. As a way to lower the retail cost of unleaded fuel, Director Baer sought a twofold recommendation from the AAC members:

- 1) Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution to waive fuel flowage fees for unleaded avgas until such time that there is a commercially viable and feasible unleaded option that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approves, and
- 2) Make a recommendation to Airports staff to look for other funding sources to offset the loss in revenue to the Airport Enterprise Fund.

The committee voted to make both recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Motion: Ashley

Second: Salimi

Aye: Ashley, Baker, Baker, Barnett, McMahon, Meinbress, Salimi, and Stappen

Absent: Celestre, and Leddy

Result: Passed

5.b. Unleaded fuel update

PSA is working with Swift Fuels and two 2,000-gallon fuel tanks have already been delivered to PSA and they are awaiting the delivery of a mobile fuel truck. Airports staff and PSA are currently working together on the permitting process.

5.c. Airport Business Association Seat process update

Director Baer explained that there are two options for the Airport Business Association Seat:

- 1) Someone from the business community can establish a formal association, inclusive of establishing bylaws, state registration, hold meetings, etc., OR
- 2) If those who have traditionally made up the Airport Business Association decide against forming a bona-fide association, the seat would be eliminated and a standing "business" item would be added to the AAC agenda. Having a standing item would allow any business to address the AAC with an equal voice and would avoid conflict of interest considerations where they might exist as a member of the AAC.

Director Baer is expecting a decision from the representatives of those who have traditionally made up the Airport Business Association (Concord Jet, PSA, and Sterling) in a week or two, and intends to update the AAC at the next meeting.

5.d. Webcam at Buchanan Field Airport

The Airports Division and Mount Diablo Pilots Association (MDPA) entered into an agreement that will allow MDPA to install a webcam at Buchanan Field Airport. The webcam will be installed in about three months on an existing pole adjacent at the clubhouse. There will be a weblink on the Airports website.

6. Patriots Jet Team and Foundation presented by Randy Howell and Don Paiva

[25-1681](#)

Attachments: [Patriots Jet Team and Foundation](#)

Patriots Jet Team Presentation: Randy Howell explained that the Patriots Jet Team and Foundation have three components:

- 1) Airshows (their core business)
- 2) Movie Filming (Top Gun Maverick)
He spoke about the making of the movie and working with the actors on some of the flying.
- 3) Foundation that helps educate youth and the community.

Don Paiva is the Executive Director for the Patriots Jet Team Foundation and he reported that the foundation is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that has been serving the community for over a decade. They teach students from all the Bay Area about Aviation, Space, and STEM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at Buchanan Field Airport, Director of Airports Office, 181 John Glenn Drive, Suite 100, Concord.

7. Adjourn

Chair Stappen adjourned meeting at 11:49AM.

This was approved.

The Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at Buchanan Field Airport, Director of Airports Office, 181 John Glenn Drive, Suite 100, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at www.contracosta.ca.gov. If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the committee will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact: Airport Staff at (925) 608-8000 or email airport.team@airport.cccounty.us