



Aviation Update - September 12, 2019

September 10 Board of Supervisors Meeting Recap

Request for Proposals (RFP) for Full and Limited Service Fixed Base Operators

On September 10, the Orange County Board of Supervisors (Board) advanced the John Wayne Airport General Aviation Improvement Program (GAIP) a step further by approving the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Full and Limited Service Fixed Base Operators. The RFP includes the land use restrictions the Board adopted on June 25 to ensure a significant portion of the airport remains for use by light general aviation.

A key part of the Board's decision involved whether to include additional specificity in the RFP regarding what structures will ultimately be built at the airport. The City of Newport Beach (City), the City of Costa Mesa, aviation-focused community groups and the So Cal Pilots asked for the inclusion of more details into the RFP to provide clear direction to potential proposers. The City also examined the legal issues and we believe our request for more detail in the RFP was well within the law. The County, however, holds a different legal opinion, and the Board felt constrained by the law from including the precise facilities and mix of structures that will be built under the GAIP.

We're disappointed that our requested details didn't get included in the RFP, but based upon the Board's discussion, we believe the Supervisors understand the needs and desires of the communities surrounding the airport and the So Cal Pilots. Many of their comments and questions centered on issues Newport Beach raised and also involved maintaining the current mix of general aviation at the airport.

Now that the RFP is finalized, we intend to work directly with the fixed base operators as they develop their proposals and we will continue to communicate with the County. The City of Newport Beach will oppose any proposal that does not support our community's best interests.

2020 Plan Year – Airport Capacity Allocations

The Board approved the staff recommendation for the John Wayne Airport Capacity Allocations for the 2020 Plan Year. Under the new plan, JetSuiteX/Delux will only be allowed to continue to operate at ACI Jet if its operations fall within the 2019 Plan Year operations levels, which total about 95,000 passengers. If JetSuiteX/Delux wants to increase its passenger allocation, it must move its entire operation to the Thomas F. Riley Main Terminal. If this occurs, JWA would allow JetSuiteX to provide operations for up to 200,000 passengers in the 2020 Plan Year.

The City was encouraged by the Board's decision and sees this as first step toward moving this commercial operation back to the main terminal, where all other commercial operations are based. We have repeatedly expressed safety, security and accountability concerns over JetSuiteX operating at an FBO, in the general aviation area of the airport.