

## **Item E            Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport - Proposed Commission Role Discussion**

### Background statement

Recently the CAC completed the re-envisioning study at WHP and did vote to recommend the closure of that airport. The LA County Airport Commission has not formally commented or has it provided input to the WHP process and consideration should now be made consistent with the airport commission's intended role. As each member of the airport commission represents different county seats, it is reasonable that each commissioner, in their role and assignment in reviewing all county airport matters, now contact their elected office to review next steps for the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in their consideration of WHP. As the charter of the commission provides opportunity for commission members to provide input on airport related matters, it is also reasonable that the BOS consider that input before taking any policy direction on the CAC Vision Study recommendation. As such, I recommend the following motion:

### **Motion:**

That members of the commission should now contact their elected representative offices and review the process for which the airport commission can and should play a role in these discussions. In addition to that communication delivered to the BOS by the re-envisioning committee and members, the following items should be part of any briefing or discussion from commissioners and using staff support where necessary. Commission members shall report back at the April meeting with feedback from their elected office

That BOS staff and elected should consider the following when considering a vote on the re-envisioning vote.

- A. The important role WHP plays to LA County Sheriff and Fire Operations
- B. The important role WHP plays for Civil Air Patrol and search and rescue operations in the nearby mountains.
- C. The important role WHP can and will play in emergency disaster relief in the SFV, as was the case in 1994 during the Northridge earthquake.
- D. The number of jobs that WHP creates.
- E. The direct and indirect economic impact that WHP creates vs. alternative land use development that would congest the community.
- F. The consideration for the relocation of 600 based WHP aircraft:
  - i. Displaced environmental justice impacts by closing one airport and then imposing on other communities to accommodate WHP aircraft.
  - ii. VNY and other airport community opposition to move more aircraft to their airports.

- G. That the Pacoima Neighborhood Council is in opposition to a WHP closure.
- H. Aircraft owners, businesses and regional support groups' call to keep WHP open and WHP plays a vital role in local aviation transportation.
- I. That County staff has made a commitment to:
  - i. Install a safe, commercially viable and alternative fuel and can evaluate other environmental mitigation measures such as solar, battery storage and electrical aircraft infrastructure.
  - ii. Reduce community exposure to airport-related noise impacts.
  - iii. Improve airport-related health and safety concerns.
  - iv. Improve local bilingual communications.
  - v. Stimulate job creation for the local community.
  - vi. Provide amenities and services to the broader community through landscaping, a public viewing area, dining options, and host community organized events like car shows, festivals, and job fairs.
- J. The WHP user community continues successful outreach to local youth and other groups through Open House events, Civil Air Patrol, Young Eagles program, and skills training in youth builds of aircraft where the feedback is very supportive of WHP Airport.

Call for a second on the motion.

Discussion (Commission and Public)