



A Win for Aviation at Watsonville



The Santa Cruz County Superior Court ruled in favor of Watsonville Pilots Association, the Friends of Buena Vista (a neighborhood group) and the local chapter of the Sierra Club in litigation against the City of Watsonville. Also involved was Caltrans Division of Aeronautics. The decision affirmed the laws requiring responsible airport land use planning around an airport to prevent the creation of new noise and safety problems. This decision promotes the health, safety and welfare of people who travel in aircraft and those on the ground around airports. In addition, Judge Paul Burdick ruled on the California Environmental Qualities Act (CEQA) that Watsonville Airport did not have "an insignificant impact" on the areas off the end of runways. Is there any airport on the planet Earth that does not have a significant impact on its surroundings?

The Court ruled that the City must rescind the General Plan/EIR and Resolution 74-05 (runway 8-26 is low activity, removed zone 3, removed all restrictions on zone 6). These decisions leave the City with two options—rewrite the General Plan 2030 and its EIR— or appeal. The Council has yet to decide.

The roots of this suit go back a long time. City planning and resulting development encroachment has been continuous around the airport. The Watsonville Pilots Association participated in the City's planning process starting in 2002. However, all input regarding protecting Watsonville Airport from development encroachment, including off the end of runways, was ignored. In 1996 an airport land use plan was rejected, again in 2002 a compatibility plan was turned down; all testimony at Council meetings was ignored. Letters from Caltrans Division of Aeronautics were ignored. It was a stacked deck. On May 23, 2005 downtown city staff urged the Council to approve the General Plan update. City actions indicated that this was a done deal long before the Council's 6 to 1 decision. The next day, on May 24th, the City was notified that they would be sued.

WPA's attorneys, Jonathan Wittwer and Bill Parkin (Wittwer-Parkin), did an excellent job in presenting this case. Ms Rainy Bain, attorney for the State Division of Aeronautics, along with Mr. Zan Hensen, also contributed significantly in the win.

Many members of the Watsonville Pilots Association and pilot community testified before the City Council. They contributed to "the record" and deserve thanks for helping attain this decision. Sometimes words count.

Litigation is expensive for both parties. Contributors from Oregon, California, and Arizona supported this case. There were many substantial donations plus major contributors supported the litigation. California Pilots Association contributed and urged state-wide support to protect Watsonville Airport. Members of the pilot community associated with Watsonville voted their support with their checkbooks, not once but numerous times. And so did various members of the general community in Santa Cruz County. It takes collective action to keep airports safe and viable.

All the ins and outs of the Court's decision are yet to be assessed. Bottom line: attorneys for the plaintiffs feel a significant favorable decision was attained.

~ Dan Chauvet ~



California Flying

May 2008

- ✂ **May 2-4** – Columbia, CA. Columbia Airport (O22). Canards de Mayo. Canard Fly-In and Dinner including seminars. Paved and grass runways. Camping on the field and an easy walk to Historic town of Columbia.. Contact Don Denhard, 209-536-0825
- ✂ **May 2-4** – Groveland, CA. Private property off Hwy.120 (near Yosemite). Central Sierra Helicopter Meet. The 3rd Annual Central Sierra Helicopter Meet is being held, near Yosemite close to Groveland California (on private property off Hwy.120.) We are not far from Groveland Airport also known as Pine Mountain Lake Airport. The focus of this meet will be F. Contact HAP OR NANCY MILLER, 707-833-5905
- ✂ **May 3** – San Diego, CA. The San Diego Big Bay. The Fleet Week San Diego Sea and Air Parade. This flagship event of San Diego's salute to the military will display the various types of ships and aircrafts that comprise the world's mightiest military force .
- ✂ **May 4** – Chiriaco Summit , CA. Chiriaco Summit Airport (L77). Chiriaco Summit Flour Bombing & Spot Landing Contest. The Pomona Valley Pilots Association PVPA will hold its' Occasional Flour Bombing and Spot Landing Contest weather permitting at the Chiriaco Summit Airport with cash prizes for both flour bomb and spot landings. See the PVPA web site for additional de. Contact Dennis Robinson, 909/624-0520
- ✂ **May 10** – Modesto, CA. Modesto City County (MOD). Modesto Airshow. Modesto Airport Day Air Show with many WW 2 aircraft on display. Rides in planes and helicopters. Rides for children, plus much more.. Contact Jerry Waymire, 209/968-2613
- ✂ **May 16-18** – Concord, CA. Buchanan (CCR). Cessna 350/400 / Columbia Recurrent Training Program (CRTP). Cessna 350/400 / Columbia Aircraft Pilot's Assoc. holds it's Columbia Recurrent Training Program. Pilots flying the Cessna 350/400 can train with the country's top Instructor Pilots on these High Performance aircraft.. Contact Chuck Yanke, 847/922-2314
- ✂ **May 16-18** – Hayward, CA. Hayward (HWD). Hayward Air Rally. It's like a car rally, but in your plane! The rally starts at Hayward, Ca and ends in Palm Springs, CA with one stop in Bakersfield, CA. Pilot/Co-Pilot teams estimate their fuel burn and time en route and the teams that do best win trophies and money. . Contact Rod Fite, 415-462-1632
- ✂ **May 16-18** – Porterville, CA. (PTV) Mooney Mite Summer Fly-In. Gathering and display of Mooney Mites. Camp on the field or stay in a motel downtown.. Contact Michael Harms, (650) 966-8292; Email. Website.
- ✂ **May 24** – Agua Dulce, CA. Agua Dulce Airport (L70). First Annual Fly-In, BBQ and Hangar Grand Opening, Aircraft Judging with Awards. Contact Doug Abney, 310 /869-2837
- ✂ **May 24-25** – Llano, CA. Brian Ranch Airport (CL13). "World's Smallest" Air Show. 14th annual "World's Smallest" Air Show. . Contact Felice Apodaca, 661/261-3216
- ✂ **May 26** – Homewood, CA. Tahoe Truckee Airport (KTRK). Mike Brown Memorial Splash-In. Second Annual Celebration of Mike Brown's Seaplane Legacy on Lake Tahoe. EAA Pancake breakfast at KTRK, BBQ on the beach at Obexer's Marina, wooden boats and much more! . Contact Chuck Kimes, 877-828-2286
- ✂ **May 26** – Palm Springs, CA. Palm Springs Air Museum. Memorial Day Flower Drop. In honor of and memory of all those who lost their lives in the wars throughout our history 2000 white carnations and 1000 red carnations will be dropped on the Museum's air craft ramp by a WWI I vintage warbird.. Contact Sheila Reed, (760) 778-6262 ext. 235
- ✂ **May 23-25** — **Watsonville, CA.** Watsonville Airport (WVI). Watsonville 44th annual Fly-In & Air Show. Featuring Eddie Andreini, Dan Buchanan, John Collver, Greg Poe, Garth Harley, Wayne Wright, Santa Clara County Model Aircraft Skypark, WWI I Warbirds, Current Military Aircraft, Custom and Classic Cars. Web page - <http://www.watsonvilleflyin.org/>

Minutes, WPA meeting March 26, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by Treasurer Sarah Chauvet.

Minutes

Minutes of February meeting were as printed in the March newsletter. Moved to approve, John Randolph, Seconded Erika Carter.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report, there are no outstanding bills and funds are sufficient for future needs. Almost 200 members have renewed their membership and funds continue to come in for the Legal fund.

Old Business

John Randolph reported on the Final Court decision. The City of Watsonville must abide by the California Airport Land Use Handbook since they have an exemption from having an ALUC.

New Business

Senate Bill 118 is up for a hearing on April 2, 2008. We support this, as it will strengthen airport protection throughout the state.

Announcements

South County Airport supporters in Morgan Hill have formed a Political Action Committee, SCAP (South County Airport Promotion) to promote and protect their airport. It has the support of our Watsonville Regional Airport Promotion members and we encourage all WPA members to support it also.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

After a brief break Steve Blackwell discussed Light Sport Aircraft.

~ Sarah Chauvet ~

Next WINGS Seminar

The next WINGS Seminar will be on April 30th at the WPA meeting. The topic will be **VFR into IMC? Not me!** For further information on upcoming WINGS Seminars, go to the WPA Home page at <http://www.watsonvillepilots.org/> and press the [WPA "WINGS" Seminar Calendar](#) button.

A Sample "SB 118" Letter to our State Representatives

Senator Abel Maldonado
*State Capitol
Room 4082
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001*

Assembly Member John Laird
*701 Ocean Street
Room 318-B
Santa Cruz, CA 95060*

Assembly Member Anna Caballero
*100 West Alisal Street
Suite 134
Salinas, CA 93901*

Dear *(Senator Maldonado)* or *(Representative Laird)* or *(Caballero)*:

Please vote YES on SB 1118. SB 118, sponsored by California Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod (D-Chino), faces a hearing March 5 before the Senate Local Government Committee. This legislation will strengthen the State's airport land-use laws.

This measure is vital for the future of California's airports. Amendments, inconsistent administration, and rapidly growing pressure for urban development near airports have weakened California laws protecting airports from incompatible development encroachment. SB 1118 will strengthen those laws by requiring all counties with a least one public-use airport to have an airport land-use commission.

Hollister, Watsonville, Salinas and King City airports are in critical need of the improved protection afforded by SB 1118. This bill is supported by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) a national organization that support aviation safety. It is also supported by the Watsonville Pilots Association and California Pilots Association.

Thank you,
Sincerely,

(Your Name Here)

Fuel Prices

At WVI Fuel Island, 100LL is **\$5.02** and Jet A is **\$4.62**
(04/23/2008)
At KTCY (Tracy), SS 100LL is **\$4.39** and Jet A is **\$4.19**
(04/23/2008)

WPA Airport Legal Fund

Please help our airport with Your Tax Deductible Contributions. Checks should be made to "WPA" or "Watsonville Pilots Association". On the memo line note: "legal fund". Send your contribution to: P.O. Box 2074, Freedom, CA 95019-2074

~ Thank You ~

Local Events

WPA -- meet on the last Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport.
EAA Chapter 119 -- meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport
Monterey Bay 99s -- meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport.
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 13 -- meet 2nd & 4th Tuesday, beginning at 7:30 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport.
Northern CA Aerobatics Club IAC38 -- meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Livermore Municipal Airport

WPA Officers

Mike McIntyre: Chairman
John Cowan: Vice-Chairman
Charlene McIntyre: Secretary
Sarah Chauvet: Treasurer
Hal Zamora: Secretary of Legal Affairs
Dan Chauvet: As. Sec. of Legal Affairs

Committee Heads

Dan Chauvet: WAAG
Richard Lippi: Web Site
Randy Pesce: Field Security
Bob Olmsted: Newsletter Editor
Chris Olmsted: Assist News Editor
Rayvon Williams: AOPA/WINGS
John Cowan: Public Relations
Brian Moffet: Video & Media

Airport Manager: Don French

Feedback: wpanews@yahoo.com

WPA Newsletter
PO Box 135
Brookdale, CA 95007-0135

Next Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday, **April 30, 2008.**
@ the EAA-WAEC Building
60 Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport