

# WATSONVILLE PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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## SUPPORT WPA

Good news. Our membership is growing!

For those that have renewed your membership and donated to the WPA, we thank you. As of the end of May, we have 90 paid members.

Help us achieve our goal! If you have not yet renewed or are thinking of joining, please make a donation today. It's easy from our secure website and is fully tax deductible.

## CONTACT US

Postal Address:

Watsonville Pilots Association  
PO Box 77, Freedom, CA 95019

Email us at:

mail@watsonvillepilots.org



## UFS ACCESS AND FAA COMPLIANCE

The Watsonville Pilots Association would like to apprise the community of a developing situation that affects the entire airport. FAA Grant Assurances (large funds granted periodically to the Airport by the federal government for maintenance and improvements) are possibly being jeopardized. To explain how the airport got here, a review of recent history is in order.

In 2019, the Watsonville airport director barricaded United Flight Services' (UFS) east hangar access, allegedly without reasonable notice. The east access had existed, been approved by the FAA and used continuously by UFS without incident for over 50 years.

<https://pajaronian.com/united-flight-services-opens-new-facility/>

In 2020, after negotiations failed between the airport director and UFS, UFS filed a lawsuit against the city seeking removal of the barricade. At the conclusion of the trial the court ruled in favor of UFS, recognizing UFS has a right to the east access.

The court ordered the city to remove the barricade. <https://pajaronian.com/lawsuit-against-city-airport-advances/>  
<https://pajaronian.com/judge-watsonville-airport-must-remove-barriers/>

In 2021, the city did not appeal the judgment but the barricade was not removed entirely. Additional litigation was required for the airport to fully comply with the court's order. <https://pajaronian.com/watsonville-airport-business-files-complaint-against-city-to-federal-agency/>

In 2022 after the trial, the City confirmed the litigation cost the City approximately \$730,000 dollars (\$300,000 to pay plaintiff's legal fees and \$530,000 in the City's legal fees). These costs were paid from the Airport Enterprise Fund (AEF), public monies generated by rent payments, fuel sales and other airport revenue, and amounted to approximately 90% of the then available AEF. <https://pajaronian.com/judge-watsonville-must-pay-airport-business-legal-costs/>

# NEWSLETTER

## THANK YOU!

Your dues and donations are critical to help us continue to protect the airport.

A portion of your membership dues are used to maintain a legal reserve fund, critical for enabling current and future legal efforts. Dues are also used to fund board meetings, member meetings, social events and upcoming services.

## SIGN UP

[www.watsonvillepilots.org/joinwpa](http://www.watsonvillepilots.org/joinwpa)

Signing up through the website will give you access to our new online Members Forum among many other great features.

Or, send a check for \$35 or \$65 to:  
Watsonville Pilots Association PO  
Box 2074, Freedom, CA 95019

Please indicate on your check if you are renewing or newly joining.

## EDITORS NOTE

Tell us what you think at  
[mail@watsonvillepilots.org](mailto:mail@watsonvillepilots.org)



## UFS ACCESS AND FAA COMPLIANCE

In April of this year, the airport director invited the FAA San Francisco Airports District Office Manager to the April WAAC meeting and there was a discussion whether the same east access now violates FAA grant assurances concerning safe operations and whether abiding by the court ruling would jeopardize FAA grants. WPA is trying to determine if the FAA initiated this concern or if the airport director initiated it. The FAA was not involved in the initial decision to barricade the east access and chose not to participate during the litigation.

If the airport director is arguing the court's judgment resulted in a violation of the FAA grant assurances, this possibly risks future federal grant funds for the airport. The fact that airport management would declare their own airport was out of compliance and put the airport in a position to lose funding is highly concerning to the WPA and we hope this is not actually the case. We will be watching the situation carefully and welcome any new information or corrections to this initial evaluation.

-WPA Board

## ELLA'S AT THE AIRPORT UPDATE

Following a short closure of Ella's at the Airport, they are back open and doing well.

Ella's is open for breakfast at 10am each day and closes at 8pm. They are open every day except Monday.

-Samantha French



# NEWSLETTER

## LAS TRANCAS

Thanks to a Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) grant, local pilots were able to revive and improve the Las Trancas strip just up the coast from Santa Cruz.

Originally used by owner Bud McCrary to operate his Cessna 182, Las Trancas had been encroached by ice plant over the years. The strip is now approximately 15' X 900' and ready for STOL capable aircraft (and pilots).

Because of the gravel surface, short length, steep drop offs and sink on approach, this is not a strip for freshly minted pilots. But the rewards of landing there are many. The RAF installed a picnic table and portable toilet.



Visiting pilots are requested to make an entry in the log book, inside the metal container on the wall. A short walk to the west brings you to a path leading down to the beach.

Pilots must read and acknowledge a briefing for Las Trancas before flying in at: [https://airfield.guide/filter\\_airports.asp?](https://airfield.guide/filter_airports.asp?) Search for 17CL and click on the Briefing tab.

The RAF is an amazing organization that is devoted to "preserving, improving and creating airstrips for recreational access."

Thank you in advance for your donation at [www.theraf.org](http://www.theraf.org)

-Jeremy

## WPA LAWSUIT

As you are well aware, the WPA filed a lawsuit against the City back in September of 2021. We are currently engaged in continued settlement discussions. Although we cannot discuss details, we can say that we are encouraged by the progress so far. We will keep you apprised of any updates as they become public.

We are also looking for generous donations to support our legal fund as we continue settlement talks with the City. Donate an independent amount with the link below.

<https://www.watsonvillepilots.org/join>

[wpa](http://wpa)

## ELECTRONICS CORNER

Trig's TX56 and TX57 Nav/Com units provide the ideal platform to update legacy avionics or equip your new aircraft. Slimline and highly efficient both Nav/Com models are housed within a superbly engineered case. At only 33mm high each unit saves valuable space yet contains an impressive selection of practical features for any pilot.

You might be a VFR pilot wanting VOR navigational back up, a flight school seeking an easy to use training platform or a serious VFR/IFR operator looking for reliable digital capabilities. Trig's 'better by design' approach has created a Nav/Com that meets all these requirements - it will enhance your navigation and communication throughout all phases of flight.

-<https://www.trig-avionics.com/product/stack-nav-com/>



# NEWSLETTER

## WPA HISTORY

Learn about the full and storied legal history of the WPA and its quest to bring the City into compliance with the law to protect our historic, valuable and treasured airport.

This document was written over several years and tireless research by Marjorie Bachman and Sarah Chauvet. They have recorded the critical history that often gets forgotten and overlooked as city officials and WPA officers change hands across the years.

The WPA has also converted hundreds of legal docs, court decisions, email chains, and other important references dating back to 1987 into digital format.

[www.watsonvillepilots.org/history](http://www.watsonvillepilots.org/history)

## WPA MEMBERS FORUM

Did you know that your membership includes access to our online community forum?

The WPA has created this fantastic resource for members to discuss topics of interest. Members can plan fly-outs, buy and sell used gear, find a partnership, share pictures, or meet new neighbors. We've created a few general topics to get everyone started and welcome any suggestions. We invite you to take advantage of this valuable forum and bring our hangars just a little bit closer together.

### WPA Community Forum

Welcome to the new Watsonville Pilots Association community forum!

General Discussions Share stories, ideas, pictures and more!	147 Views	10 Posts	Following
Fly Outs n' Fly Ins Anything related to flying out to fun locations with your fellow pilots.	6 Views	1 Posts	Following
Buy, Sell, Trade, Partner Aircraft, items for sale or trade and partnership opportunities within t...	71 Views	3 Posts	Following
Aircraft Maintenance Discussions about the proper care and feeding of your aircraft.	0 Views	0 Posts	Following
Careers Discussions about careers in the aviation industry both locally and a...	0 Views	0 Posts	Following

New Posts

Ryan R. Jan 9  
FlightRadar24 data sharing!  
Discussion  
I frequently use FlightRadar24 to review and download my past flights (...)

0 comments 0 replies 2

David Osterhout Jan 6  
Santa Cruz Flying Club?  
Discussion  
Does anyone know if there is any life left in the Santa Cruz Flying Club? Their...

1 comment 0 replies 0

David Osterhout Dec 19, 2019  
Club or shared ownership?  
Discussion  
Looking for a club to join, or partnership arrangement, with Light Sport or lower...

1 comment 0 replies 0

<https://www.watsonvillepilots.org/forum>

## AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN REVIEW

Airport Management invites tenants, users, pilots, citizens and the community to attend a public meeting to review the updated Airport Layout Plan.

Watsonville Municipal's airport layout plan (ALP) is a set of drawings that shows the near-, intermediate-, and long-term facilities for the airport.

The ALP is prepared in conformance with the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Advisory Circular 150/5070-6B, "Airport Master Plans."

Here's your opportunity to preview information depicting runway and taxiway/taxi lane details, planned and proposed airfield modifications, enhancements supporting safety and security over the coming years.

Joining the airport will be Kimley Horn, the airport's Planning and Environmental Consultants to answer questions relative to the Master Plan and ALP update.

**Please join us on December 7th, 2022 at 7:00pm. We'll meet at the Watsonville Aviation Education Center (EAA #119 Hangar) located at 60 Aviation Way, Watsonville.**

-KWVI Management

# NEWSLETTER

## OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Officers

**President:** Ryan Ramirez

**Vice President:** Barry Porter

**Secretary:** David French

**Treasurer:** Jeremy Lezin

### Board Members

Ed Bogner

Jack Bernard

Marjorie Bachman

Sarah Chauvet

Raphael Hebert

Said Karssli

Orry Korb

### WPA Honorary Members

*(Previous Officers/Board Members)*

Theresa Byers

Dan Chauvet

Sarah Chauvet

John Cowen

Charlene McIntyre

Mike McIntyre

Brad Smith

### WPA Committee Heads

**Legal Affairs:** Orry Korb

**AOPA ASN Rep.:** Glynn Falcon

**Aviation Education:** Open Position

**Editorial:** Samantha French

**FAA Team Rep:** Mike Baker

**WAAC Rep.:** Orry Korb

**PVAA Rep.:** Marjorie Bachman

**Website Editor:** Ryan Ramirez

## NEW CESSNA 150 AT UNITED FLIGHT SERVICES

As of September, United Flight Services has a Cessna 150H on the line. This Cessna is available to rent for 115 dollars per Hobbs hour, which makes this plane cost the lowest out of all UFS planes currently available to rent.

Enjoy taking to the skies in this exciting new addition to the United Flight Services fleet!

-Samantha French

### Aircraft Specs:

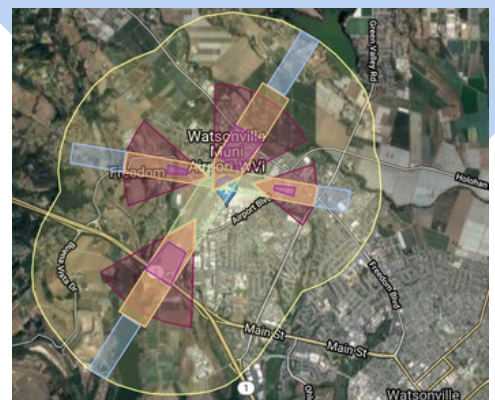
- Fixed Wing Single-Engine
- Reciprocating engine
- Engine Model: O-200 Series
- Classification: Standard
- Category: Utility
- Not IFR rated
- MX300 Nav/Com
- MFR year: 1968
- Engine Manufacturer: CONT MOTOR
- Seats 2 people



## DYNAMIC AIRPORT SAFETY ZONE MAP

Our safety zone map has been updated with details about each zone, based on the California Airport Land Use Planning Guide. Click on any zone and get a detailed overview of the zone and its restrictions. You can find it at the link below!

<https://www.watsonvillepilots.org/airport>



# NEWSLETTER

## WAAC MEETING 10-26-2022 SYNOPSIS

**The highlight of the meeting was a discussion of the draft airport layout plan.**

*1726 Freedom Blvd.:*

Starbucks is planning to redevelop in safety zone 4. The application is being evaluated consistent with the airport land use handbook.

*Airport Layout Plan Update:*

1. Resetting the Rwy 27 threshold
2. Private hangers on the west side of the airport
3. Land swap
4. Open house to occur in the 1st or 2nd week of December
5. New hangars and access north of Rwy 27/09
6. A new run up area for Rwy 20
7. Discussion on grass strip placement
8. Relocation of the compass rose
9. Relocation of tie downs to the south of Specialized
10. Proposed new access to UFS

### CITY OF WATSONVILLE WATSONVILLE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (WVI) WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN OCTOBER 2022



NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1	10/26/22	WAAC Meeting
2	10/27/22	Public Meeting
3	10/28/22	Public Meeting
4	10/29/22	Public Meeting
5	10/30/22	Public Meeting
6	10/31/22	Public Meeting
7	11/01/22	Public Meeting
8	11/02/22	Public Meeting
9	11/03/22	Public Meeting
10	11/04/22	Public Meeting
11	11/05/22	Public Meeting
12	11/06/22	Public Meeting
13	11/07/22	Public Meeting
14	11/08/22	Public Meeting
15	11/09/22	Public Meeting
16	11/10/22	Public Meeting
17	11/11/22	Public Meeting
18	11/12/22	Public Meeting
19	11/13/22	Public Meeting
20	11/14/22	Public Meeting
21	11/15/22	Public Meeting
22	11/16/22	Public Meeting
23	11/17/22	Public Meeting
24	11/18/22	Public Meeting
25	11/19/22	Public Meeting
26	11/20/22	Public Meeting
27	11/21/22	Public Meeting
28	11/22/22	Public Meeting
29	11/23/22	Public Meeting
30	11/24/22	Public Meeting
31	11/25/22	Public Meeting
32	11/26/22	Public Meeting
33	11/27/22	Public Meeting
34	11/28/22	Public Meeting
35	11/29/22	Public Meeting
36	11/30/22	Public Meeting



#### *Director's Report:*

- **Formation Flights.** Approval of final language of a memo from the committee to the city council about pilots being courteous about noise and where we fly.
- **Gate Access.** The airport continues to work on the plan, which won't be completed this year. One idea under consideration is two step authentication.
- **SASO RFP.** The airport is soliciting for proposals to operate a new SASO at 50 Aviation. Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee.

#### *Public Comment:*

Marjorie Bachman reminded the committee the WPA agreed to drop opposition to an application by Nordic Naturals to modify it's approved development affecting its parking requirements in exchange for an agreement to forgo future development of its property pending adoption of a new general plan by the city. The city is not a party to the agreement and enforcement is the responsibility of the WPA.

Note: Addressed the status of FAA issue in two letters between the airport and Suttmeier. The issue is whether the existence of UFS's eastern easement violates any of the grant assurances. Rayvon reported the city manager met with the FAA. When asked if FAA lawyers had determined whether KWVI was noncompliant regarding their Grant Assurances, the airport director did not have an update at this time.

As discussed during the recent quarterly WAAC meeting the Municipal Airport is planning a public presentation and Q&A session for the soon-to-be submitted Airport Layout Plan (ALP) for FAA consideration. The target date for the presentation is December 7th. Please save this date and provide a head's up to your constituents. We'll be announcing the specific time and location (likely Watsonville Aviation Education Center, WAEC, EAA #119 Hangar) via the Airport E-mail Alert list next week.

-WPA member

# NEWSLETTER

## WAAC MEETING 10-26-2022 SYNOPSIS

### 2021-2022 Year in review

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- (1) 2022 budget approved at \$4.0m revenues, \$3.5m expenses
- (2) June 30<sup>th</sup> Airport cash balance \$200,000
- (3) Airport receives \$295k Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant
- (4) Airport Master Plan Update initiates CEQA study
- (5) Pavement Maintenance Plan Update concludes
- (6) KWVI first Regional Airport offering Unleaded Fuel UL94
- (7) PVUSD Fourth Grade Field Trips
- (8) Airport Open House returns after COVID-19
- (9) Number of Boneyard aircraft decreases
- (10) "Ella's at the Airport" assigned to new proprietor
- (11) Sky Dive Surf City returns to field
- (12) Airport Security Access Gate Project launched
- (13) Airport initiates a third Tar Plant of Five Year Survey Study
- (14) Annual Hangar inspections yield fewest non-compliant actions
- (15) Second Weekend Historical Display Days enters 10<sup>th</sup> Year
- (16) Alexandra Aguado promoted to Administrative Analyst
- (17) Brenda Castillo promoted to Accounting Technician
- (18) Airport & Beer Mule host Blood Drive at Community Hospital
- (19) Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren visits airport
- (20) Tenant of the Year: Said Karssli



#### LOWLIGHTS

- (1) 2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend Fuel Sales halted
- (2) County Environmental Citation
- (3) C&M Farms ceases operations
- (4) UFS litigation over \$700,000
- (5) Taxilane speeding violations
- (6) Increased traffic across Transient Parking Ramp

## UPCOMING EVENTS

For all upcoming events, go to:

<https://www.watsonvillepilots.org/upcomingevents>

- WPA Happy Hour and Dinner - December 3rd at 4:00 PM at Ella's at the Airport
- Airport Layout Plan Review - December 7th at 7:00 PM at Watsonville Aviation Education Center

## AIRPORT CAM

<https://www.watsonvillepilots.org/airport>



**WIPA**

**WATSONVILLE PILOTS ASSOCIATION**