



**TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR STAFF REPORT**

AGENDA TITLE: Temporary Seasonal Control Tower Update

MEETING DATE: July 26, 2017

PREPARED BY: Hardy Bullock, Director of Aviation & Community Services

RECOMMENDED ACTION: None. Informational item regarding the operation of the temporary seasonal control tower (tower).

DISCUSSION: In mid-June the airport had a marked increase in the operational tempo. The tower was called upon to operate at its designed service levels for extended periods of time. Staff evaluated a number of factors related to the quality and performance of service offered by the tower to our transient and home based customers. The basic measurement tools were tower surveys, radio transmissions, pilot contacts, tower staff meetings, SMS reports and internal District team meetings.

The tower has performed well responding to a high volume of aeronautical traffic. In mid-June staff and the tower manager along with the executive team from Midwest Air traffic Control Service conducted an extensive Tower Service and Safety Audit. It was determined that the level of airport activity along with the diverse nature of the traffic warranted an additional part-time equivalent (PTE) staff member to assist the daily tower staff with IFR coordination. A number of other training and service level enhancements were discussed and implemented in cooperation with Midwest ATC, District Staff, and Oakland Center.

The tower has delivered satisfactory services during the recent peak periods. Pilot surveys which will be discussed in detail in the Fall of 2017 indicate overwhelming support for the tower from a safety and capacity perspective. The community benefit from the tower looks promising although analytic data will not be available until the Fall. Some community comments related to the tower are being audited and clarified and blended into the tower data set for presentation in the fall.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total expenditure for the tower will not be realized until early Fall. The program budget is \$500,000 for the construction, program planning, and operation. Staff anticipates minor additional costs primarily related to the county building permit, access and paint. Additional cost include a PTE staff member not to exceed \$25,000. This cost is yet to be finalized.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: The initial outreach program has been completed as planned. The tower has had only two instances where an aircraft was unaware of the tower, frequency or services. The many independent aeronautical publications are reflecting the requested changes outlining the tower services area etc.

ATTACHMENTS: None