



### Support SB 1118—Write to Your Representative



Your support for SB 1118 is needed. All airports in California, not just Watsonville, are being pushed by development encroachment. Part of the fix is legislation promoted by state senator, Ms Negrete McLeod and AOPA. SB 1118 is an effort to strengthen the State Aeronautics Law relating to Airport Land Use Commissions (ALUCs). The law concerning the ALUC is weak and has too many loopholes. Some feel the whole ALUC idea is flawed. They may be partly correct, but compared to nothing, like around Watsonville—a better idea has not been presented.

The Santa Cruz County Superior Court may provide some temporary airport protection. It may mandate compliance with the State Airport Land Use Planning Handbook (specifics lacking so as to cover all California airports). It may mandate temporarily that the State Division of Aeronautics (Aero) provide oversight to the local situation. But looking down the road, Aero cannot indefinitely focus on Watsonville. Then what?

After studying the law relating to ALUCs, Brad Smith states that we all need to write to our state representatives and urge them to support SB 1118. The following is Brad assessment summary:

- ✍ The CPUC (California Public Utilities Code or State Aeronautics Law) requires the county in which there is an airport served by a scheduled airline, or operated for the benefit of the general public to establish an airport land use commission (ALUC).
- ✍ The CPUC provides a number of ways for counties to avoid the need to form an ALUC. Sections 21670(b) and 21670.1 apply to counties in general, Section 21670.3 applies to Los Angeles County, and Section 21670.4 applies to San Diego County. The "Santa Cruz exception" is in Section 21670.1(e).
- ✍ The ALUC is charged with, among other things, developing an airport land use compatibility plan (ALUCP). Sections 21674 and 21675.
- ✍ Local agencies (cities, counties, or districts) must submit general, special, and airport master plans, amendments to these plans, zoning ordinances, and any building regulations to the ALUC (or alternate) for ruling on its consistency with the ALUCP. Section 21676.
- ✍ A public agency owning an airport covered by an ALUCP may overrule an ALUC ruling with a 2/3 vote of its governing body (Section 21676), with the exception of the County of Marin, which only requires a majority vote (Section 21677).
- ✍ Based on this description of the ALUC sections of the CPUC, the affects of SB 1118 are pretty straightforward: (1) It eliminates all exemptions/exceptions listed in item (2) above except those for the Counties of Los Angeles and San Diego.
- ✍ It eliminates the Marin exception to the requirement of a 2/3 vote to overrule an ALUC's ruling (item (5) above).
- ✍ It makes minor modifications related to the previous 2 items, and deletes some obsolete provisions (relating to details of timing for implementing the original legislation).

In my opinion, given the mess we've seen with the current situation in Santa Cruz County, that an ALUC, with all the political challenges it will pose, will be a significant improvement. Without the recent Herculean efforts on the part of Watsonville Airport supporters, WVI would be past the point of no return and on the way to the dustbin of big-money developers. We can't depend on this kind of effort, in general. I will be encouraging my state legislators, starting with Senator Maldonado, to support the bill.

Another person acquainted with the SAA writes: "It is too much to expect that someone will always be watching. We could wish for a stronger solution, but that is probably unrealistic. I have written Senator Maldonado suggesting that the bill be amended to delete the qualification of elected officials as aviation experts."

Aero is continuing to support legislation that will strengthen the Aeronautics Law and is revising the state airport land use-planning handbook. If we are going to protect California airports, we need to contact our state representatives and support these efforts.

~ Dan Chauvet ~

~ WPA Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs ~

### A Sample "SB 1118" 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)

### March 13th - Final Court Decision

The latest date is Thursday March 13, 2008. The final decision is in sight for the legal action by the Watsonville Pilots Association (WPA), Friends of Buena Vista (FOBV) and Sierra Club (local chapter) against the City of Watsonville. Because the State Aeronautics Law and airport land use planning is involved, the State Division of Aeronautics (Aero) is part of the case. It's not surprising that the final decision has been delayed because the Court is going to present a lengthily written decision.

This case has many ramifications. At stake for WPA and supporters of Watsonville Airport are the long-term viability of the airport and the continued existence of east-west runway 8-26. For Aero, it affects all airports in California. For FOBV and the Sierra Club it means living with (or not) significant negative environmental effects.

Reported earlier was the December 6, 2007 preliminary or tentative decision of the Court. That statement was favorable to those wanting to protect the airport from development encroachment. Undecided issues were water supply and agricultural land ramifications.

Since then, the Court has requested "supplemental briefs", which were turned in on Jan.22. Attorneys prepared these briefs for WPA, FOBV, Aero and the City. Then on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, replies to those briefs were submitted. The Court will have to evaluate the record (11,000 items), the original briefs, supplement briefs, and replies.

The supplemental briefs allowed further explanation of record items and original briefs. Significant analysis of the Pajaro Valley water situation is contained in the FOBV supplemental brief. FOBV did considerable research on the City's EIR for the General Plan 2030. A number of discrepancies were found.

The WPA supplemental brief and replies pointed to the City's attempt to claim that they had an airport land use plan, reflected in the General Plan 2030. In the City's EIR they claimed that an airport has "no significant impact" on noise and safety of development off the ends of runways. History does not support this contention—anywhere in the world.

After the final decision, the likelihood of an appeal or the "end game" is speculation. The City Attorney said in press interviews that an appeal was a possibility. We will know more after March 13 (unless postponed).



~ Dan Chauvet ~

**Watsonville Pilots Association Minutes**

John Cowan called the February WPA meeting to order at 7:09PM

**Minutes**

✍ The January minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

**Treasurer’s Report**

- ✍ Sarah Chauvet reported that the WPA funds are ok. The annual WPA membership dues are starting to come in. Thank you sincerely to all our renewing members.
- ✍ The legal funds are ok for now but the legal battle is not over yet. If you have not done so yet, please help support our Airport’s Legal Fund.

**Current Business**

✍ Dan Chauvet reported on the current situation of the Watsonville Airport lawsuit. Please see his article “Court Decision—March 13” on the front page. Dan urges that for the long-term solution to please write to our State Representatives to support SB 1118. A sample letter can be found on the front page, along with some suggested State Representatives.

**New Business**

✍ Brad Smith spoke about SB 1118 and its importance to our local Airports. The purpose of this bill is to help fix many of our airport land use problems here in California. For example, under this bill, Santa Cruz County would be mandated to create an Airport Land Use Commission. For more info on this important legislation, please see the article on page 1 of this newsletter, and please, write your State Senator or Representative. A sample letter is also on page 1.

✍ There has been a problem with rodents at the WAEC building where we meet. A pest control service was retained and the problem was resolved. It was requested that the folks that use the building help with this pest control expense. The 99’s contributed \$125 to this cost. Sarah asked for a vote for the WPA to also help with \$125. The vote passed, and it was seconded.

**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.

~ Bob Olmsted ~

**Taming the Taildragger**

The speaker for this safety seminar was Shawn Kelly. He has taught Taildraggers as a CFI for many years and had Flight Schools at WVI and SNS. He is presently with Light Sport Airplanes West in Salinas. Shawn emphasized several main points when flying a tail wheel aircraft. These are summarized as follows:

- ✍ **Takeoff**
  - ✍ Tailwheel Aircraft: Torque, P-Factor and Gyroscopic Precession all produce a left turning tendency.
  - ✍ Tricycle Gear Aircraft: Gyroscopic Precession produces a right turning tendency.
- ✍ **Landing**
  - ✍ Types: (1) 3-point (full stall), (2) Wheel Landings
  - ✍ When down – get the stick back.
  - ✍ The best way to judge a descent is to look out towards the runway end (*or far away*) and use peripheral vision to the sides.
  - ✍ Last resort – If a landing is bringing you around into a ground loop; use brakes if you have to.

**Next WINGS Seminar**

The next WINGS Seminar will be on March 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**FAA Sponsored Safety Seminars Schedule 2008**

*Last Wednesday of each month @ 1930 Hours  
Watsonville Aviation Education Center, 60 Aviation Way, Watsonville, CA*

January 30	WINGS Seminar	Ramp Check! The real story.
February 27	Safety Seminar	Taming the Taildragger
March 26	WINGS Seminar	VFR into IMC? Not me!
April 30	Presentation	Light Sport Airplanes
May	<b>WATSONVILLE AIR SHOW &amp; FLY IN</b>	
June 25	WINGS Seminar	Fuel Management ~ a challenge?
July 30	Safety Seminar	National Weather Service
August 27	WINGS Seminar	Landings: <i>the good, bad &amp; ugly!</i>
September 24	Presentation	Wild Card session
October 29	WINGS Seminar	MRY & SNS Tower Controller
November	<b>No Seminar</b>	<i>Fly safe, Enjoy the Holidays</i>
December 10	<b>No Seminar</b>	Annual dinner meeting

**Fuel Prices**

At WVI Fuel Island, 100LL is **\$4.45** and Jet A is **\$4.01** (03/01/2008)  
At K3O1 (Gustine), SS 100LL is **\$4.36** (03/01/2008)

**WPA Airport Legal Fund**

It is not over yet. 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 ~ 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 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport  
**Monterey Bay 99s --** meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport.  
**Civil Air Patrol Squadron 13 --** meet 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, beginning at 7:30 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport.  
**Northern CA Aerobatics Club IAC38 --** meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:wpanews@yahoo.com)

WPA Newsletter  
PO Box 135  
Brookdale, CA 95007-0135

**Next Meeting**

7:00 PM, Wednesday, **March 26, 2008.**  
@ the EAA-WAEC Building  
60 Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport