



Council Agenda Report

From: Freda Berman, Public Works Director

Subject: Approval of Paso Robles Airport 50th Anniversary Celebration

CEQA Determination: The City find that this action is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(e), Minor Alterations of Land, as a temporary use having no permanent effect on the environment

Date: April 4, 2023

Facts

1. The Paso Robles Municipal Airport originated as a Marine Corps Bomber Base and was dedicated as Estrella Army Airfield in 1943. In 1947, the Federal Government transferred the land to the County of San Luis Obispo to be used as a commercial airport. Commercial service continued until 1974.
2. On May 7, 1973, the County sold the Airport to the City of Paso Robles for \$1. In 1973, there were four businesses with a total of 22 employees at the Airport. Today more than 40 businesses and over 700 employees make up the Paso Robles Municipal Airport community.
3. An event spotlighting the Airport was first held in 1992 and staged periodically since. To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Paso Robles Municipal Airport, the Airport Commission proposes to invite the public to the airport grounds on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to showcase the rich history, current activities and future plans for the Airport.
4. The free admission event will feature the arrival of military aircraft, a parachute drop, and static displays including historical aircraft, Cal Poly aeronautics, and information on the Spaceport and Technology Corridor. Other informational booths will include local law enforcement, military recruiters, local flight schools and pilot organizations. A remote-control demonstration is planned as are ticketed bi-plane, helicopter and C-47 rides.
5. The public is encouraged to celebrate the 50th Anniversary with a free cupcake – 2,000 will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Food trucks will also be on site.
6. City staff will supplement the staffing for this volunteer-run event. The Airport Commission, led by Commissioner Tony Gaspar, will spearhead operations along with volunteers from the Boy Scouts, Grizzly Academy and youth sports groups.
7. The 50th Anniversary Celebration is estimated to cost \$26,000, including City staff overtime.

Options

1. Take no action;
2. Authorize the staging of the Paso Robles Airport 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Paso Robles Municipal Airport on Saturday, September 23, 2023, or;
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

Analysis and Conclusions

The Paso Robles Municipal Airport is a linchpin in the future vision of the northeast area of the City beginning with current efforts to secure a Spaceport license as part of the spaceport and technology corridor initiative. Increasing public awareness of the history and potential of the Airport can only assist in creating the energy and enthusiasm to make the vision a reality.

The Airport Commission has put together a complete plan to educate and entertain event attendees. Promotions are planned to attract up to 3,000 attendees to the Airport for the Celebration. City staff will assist as necessary to ensure a safe, well-coordinated event.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated total event cost including labor, materials, and equipment is \$26,000. If approved, appropriations will be included in the FY 2023-24 budget update and split between Airport Fund Reserves and General Fund Reserves.

CEQA Determination

The event is exempt from CEQA under Section 15304(e) of the CEQA Guidelines, as a minor temporary use having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment. If Council approves the recommended action, the Paso Robles Municipal Airport would process the Airport's Special Event Permit, that includes standard waivers and procedures.

Recommendation

Authorize the staging of the Paso Robles Airport 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Paso Robles Municipal Airport on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at an estimated total cost of \$26,000, split between Airport Fund Reserves and General Fund Reserves.

Attachments

None.