

Council Meeting of
September 16, 2008

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: General Services – Airport Commission Annual Report
August 2007 through June 2008**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the General Services Director and the Airport Commission that the City Council accept and file the Airport Commission Annual Report for August 2007 through June 2008.

FUNDING

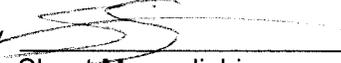
Not applicable

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Annual Report for August 2007 through June 2008 as prepared by the Airport Commission is attached for your information and review. The Commission approved this report at its meeting of August 14, 2008, and moved to request that it be accepted by the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERYL BALLEW
General Services Director

By 
Shant Megerdichian
Facility Operations Manager


Jim Gates, 2007-2008 Chair
Airport Commission

Concur:


Sheryl Ballew
General Services Director

Noted:

LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

AIRPORT COMMISSION
CITY OF TORRANCE

ANNUAL REPORT
August 2007 – June 2008

Chairperson: Jim Gates
Vice Chairperson: Bill Tymczyszyn

Commissioner Clark Adams
Commissioner Karen K. Fitch
Commissioner Susan Rhilinger

Commissioner Gerry Dingman
Commissioner Archie Phillips

Staff Liaison: Shant Megerdichian, Facility Operations Manager, General Services Department

PURPOSE OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION:

The Torrance Airport Commission advises the Mayor and City Council on matters concerning the Torrance Municipal Airport - Zamperini Field. Included within the chartered scope of activities are:

- Review of proposed locations, constructions, and financing of land and facilities for public airport use
- Review of the proposed leasing of Airport land to fixed base operators and promotion of the improvement of the Airport operations and administration
- Promotion of the Airport's commercial and industrial development
- Review of proposed special events to be held at the Airport
- Advise on matters pertaining to Airport noise
- Community outreach on Airport issues

SUMMARY OF AIRPORT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES:

The Airport Commission met monthly. The Commission reviewed, received City Staff and public input, and commented on a monthly basis on: Aeronautical Operations under the purview of the General Services and Public Works Departments, Land Management, and various Commission sub-committees.

Much of the Commission's work during the year was accomplished by three committees established by the Commission's work plan and approved by the Council. Reports on the committee activities have been made at each Commission meeting:

Committee to Recommend Policy Changes to Capitalize on General Aviation Growth Segments

In October 2007 the "Policy Committee" initiated a study of the ban on the sale or storage of jet fuel at the airport to evaluate the policy's intended and unintended consequences. Its primary finding was that the policy caused extra, unnecessary jet flights from the airport as jet fuel users obtained fuel at neighboring airports.

At the June 2008 meeting, the Commission approved the "Policy Committee's" report which concluded that the policy prohibiting the sale of jet fuel at the Torrance Airport:

- 1) does not restrict or discourage jet aircraft from using the Torrance Airport,
- 2) that removing the ban will not attract any more jet aircraft to the airport than would normally come, and
- 3) that the policy has produced adverse and unintended effects on surrounding neighborhoods.

Committee to Seek Available State and Federal Airport Funding

The "Funding Committee" met several times and compiled a list of potential Federal and State funding sources that could provide up to 95% of the funds for needed airport improvements (runway and taxiway repairs and navigation equipment upgrades, for example). The Committee also identified the policies needed in order to meet eligibility requirement for those funds.

The Committee is currently awaiting a meeting with the City's consultant on grants and funding activities.

Committee to Update the Airport Master Plan

The "Master Plan Committee" reviewed the 1981 Airport Master Plan to compare it with current airport development. Producing a new Master Plan for the Airport would be a long and expensive process and the Committee is evaluating how to proceed. Departure of two committee members from the Commission during the year retarded progress.

AIRPORT STATISTICS

Airport operations, as reported by the FAA Air Traffic Control Tower, decreased very slightly (about 1%) as compared to the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and about the same decrease from the average of the previous five-year periods.

Data on the number of noise ordinance violations has been unavailable since mid-2002 as the new noise monitoring systems was developed, installed and

tested. That system is reported to be 100% complete as of July 2008 and the Airport Commission looks forward to resumption of reports of this important statistic.

| Reporting Period (July 1 to June 30) | 2003-2004 | 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Operations (thousands) | 174.1 | 166.6 | 144.0 | 166.5 | 164.8 |
| Incidents & Accidents | 35 | 44 | 32 | 43 | 39 |
| Noise Ordinance Violations | No data available since mid-2002 | | | | |

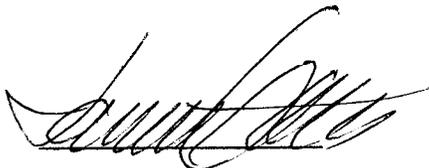
Airport operations resulted in an average of about 3 incidents per month during the period—no accidents occurred. Most were very minor, such as flat tires and equipment anomalies. Two minor collisions with parked aircraft occurred on the ramp as large aircraft maneuvered in the confines of the transient parking area and two aircraft experienced landing gear failures during the year.

SUMMARY:

The Torrance Airport is a valuable and irreplaceable transportation and recreation asset to the City of Torrance and to the entire South Bay area. It is a key part of the local economy and source of pride to the community. Its usage must be balanced with the community needs and desires. We believe this has been achieved. The Commission looks forward to resumption of the monthly noise monitoring system report from the new system which became 100% operational in June.

The Chairman and the Airport Commission would like to thank the City personnel that have provided exceptional assistance to the Airport Commission and deserve note. Among them are: Mr. Megerdichian (Facilities Operation Manager and Staff Liaison), Ms. Zucker (former Airport Business Manager), Ms. Cessna (Environmental Services Administrator), Mr. Sunshine (Land Management Team Chair).

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Gates

Chairman (August 2007 through June 2008)

Noted:
