



Watsonville Pilots Association

"Serving Aviation and the Community"



www.watsonvillepilots.org

October, November, December 2010

Calif. Flight School Regulation Delayed to 2011

By AOPA ePublishing staff

The California state budget passed late Oct. 7 with a measure that delays the implementation of costly flight school regulations in the California Private Postsecondary Act of 2009 until July 1, 2011.

AOPA had worked with key lawmakers during the past few weeks to include this much-needed delay in the final budget package to protect thousands of aviation jobs throughout the state. Now the legislature and industry stakeholders have time to work together to determine a more viable and healthy long-term solution to the issue of consumer protections for flight students.

“This is an important step to allow lawmakers additional time to consider all of the potential consequences of these regulations as they are currently written,” said AOPA Vice President of Airports and State Advocacy Greg Pecoraro. “We look forward to the opportunity to see this issue through to resolution with a long-term solution that offers consumer protections without inflicting damage on the aviation industry—to protect countless small businesses and jobs in the state.”

The flight school regulations that became law this year as part of the California Private Postsecondary Act of 2009 require flight schools to pay multiple new administrative fees and open their books to regulators. They were part of an effort to extend consumer protections to flight students, but could ultimately impose a financial burden that many small flight schools would be unable to bear.

AOPA worked with key lawmakers, local aviation groups and pilots, and the National Air Transportation Association for months to garner support for the moratorium and to pursue different legislative vehicles for enacting it before ultimately focusing on the budget process.

Governor Vetos SB 1141

SB 1141, the senate bill to improve airport land use commissions (ALUC) in California, was passed overwhelmingly by the Assembly and Senate. But then it was vetoed by the Governor. There are about seven non-generic ALUCs in the state that do not work well to protect airports. These would have been required to become compliant with specifications in the aeronautics law. In addition SB 1141 would have required an ALUC in San Bernardino County.

Speculation is that some city officials in San Bernardino County and possibly another elected official whispered in the Governor's ear to veto SB 1141. Whether there will be a future attempt at legislation to improve ALUCs remains to be seen.

Dan Chauvet

WPA Litigation Status Update

Lawsuit #1, the General Plan lawsuit, has moved to a final phase. A work in progress, nearing completion, is preparation of a draft document to augment incorporation of the California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook into both the County General Plan and a future City of Watsonville General Plan. The purpose of the draft document is to facilitate future land use decisions, responsible decisions, in the area around Watsonville Airport. That area is called the Airport Influence Area (AIA). The document must be examined by WPA's attorney and well as others, and hopefully will be adopted.

Lawsuit #2, the Lawton Building lawsuit, is practically finalized. This litigation resulted from the City doing "business-as-usual" and ignoring and violating the court's injunction. Since the permit has been withdrawn for a building located close-in in Zone 3, the status is haggling over the amount of legal fees that must be paid.

The costs of the general plan lawsuit for the Friends of Buena Vista and Pilot Association combined are nearly \$700,000. Likely the costs to the City were close to the same because they hired attorneys from the Oakland-Berkley area. So the city paid total legal fees of around 1.4 million. For what? To close a runway and create for the airport permanent noise and safety problems—to permanently diminish the operational capability of KWVI. In addition to legal costs, there will be the expense to redo the general plan with its EIR.

Eventually, the litigation will be history. But for now a critical phase is, the content of the general plans.

Dan Chauvet

October 30th – The Annual Watsonville Regional Airport Promotion – PAC Dinner

A member of the “Third House”, Kathy Lynch, will be the 2010 featured speaker at the annual WRAP dinner. It’s **Saturday October 30th at 6:00 pm at the Green Valley Grill**, in the banquet room, top floor. Kathy Lynch, an experienced lobbyist in Sacramento is involved with legislation affecting airports and aviation.

Kathy will be speaking about state government (and lobbyists’ role) and legislation from the “30,000 foot level” (including the state’s “budget”) and then come down for some lower altitude particulars. Specifically she’s been involved in legislation affecting aviation business, the notorious AB 48 and its fix, AB 1140, and maybe the inside story on SB 1141. The really interesting parts of the story could come from your questions and answers.

The purpose of the WRAP Dinner is twofold. #1 is to have an intriguing, informative program. #2 is to raise some funds for the PAC. WRAP’s objective is to help candidates that would vote to maintain, improve and protect the airport. WRAP is supported by airport supporters, which includes to community-at-large. Your contribution to WRAP is effective because, in combination, it’s highly leveraged (up to 20 to 1). Of the seven people running for Watsonville City Council, five (5) asked for WRAP’s endorsement and support. The other two are supported by other entities with different agendas.

Yes, the WRAP dinner is kind of a dress up affair, with men wearing a sport coat and tie (if they want to), and women wearing the usual, anything they want. The cost is \$50.00 per each. There are no tickets. Just an attend list.

If you are not yet on the attend list, you get on it by calling Chairman Dan Chauvet at 831-724-8256, or CFO Hal Zamora 687-0719 or by email.

Or better yet, send a check made out to “**WRAP**” to: 147 Mesa Verde Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076-0949. We need to know projected attendance ahead of time. Thanks for supporting KWVI (airport identifier).

The WRAP Dinner Schedule:

6:00 to 6:15 visiting with candidates, the speaker and others

6:15 -Introduction of organization officers, candidates, public office holders, and column writers; (please try to be attending by then).

Coming Events 2010

Oct 17 WVI Open House
Oct. 27 WPA Meeting
Oct 30 WRAP Dinner
Nov. 2 EAA 119 Meeting
Nov 6 Young Eagles
(last one of this year)

NO WPA MEETING

November or December

WPA Officers

Mike McIntyre	President
John Cowan	Vice-Pres
Charlene McIntyre	Secretary
Sarah Chauvet	Treasurer
Hal Zamora	Sec. Legal Affairs
Dan Chauvet	Assist. Sec. L.A

Committee Heads

Dan Chauvet	WAAG
Richard Lippi	Web Site Editor
Randy Pesce	Field Security
Rayvon Williams	AOPA/WINGS
John Cowan	Public Relations
Brian Moffet	Video & Media
Airport Manager	Don French

Next issue of WPA Newsletter will be January, 2011.

HELP...we need a newsletter editor....if you can help please contact Sarah at chauvetsarah@gmail.com

WPA
PO Box 2074
Freedom, CA 95019

NEXT MEETING

7:00PM Wednesday, October 27 2010

At EAA-WAEC Building

60 Aviation Way,

Watsonville Airport

**Fuel Starvation and
Exhaustion**