



TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR STAFF REPORT

AGENDA TITLE: Temporary Seasonal Control Tower Update

MEETING DATE: August 23, 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: The tower continues to perform well responding to a high volume of aeronautical traffic. 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. Staff has meet on numerous occasions to work directly with the tower on certain aircraft routing scenarios. The tower controllers are working to implement all the noise abatement procedures while ensuring aircraft separation and spacing.

Oakland Center has contacted the District to discuss projected peak period volumes on the Labor Day weekend holiday. Absent an official flow control program the solution appears to be an FAA official who will work inside the Truckee Tower to coordinate flights directly with controlling entities such as Oakland Center and NorCal Approach Control.

Additional discussions are pending related to the required infrastructure to support communications and data for the tower. The FAA is requesting a secure direct line between the tower and Oakland Center. The existing phone and data lines will not support this. District engineers are assessing the feasibility of installing adequate ground conduit and lines for this level of service. Staff will balance this work with the Boards desire to continue tower service avoiding any possible improvements that will not be needed.

WHAT'S NEXT: Monthly tower report for September 2017.

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 cost for the one FAA official to be present on Labor Day. Staff has agreed to cover per diem and lodging expense as necessary to ensure safety and coordination based on the FAA request. Anticipated cost is less than \$1000.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: The community and pilot outreach plan is attached here for review. The 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