



Demurrer Denied

The attorneys for the City of Watsonville filed a demurrer to exclude the State Division of Aeronautics from the legal action, WPA VS the City. The dictionary says a demurrer is an objection; and law-wise "is a pleading [by the City] in effect that even if the facts are as alleged by the opposite party [WPA and CALTRANS], they do not sustain the contention based on them." On Thursday January 4 the judge denied the demurrer. He stated that the Division of Aeronautics will not be excluded, and indicated that what the City is planning is unsafe. That has to be considered a big plus for the Watsonville Pilots Association and others involved.

Reportedly the city attorneys appeared to be disappointed. The question arises, will the City continue the costly action to try to ram through the bad airport land use planning contained in the new General Plan 2030 and the made-to-fit EIR.

The basic problem is that the cost of installing all the infrastructure, such as water, sewer, and roads, requires that a future specific plan contain at least the 2250 houses, in order to be economically feasible. A high percentage of these houses will be in "Buena Vista I" which is aligned with Runway 26, the second-most-used runway (existing houses now exceeds the maximum in runway safety zones 1 through 4). This density of development is incompatible with legitimate, responsible airport land use planning. Pilots must have options if they have to make a forced landing. People should not be subjected to the risk of an aircraft crashing into their homes. The City has not come up with a Specific Plan for Buena Vista.. Attorneys say that a faulty General Plan paves the way for a faulty Specific Plan. Any Specific Plan, based on General Plan 2030, will not provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people traveling by air or those on the ground. Airport supporters would be gullible and naïve to expect that the City's future Specific Plan would come close to being safe. It will create a permanent noise and safety problem. The lessons of history show that encroachment is often the demise of runways and airports and leads to more lawsuits.

The demurrer decision provides for the inclusion of the Division of Aeronautics in the effort to ensure responsible airport land use planning around Watsonville Airport. That's good news for everybody who is interested keeping airports viable and safe.

~ Dan Chauvet ~

Back to the future at Castle Airport New Class D and control tower opening

If you haven't read the Federal Register recently (just kidding—does anyone read that?), you may have missed that Castle Airport in Atwater, CA, the home of the fourth longest runway on the West coast, is getting a control tower again. Of course, it used to have a control tower years ago when it was home to a SAC base and dozens of our nation's B-52 bombers. The bombers are gone and Castle was relatively quiet for many years. However a large flight school moved there last year, increasing the number of operations, and there's also a need to protect IFR operations into the airport. So effective January 18, 2007, you'll want to plan to use the following frequencies:

- Tower/CTAF..... 118.175
- Ground..... 133.575
- AWOS..... 124.475
- Pilot Controlled Lighting..... 123.000
- Unicom/ Gemini Flight Support..... 123.075

There's one odd note in the Federal Register, which reads "This action would establish Class D airspace extending upward from the surface to 2,500 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL) within a 4.5 nautical mile radius of the airport." Of course a standard class D has a four-mile radius. For some reason--perhaps the two mile long runways--this new Class D is larger than standard.

There are all kinds of reasons to go to Castle. The best of course is to view the many historic military aircraft at Castle Air Museum. Their collection has some rare birds including the SR-71 Blackbird, the fastest flying aircraft in the world today, an F-4 Thunderbird, a RB-36 Peacemaker, a B-24 Liberator. If you've never seen a Peacemaker—one flew over Jimmy Stewart in the movie Strategic Air Command—it's quite a sight with six propeller engines behind the wind of this massive bomber in a pusher configuration.

You may also want to hold your next business conference or fly-in at Castle. If you choose to stay over and be billeted, according to their website, "You will be staying in what was formerly known as the TLQ's (Transient Living Quarters), where all rooms remain intact with Air Force furniture, the very same that was used when this was an active base."

~ Max Trescott ~

National group targets Watsonville control near airport

WATSONVILLE; A national aviation group is pushing for state legislation that would force Santa Cruz County to establish a commission to oversee development proposals near the Watsonville Municipal Airport.

The action is the latest in a series of legal and political challenges designed to influence the city's plans to expand north of the airport in the Buena Vista Road area.

In the next two decades hundreds of homes, as well as shopping centers, schools and parks, could be built in the area on what is now agricultural land and open space.

The proposal by the Maryland-based Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association aims to end Santa Cruz's exemption to a 40-year-old California law requiring countywide airport land-use commissions, and would shift a measure of control over development decisions away from Watsonville leaders.

"From our perspective, this is a public safety issue. Essentially poor land-use planning in the short term creates unnecessary safety problems in the future," said Chris Dancy, spokesman for the national group.

Local pilots and airport backers have lobbied for a commission because they believe Watsonville's leaders ignored the potential for increased safety and noise problems when making their plans. Historically, county and regional groups with say over Watsonville's development have favored more limited growth than city leaders.

Santa Cruz County is exempt from law, in part, because Watsonville owns the airport.

Three other rural counties, Alpine, Modoc and Sierra, also are exempt because their leaders made an official finding that no land-use conflicts exist.

Dancy said his group, which has more than 400,000 members nationwide and 50,000 in California, hasn't lined up a legislator to carry the bill, but is talking to several potential sponsors.

The effort has city officials worried enough that Mayor Manuel Bersamin sent a letter to Assemblyman John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, late last month asking him to oppose any attempt to introduce such legislation.

City Manager Carlos Palacios said he'd like to find a middle ground, such as establishing a city commission to advise on airport issues.

"We are concerned about it," Palacios said Monday. "It would take some of the land-use decisions out of City Council's hands and put it in a county committee. That's another layer of government we'd have to go to, another layer of bureaucracy. It would be advisory ... but it adds another complication"

~Santa Cruz Sentinel~
~January 30, 2007~

Flying Companion Seminar

The Monterey Bay 99s will be presenting a "Flying Companion Seminar" soon. The Flying Companion Seminar is for non-pilots who would like to be more comfortable in the cockpit. Becoming an active participant increases the enjoyment of travel by private plane. If you have a friend, spouse, family member who flies with you and would like to know more, they are invited to join us for a fun-filled day as we unravel the mystery of flight.

Saturday, February 24, 2007
8:00am to 5:00pm
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Advance registration is required. Donation: \$40.00 includes lunch & materials. Contact: Theresa Levandoski-Byers (831) 728-5511

A Call for Officers

The WPA nominating committee has announced a call for officers in preparation for elections in April 2007. Here's your chance to become more active in your organization. The offices are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The term of office is two years, beginning in June 2007. All offices are available, but we especially need a President and a Secretary. Neither of these jobs requires a large outside effort, but rather the ability and desire to attend most monthly chapter meetings as well as several board meetings each year. The officers of Watsonville Pilots Association do for the organization what they are good at and what they enjoy. We welcome you whatever your interests and talents. If you are interested in becoming an officer, we would be happy to send you a copy of the bylaws, which lists the responsibilities for each office. Please contact Charlene McIntyre, chair of the nominating committee at 408-353-5969.

~ The WPA nominating committee ~

WPA meeting minutes of January 31, 2007

John Cowan started the meeting shortly after 7 PM.

. Minutes

The October meeting minutes were accepted as published in the November newsletter.

Treasures Report

Sarah Chauvet reported that funds are sufficient for business and that there are no outstanding bills.

Old Business

- ◆ The first WPA Flyout was unfortunately rained out. It was decided to wait for better weather before scheduling the next one.
- ◆ The WPA December Holiday Dinner was well received. The turnout was good and the pilots that came seemed to have a pretty good time.

New Business

John Cowan reported that the membership mailing drive is going fine and that the mailing will be soon. Some members have volunteered to help John with these mailings

Announcements

- ◆ Mike McIntyre spoke to the group on how the Airshow really needs our help. It needs a strong backing to illustrate the importance of this airport to the community. He spoke recently with Bonnie at the airport office, inquiring about the response to the recent request for financial support for the Watsonville fly-in. According to her out of a possible 300 pilots only 16 sent support in the form of a donation. We need to do better than this. Please contact Bonnie at the airport office or Mike McIntyre if you can help. (831) 728-6075
- ◆ Dan Chauvet reported on the how the attorneys for the City of Watsonville filed a demurrer to exclude the State Division of Aeronautics from the legal action, WPA VS the City. For more information, please see complete article on front page.
- ◆ Dan Chauvet also reported on how Watsonville Mayor Manuel Bersamin sent a letter directly to Assemblyman John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, late last month. The Mayor asked him to oppose any attempt to introduce legislation that would force Santa Cruz County to establish a commission to oversee development near the Watsonville Municipal Airport. Mayor Bersamin said that a plan was not needed. What do you say? Please express your views on the importance of airport safety by also sending a letter to our Assemblyman. He needs to know. His address is:

Assemblyman John Laird
27th District State Assembly
701 Ocean St. Suite 318-B
Santa Cruz CA. 95060

~ Minutes by Chris Olmsted ~

Icing Effect on Aircraft

Rayvon Williams gave another excellent Wings presentation on Icing Effect on Aircraft. He started with an icing video and referenced a NASA web site for a course on icing. It can be found at: <http://aircrafticing.grc.nasa.gov/courses.html> Some highlights of

the presentation were:

- Always have a plan or a way out.
- Although icing won't immediately make the plane fall out of the sky, do immediately plan to get out of it.
- The temperature range where icing occurs most frequently is between +2°C and -20°C.
- The highest moisture is normally found at the top of the clouds.
- Large drops can be below freezing temperature and still be a liquid. This is known as supercooled.
- Helpful tips: Turn off the Autopilot. Use maximum prop RPM.

Next Safety Meeting

The next Safety Presentation will be on February 28th at the next scheduled WPA meeting. The topic will be G1000 in your future? Presented by: Max Trescott. For further information on upcoming WINGS Seminar's, go to the WPA Home page at <http://www.watsonvillepilots.org/> and press the [WPA "WINGS" Seminar Calendar](#) button.

Please send us your email address

Email is proving to be the most effective and cost-effective means for communicating important WPA information. If you are willing to receive occasional organization mail from WPA, please send your e-mail address to:

watsonvillepilots@yahoo.com. We will respect the privacy of your email address and use it only for important WPA business.

~ John Cowan ~

WPA e-news

The WPA newsletter is available on the WPA's web page at: <http://www.watsonvillepilots.org/>. If you would like a monthly e-mail with the link to the current newsletter when it's published, instead of a U.S. mailed newsletter, please send your email address to wpanews@yahoo.com. It will be treated with strict confidentiality.

~ Bob Olmsted ~

Fuel Prices

At WVI Fuel Island, 100LL is **\$3.53** and Jet A is **\$2.99**
(02/11/2007)

At K301 (Gustine), SS 100LL is **\$3.12** (02/11/2007)

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 every Tuesday evening, beginning at 6:30 PM in the National Guard Armory, 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: 137 Falmouth CT., Aptos, CA 95003
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. 28**
at the EAA-WAEC Building
60 Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport