

Council Meeting of
October 16, 2007

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Public Works – Approval of an appropriation of funds to build a refuse and recycling enclosure for the Torrance airport.
Expenditure: \$11,300.**

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Works Director recommends that the City Council approve the appropriation of \$11,300 to cover the cost of materials and labor to build a refuse and recycling enclosure for the Torrance airport.

Funding

Funding is available in the Airport Enterprise Fund.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On June 14, 2007, Public Works staff addressed the Airport Commission regarding a plan to replace 22 300-gallon refuse containers located at the end of each hangar with a single drop-off area for refuse and recycling collection.

There has been ongoing, improper use of the refuse containers at the airport hangars for a number of years. As presented to the Airport Commission on June 14, the Public Works Department has removed the 22 containers and replaced them with a single area for collection with 2 4-cubic-yard dumpsters for refuse, and 1 4-cubic-yard dumpster for cardboard recycling. This configuration will help eliminate the illegal dumping, lessen staff time needed to collect additional waste by hand, and lower associated disposal costs.

On September 13, 2007 staff returned to the Airport Commission to provide details regarding an enclosure for this new collection area. The 20' x 20' concrete pad with 6' block wall enclosure will be located near the east T-hangar restroom facility. The enclosure will enhance the appearance of the airport and also reduce debris obstructions on runways and foreign object debris (FOD) safety issues.

Regular refuse and recycling collection services will continue to be offered at no cost by the Sanitation Division. Hazardous waste such as oil and batteries will continue to be collected for recycling and proper disposal through Airport Administration at no additional cost.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT J. BESTE
Public Works Director



By John Drakodaidis
Sr. Administrative Analyst

CONCUR:



Steven Cooper
Street Operations Manager



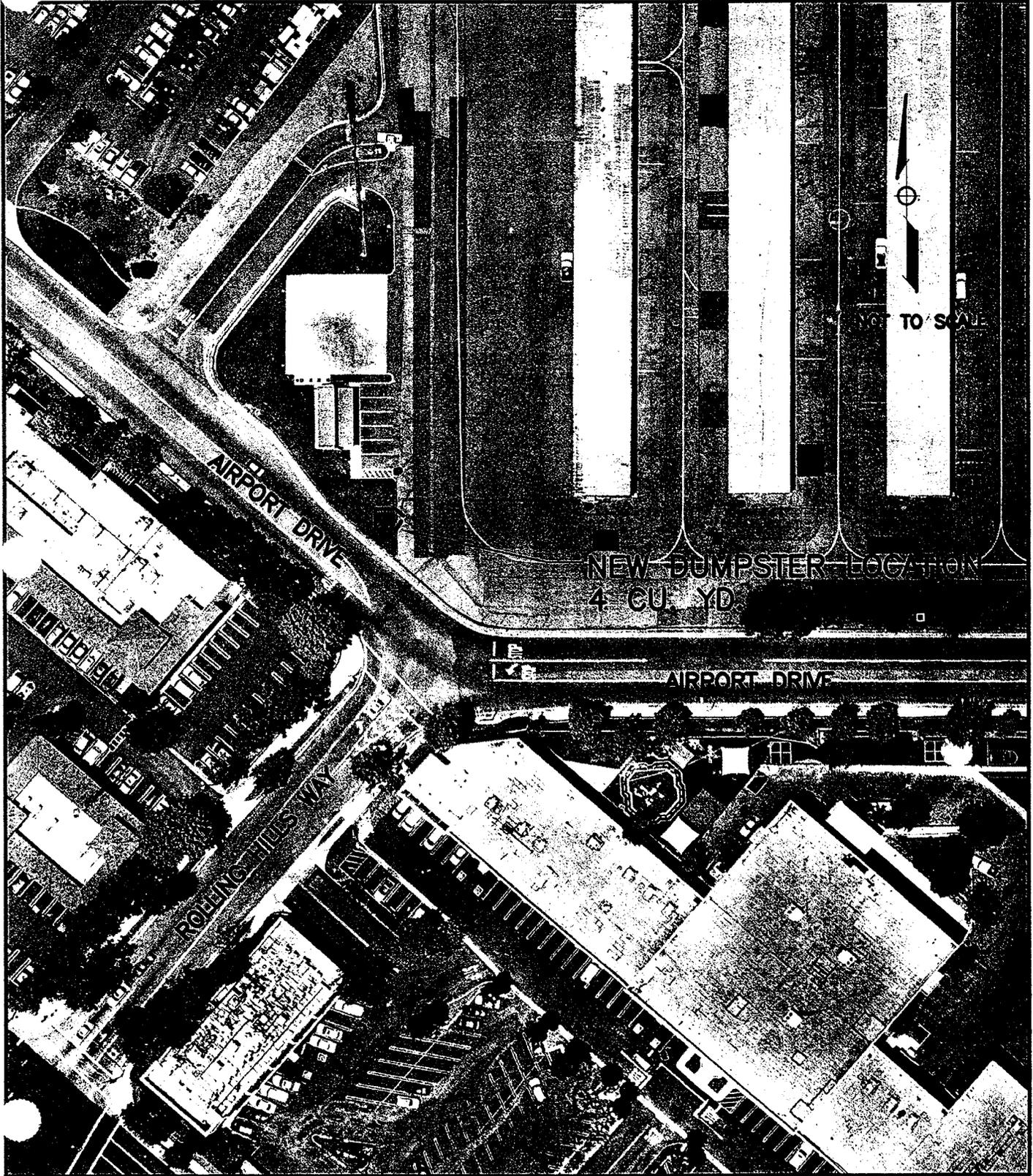
Robert J. Beste
Public Works Director



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

- Attachment: A. Map of proposed refuse/recycling enclosure
B. Minutes from June 14, 2007 Airport Commission Meeting
C. Minutes from September 13, 2007 Airport Commission Meeting

ENCLOSURE LOCATION



EXCERPT OF MINUTES

✓ Minutes Approved

June 14, 2007

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION****1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Airport Commission convened in a regular session on Thursday, June 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Adams, Dingman, Fitch, Rhilinger, and Vice-Chairperson Gates.

Absent: Commissioner Haddon and Chairperson Tymczyszyn.

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian and Sanitation Services Manager Knapp.

7D. PLACEMENT OF WASTE CONTAINERS

Sanitation Services Manager Knapp provided background and analysis regarding the ongoing improper use of approximately twenty-two 300-gallon trash containers at airport hangar locations. He reported that the majority of trash left in these containers is not trash normally generated from operations conducted at the Airport. He noted that it is probably an internal problem because a 24-hour access card is required to come onto the property. He stated that it is not only an aesthetic problem but that there are also costs associated with collecting the trash by hand with a separate truck and disposing it at the dump.

He discussed staff's recommendation to replace the existing 22 containers with two 4-yard commercial dumpsters that would be located in a paved, well lit, central area near the bathrooms. He distributed copies of a map showing the proposed new dumpster location. He expressed hope that consolidating trash disposal to one area would make it easier to police and collect. He stated that he would like to try utilizing the two dumpsters, and that additional dumpsters could be added if needed.

Commissioner Rhilinger suggested putting up signage warning tenants that if the problem persists a fee would be imposed.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that dumping of large items is enforceable under the Municipal Code, but that it is very hard to catch. He added that the installation of cameras at vehicle entrances under the Security Plan would also help curtail the improper dumping. He stated that tenants would be notified about the new dumpster location in the billing cycle.

When Sanitation Services Manager Knapp explained that the City offers residents one scheduled large item pickup per year, Commissioner Dingman pointed out

that many airport tenants are not Torrance residents and suggested that staff ask neighboring cities if they offer the same service.

Commissioner Fitch expressed concern that tenants would not lift up the large items to put them in the new dumpsters.

When Vice-Chairperson Gates stated that he did not think it was advisable to remove the current containers, Sanitation Services Manager Knapp pointed out that there were effectively 22 dump sites at the Airport, that there was no way to police them, and that they were being removed because of abuse.

Steven Cooper, Public Works Operations, responding to Commissioner Fitch's inquiry regarding man hours, stated that two men spend three to four hours per week devoted strictly to the excessive bulky items. He noted that the Airport would not be charged for this change because the costs would be offset, that they were trying to build in efficiencies, and that costs would be absorbed through the Operations fund.

Sanitation Services Manager Knapp reiterated that he believed that the large items are coming in offsite and that they have enabled the behavior by removing the items. He noted that if the new system does not work, they would come back to the Commission to discuss alternatives.

Vice-Chairperson Gates cautioned about the dangers of blowing trash.

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EXCERPT OF MINUTES

✓ Minutes Approved

September 13, 2007

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION****1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Airport Commission convened in a regular session on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Adams, Dingman, Fitch, Haddon, Rhilinger, Tymczyszyn, and Chairperson Gates.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian, Street Operations Manager Cooper, and Sanitation Services Manager Knapp.

7D. REFUSE CONTAINER ENCLOSURE

This item was considered out of order.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian provided a brief background on the material of record and welcomed staff from Sanitation Services and Operations Divisions of Public Works.

Sanitation Services Manager Knapp reported that the (22) 300-gallon refuse containers located at the end of each hangar have been replaced with (3) 4-cubic-yard dumpsters that are now located in a single area of collection near the east T-hangar restroom facility. He distributed before and after photographs and was happy to report that the dumping of large items has greatly decreased. He added that two pickups a week were currently sufficient, but that service could be adjusted if needed.

He stated that staff was returning to provide details regarding an enclosure for this new collection area at a cost not to exceed \$11,300. He noted that the addition of an enclosure would enhance the appearance and reduce debris obstructions on runways and foreign object debris safety issues. He stated that they wanted to put in a 20' x 20' concrete pad with 6' cinder block walls on three sides consistent with the bathroom construction.

In response to Chairperson Gates' inquiry, Street Operations Manager Cooper provided information about National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Responding to Commissioner Tymczyszyn's inquiry, he described the proposed orientation of the block wall enclosure and refuse containers and provided clarification that the enclosure would be 10' deep by 20' wide.

Commissioner Fitch initiated a brief discussion regarding funding for the project. Staff clarified that refuse removal and daily operations would continue to be paid from the Public Works fund and the building of the enclosure would be paid from the Airport enterprise fund as a capital improvement to the airfield.

In response to her inquiry, Street Operations Manager Cooper advised that the new security system should assist in catching illegal dumping.

Chairperson Gates suggested the installation of a sign informing tenants about the hazardous waste site at the Airport.

Commissioner Dingman commented that it was difficult to dispose of airplane batteries and was informed about a hazardous waste collection site in San Pedro.

Commissioner Tymczyszyn stated that he has received complaints about loss of convenience and contended that an advertised, quarterly large item pick up would have been sufficient to solve the dumping problem.

Sanitation Services Manager Knapp responded that extending a large item pickup to the Airport would be difficult to implement and manage. He stated that illegal dumping has now been reduced by 90%, that as convenient a location as possible was selected, and that rubbish issues are being addressed nationally differently than they were in the past. He noted that a little bit of effort would go a long way in improving esthetics at the Airport.

Ed Pierce, Rolling Hills Estates, stated that it was difficult and inconvenient for him to transport his rubbish barrel to the new location and to lift the barrel high enough over the top of the container to empty it. He added that the lid has fallen on his head twice and expressed concern about liability issues. He maintained that the problem of illegal dumping should be addressed by increased monitoring and that moving the receptacles to a new location was not the solution.

Commissioner Fitch suggested having raised platforms in front of the dumpsters.

Sanitation Services Manager Knapp stated that in the past they used heavy steel lids but that these lids are plastic. He cautioned against modifying the ground because there were liability issues with steps and ramps as well. He noted that one of the three containers would be for recyclable items.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian suggested that he and Mr. Pierce explore solutions at a later time and not at this meeting.

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