



Judge says Watsonville development plans are faulty

Watsonville — The city violated state aviation law when officials eliminated safety zones around the Watsonville Municipal Airport to clear the way for development, a judge said today in a tentative ruling.

Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge Paul Burdick also said the city's environmental impact report of its 2030 general plan is inadequate in regard to traffic and airport issues, and that the EIR should have considered alternatives to a proposal for as many as 2,200 new homes in the Buena Vista Road area.

But Burdick said he believed the impact of new housing on water supplies is appropriately dealt with in environmental review. The tentative ruling came in a lawsuit brought against the city by the Watsonville Pilots Association and Friends of Buena Vista, a neighborhood advocacy group.

Both sides will now file briefings aimed at persuading the judge to change his mind before a final ruling Feb. 29.

~ Sentinel Staff Report
~ Dec. 6, 2007 ~



The area shaded orange that stretches from Freedom Boulevard to near Highway 1 is where the city wants to add 2,250 homes and retail space.

For further information please see the January meeting minutes on the back page. For an additional Register-Pajaronian or Santa Cruz Sentinel articles go to:

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/story.php?sid=51339&storySection=Top>
http://www.register-pajaronian.com/fe_view_article_window.php?

WPA Dues are Due

Watsonville Pilots Association dues are now due for the year 2008. To all those who have already renewed their membership thank you. For the rest of us, please send you check for \$20.00 to: WPA, PO Box 2074, Freedom, CA 95019-2074.

Our Vice-Chairman, John Cowan along with other officers are putting together a full report on the WPA's activities of the past year. Meantime, dues are due and may be mailed to the above address or handed in at our next meeting February 27, 2008.

Thank you,
Respectfully,

Sarah Chauvet, Treasurer, WPA

California Bill Mandates Airport Land-Use Planning

In a move with strong support from AOPA, California Sen. Gloria Negrete McLeod (D-Chino) has introduced a new bill in the state Senate to strengthen laws governing land use around airports. The bill, intended to manage safety and noise concerns, requires all counties with at least one public-use airport to have an airport land-use commission. It will affect Marin, San Bernardino, and Santa Cruz counties. Read more on [AOPA Online](http://www.aopa.org).

~ AOPA ePilot ~

Don't Even Think About Closing Reid-Hillview – AOPA –

A recent Santa Clara State of the County address called for a study to close Reid-Hillview Airport so the land could be used for nonaviation purposes. This is at least the third time a study has been recommended as a means to close the airport. On Feb. 5, AOPA Vice President of Airports Bill Dunn [wrote Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Chairman Pete McHugh](http://www.aopa.org), opposing any effort to close Reid-Hillview. The countywide reliever airport system and San Jose International depend on the airport, which is obligated by federal funds to remain open. The FAA has told AOPA that it will not allow the airport to be closed. Reid-Hillview will be a key airport this fall when AOPA Expo 2008 comes to San Jose. AOPA already has discussed the threat to the airport with the San Jose Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Local AIRSHOW LEGEND INDUCTED INTO AVIATION HALL OF FAME



When [Sean D. Tucker](http://www.aopa.org) entered the airshow circuit, he became known for his wild, gyroscopic tumbling. But he also could do something unique— hover. Tucker was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio, this month, along with [Col. Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson](http://www.aopa.org), a World War II triple ace and experimental test pilot; Southwest Airlines low-fare genius and co-founder Herbert D. Kelleher; and the father of naval aviation who set the framework for today's Navy, William A. Moffett.

~ AOPA ePilot ~

FAASTeam ~ FAASafety.gov

Termination of 121.5 MHz Beacons for Satellite Alerting

Notice Number: NOTC0981

On **1 February 2009**, the International Cospas-Sarsat Organization (U.S. included) **will terminate processing of distress signals emitted by 121.5 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs)**. This means that pilots flying aircraft equipped with 121.5 MHz ELTs after that date will have to depend on pilots of over flying aircraft and or ground stations monitoring 121.5 to hear and report distress alert signals, transmitted from a possible crash site.

Why is this happening?

Although lives have been saved by 121.5 MHz ELTs, the downside has been their propensity to generate false alerts (approximately 98 percent of all 121.5 MHz alerts are false), and their failure to provide rescue forces with timely and accurate crash location data. Both of which actually delay rescue efforts and have a direct effect on an individual's chance for survival. Rescue forces have to respond to all 121.5 MHz alerts to determine if they are real distress alerts or if they are being generated by an interferer, an inadvertent activation (by the owner) or equipment failure.

Is there an alternative?

Yes, the Cospas-Sarsat System (U.S. included) has been and will continue processing emergency signals transmitted by 406 MHz ELTs. These 5-Watt digital beacons transmit a much stronger signal, are more accurate, verifiable and traceable to the registered beacon owner (406 MHz ELTs must be registered by the owner in accordance with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulation). Registration allows the search and rescue authorities to contact the beacon owner, or his or her designated alternate by telephone to determine if a real emergency exists. Therefore, a simple telephone call often solves a 406 MHz alerts without launching costly and limited search and rescue resources, which would have to be done for a 121.5 MHz alert. For these reasons, the search and rescue community is encouraging aircraft owners to consider retrofit of 406 MHz ELTs or at a minimum, consider the purchase of a handheld 406 MHz Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) which can be carried in the cockpit while continuing to maintain a fixed 121.5 MHz ELT mounted in the aircraft's tail.

NEW LEMOORE MOA BECOMES ACTIVE

Beginning Feb. 4, Central California will have a new military operations area (MOA). That's when the [Lemoore MOA](http://www.aopa.org) becomes active. AOPA requested numerous modifications to the [MOA](http://www.aopa.org), which was first proposed in 2004, to mitigate the impact on general aviation. Although many of AOPA's requests were incorporated in the final plan, pilots should be alert to changes in the airspace, many of which have been charted since last August. At AOPA's request, the FAA increased its outreach and notification to pilots, sending notification letters to airmen and contacting local FBOs and GA associations. The MOA will be available for military use beginning Feb. 14.

Watsonville Pilots Association Minutes

Vice-President John Cowan called the January WPA meeting to order at 7:15

Minutes

- ✍ The November minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

- ✍ The treasurer's report was postponed since the treasurer; Sarah Chauvet was out of town.

Old Business

- ✍ Hal Zamora gave a quick update regarding the on-going legal action. The December 6th ruling from the judge was favorable for our cause. The tentative preliminary ruling is that the City of Watsonville is in violation of the State Aeronautics Act (SAA). The judge ruled that the City does not have a legitimate Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan and is in violation of the SAA by elimination the Zone 3 Runway protection zone in the Buena Vista area. The City violated the SAA by removing limitation on high occupancy building around the airport by passing a resolution in 2005.

New Business

- ✍ At the hearing, Judge Burdick asked WVI Pilots Assn., FOBV, Cal Trans Aeronautics Division and the City of Watsonville to submit additional supplemental briefs by January 22, 2008. All the parties' responses to the supplemental briefs are due in court by February 13, 2008. The final court decision has been postponed to Thursday, March 13th, 9 am in Dept. 8, Santa Cruz. Still undecided by the court is the water issue and the agricultural land protection plan. The Pajaro Valley has severe fresh water over-draft; and salt-water incursion is contaminating the underground aquifer.

Announcements

- ✍ Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the save the airports cause. Donations to the legal fund are still needed and can be sent to the WPA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm

~ Submitted by Charlene McIntyre, secretary ~

Wings: Ramp Checks

- ✍ The speaker for the new FAAST program was Matthew Hill from the San Jose FSDO. He gave us a very comprehensive talk about ramp checks. This was a very well attended seminar. Pilots kept the discussion going well after the end of the presentation.

Next WINGS Seminar

The next WINGS Seminar will be on Feb 27th at the WPA meeting. The topic will be **Lightsport Airplanes**.

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.

The 2008 WINGS Seminar & Safety Presentation Schedule

January: 1-hr WINGS Seminar TOPIC: Ramp Check! The real story.

February: Presentation TOPIC: Lightsport Airplanes

March: 1-hr WINGS Seminar TOPIC: VFR into IMC? Not me!

April: Safety Seminar TOPIC: Taming the Taildragger

May: No meeting or Seminar. **Watsonville Air Show and Fly-In**

June: 1-hr WINGS Seminar TOPIC: Fuel Management ... a challenge?

July: Presentation TOPIC: National Weather Service

August: 1-hr WINGS Seminar TOPIC: Landings, the good, the bad and the ugly!

September: Presentation TOPIC: Wild Card session

October: 1-hr WINGS Seminar MRY & SNS Tower Controller Q&A

November: No Meeting or Seminar. Fly Safely.

December: No Meeting or Seminar. **Annual dinner meeting!**

FAASTeam ~ FAASafety.gov

FAA Runway Safety Program Approach Chart For Pilots

Notice Number: NOTC1099

The FAA Runway Safety Program has made available through FAASTeam the following information card, which will fit in your approach plate book. To see or print the information card please use the web link below:

https://www.faasafety.gov/files/notices/2008/Jan/FAA_Runway_Safety_Program_Chart_for_Pilots.pdf

To obtain copies of the above card, please contact your local FAASTeam Program Manager. For more information on who is your FAASTeam Program Manager and Runway Safety information, please go to <http://www.FAASafety.gov>.

Fuel Prices

At WVI Fuel Island, 100LL is **\$4.28** and Jet A is **\$3.72**
(02/11/2008)

At K3O1 (Gustine), SS 100LL is **\$4.24** (02/11/2008)

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 Airport Legal Fund

Please Help WVI 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

Thanks for Your Support

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:	News Ed./As. Sec.
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, **Feb 27, 2008.**

@ the EAA-WAEC Building

60 Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport