



City of Santa Barbara
Airport Department

Meeting 10/16/19
Agenda Item No. 7

DATE: October 16, 2019
TO: Airport Commission
FROM: Henry Thompson, Airport Director 
SUBJECT: Airport Controlled Transient Parking Study

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Airport Commission accept the study prepared by staff regarding airport controlled transient parking, including identified risks and vulnerabilities evaluated by Airport Staff with City Risk Management and Legal Departments. Staff's recommendation includes continued pursuit for solutions to ensure access for transient general aviation through other available means.

DISCUSSION:

In 2017 the Aircraft Owner's and Pilot's Association (AOPA) launched a campaign targeted at reducing the cost of flying into airports around the nation in an effort to improve transient general aviation aircraft access. It cited price gouging for services aircraft operators were not interested in paying for to access FBO controlled aprons and access points. This follows the industry trend in airport operators turning over control of GA security access to the FBO's as airports' resources are being stretched thin.

SBA developed an Airport Master Plan that was adopted by City Council in December 2017. The goal of the Airport Master Plan is to provide the framework needed to guide future airport development that will cost-effectively satisfy aviation demand, while considering potential environmental, and socioeconomic issues. The Airport Master Plan does not include land use policies that guide growth in the manner that a specific plan or general plan would provide, nor does it work in conjunction with any type of implementing regulations, such as a zoning or security requirements. Rather, the Airport's Master Plan is essentially a facility planning study that sets forth a conceptual framework for possible future Airport development.

Included in the SBA Airport Master Plan concept was one potential infrastructure related concept to assist with alternative access to transient parking areas specifically for the GA community. In lieu of infrastructure changes, AOPA has encouraged airport operators to work with their FBOs to negotiate other alternative access improvements. A significant solution incorporated at both FBOs in Santa Barbara is the waiver of handling and parking fees when purchasing certain quantities of fuel.

STATUS:

Consistent with AOPA encouragement staff believes concerns for access for transient general aviation aircraft can be accommodated without unnecessary risk and exposure to the Airport. This segment of business legitimately belongs to FBOs who are better positioned to manage it and mitigate the

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associated risks. Staff will pursue efforts to ensure this objective through new FBO agreements and partnerships.

PREPARED BY: Certification and Operations Division