



# PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

## AIRPORTS DIVISION

<https://edcgov.us/Government/CAO/airports/Pages/airports.aspx>

---

### ADMINISTRATION

2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 621-5355 \* (530) 642-0508 FAX

### AIRPORTS

3501 Airport Road, Ste. 1, Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 622-0459 \* (530) 622-0270 FAX  
Email: [airportoperations@edcgov.us](mailto:airportoperations@edcgov.us)

## COUNTY AIRPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the February 24, 2021 Special Meeting

Location: Virtually, via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:06 p.m. by Russ Sardina, Chair

To comply with protective requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was virtual, using Zoom, and it was recorded.

Participating members: Russ Sardina, Sue Bell, Jason Brand, Chris Nelson, Gary Vorderbruggen

Absent members: Ricky Branaugh, Mike Worth

Participating staff: Chris Perry, Sherrie Busby, Julianne Melchor, Jeremy Gutenberger, and Jessica Dillon

Guests: Wanda Nagel, Dave L., Ken Baiocchi

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Russ made a motion to adopt the agenda without changes; Gary Vorderbruggen seconded the motion. The Agenda was adopted without changes.

III. DISCUSSION ITEM:

Airport Benchmark Study – Chris Perry presented information on his progress with the Airport Benchmark Study. Comparator airports for the Placerville Airport include: Amador County, Auburn Municipal, Byron and Buchanan, Cameron Airpark, Columbia, South Lake Tahoe, Lincoln Regional, Nevada County, Rancho Murieta, Red Bluff Municipal, Sacramento Executive and Yolo County airports. Comparator airports for the Georgetown Airport include: Alturas Municipal, Colusa County, Corning, Beckwourth-Nervino, Cloverdale Municipal, Scott Valley, Mariposa/Yosemite, Sutter County airports, Chester Rogers Field, Weed, Turlock, and Calaveras County airports. Questions being asked include: who operates the airport; how many staff work at the airport; does the airport have direct administrative support; how many hangars are at the airport; how many of the hangars are private; how many of the hangars are airport-owned; what is the rate for airport-owned hangars; what is the rate for hangars owned by other entities (lease for land/space); what percentage of the hangars are vacant; does the airport limit the number of leases which a tenant can have; does the airport include a reversion clause in its leases; what are the tie down rates; does the airport have FBOs, and if so, what kinds of businesses; what are other revenue sources for the airport other than fuel and hangar/tie down rentals; how does the airport price fuel; what insurance does the airport require hangar lessees and owners to have, and what are the minimum levels of coverage. Some airports have not responded so far: Columbia, Lincoln Regional, Rancho Murieta, Red Bluff Municipal, Colusa County, Corning, Mariposa/Yosemite, and Calaveras County. Of the airports that have been contacted, not one has responded to every question. Chris requested members to let him know if they have contacts at any of the airports that haven't responded. Regardless of

whether or not he has gotten responses for all airports, he expects to provide a full data set of the information gathered by the March meeting. Russ suggested adding Davis University, Yolo County, and Watts/Woodland Airports as comparator airports. Gary suggested adding Susanville. Chris Nelson suggested adding Oakdale. Dave L., Chris Nelson, and Gary suggested removing Buchanan, Byron, Executive, and Rancho Murieta (private) because the demographics don't make a good comparison to El Dorado County airports, and suggested adding Quincy, Willows, Marysville and Sutter County. Chris Perry and Jessica are checking websites first, then calling, then sending an email. They are making further calls and emails to try to gather data, and they started contacting these airports about two months ago. Russ suggested adding a question about the use of FAA grants. Discussion ensued about whether the data would be complete by the March meeting. Jason Brand asked about the process and time frame following the collection of data, including making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Chris Perry indicated the time frame needs to be defined, but the process would include an update on the status of the Airports from the Committee to the Board; scheduling will be determined by the CAO and others, and constrained by budget meetings that will be held in the next few months – there are many moving parts. Developing economic principles for the airports needs to be considered also. Russ appealed to committee members and users to be prepared to present a unified front to the Board.

- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (limited to 3 minutes each): Wanda Nagel requested a list of the questions as she could get answers from contacts at two of the airports. Chris Perry indicated the questions would be distributed to members. Gary requested that it be sent to all users on the distribution list. Chris Perry will provide introductory language to be used for contacting the airports and the information will be sent to the email list. Ken Baiocchi asked about changes to the duration of leases; Russ indicated that discussion will be on the agenda for the March meeting. Dave L. is supportive of a central place for information that can be accessed by all users, so users could see the progress of the study. Gary made a motion that advisory committee members plan to attend a Board meeting to request their approval that this item be fast-tracked to get answers before August; Chris Nelson echoed Gary's concern and clarified that the committee wants to see the data before the next meeting, not at the next meeting. Chris Perry confirmed that data will be posted ahead of the March meeting. Gary suggested trying a new approach to garner business for the Airports, which are languishing. He asked if it is necessary to wait for information, rather than trying something sooner, rather than later. The approach needs to be changed, rather than trying to copy what others have done. Russ suggested that a well-thought-out ten-year plan needs to be developed, such as that posted by Auburn on their website; and that in the absence of an economic plan, the result has been benign neglect within El Dorado County. Revenue needs to be diversified so that rates and fees are not the only income stream for the airports; development needs to be looked at also. Russ added that this issue needs to be discussed in greater depth at the next meeting, not at this special meeting with a limited agenda; he recommended that members contact their board members with their concerns.
- V. ACTION ITEMS: None.
- VI. ADJOURNMENT: Chris Nelson made a motion to adjourn; Gary (and Russ) seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m. The next meeting will be March 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.