



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

AGENDA TITLE: Fly Quiet & Safety Program Concept Review

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 24, 2023

PREPARED BY: Jeff Menasco, Director of Aviation

PRESENTED BY: Jeff Menasco, Director of Aviation

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board provide feedback on a new incentive program concept that encourages noise emission reduction and professional aviation & safety development for pilots.

DISCUSSION: There are currently 3 incentive programs offered by TTAD to local pilots. The 'Home Based Program' offers pilots who register their aircraft at TRK (for tax purposes) a discount of roughly \$42. The Fly Quiet (FQ) programs offer discounted hangar rent for honoring no-fly periods. The FQ 1 no fly period is 11pm – 6am, and the FQ 2 no fly period is 10:30pm – 6:30am. In 2022 there were no violations of this program. These programs do not address any other noise emission reduction behaviors.

A key area not addressed by TTAD incentive programs is flight safety which has been raised as an issue by the community, staff, and Board. 23 aircraft accidents have occurred in the vicinity of TRK over the past 23 years, and a large portion of these events were low-hour time inexperienced pilots departing with high density altitude and windy conditions resulting in a traffic pattern stall. Over the past 30 years accident rates in Commercial Aviation (Part 135 & 121 operations) have fallen dramatically, however the accident rate in General Aviation (Part 91) has remained steady. In response to this, the FAA created an 'FAA WINGS' program to reduce the accident rate in General Aviation. The FAA WINGS program has been extremely successful, and some insurance companies now offer discounts to 'FAA WINGS' pilots.

PROPOSAL: Create an incentive program that encourages 'Fly Quiet' periods, positive noise emission behaviors, and professional aviation & safety development for pilots. A key tenant to this program would be to invest in our pilots' development to make them safer while also taking a more creative approach to reduce noise emissions in the community.

- 1) Create a professional pilot development program in partnership with the FAA. Offer a discount to pilots who enroll in the FAA WINGS continuing education program. There is no known airport in the US to offer an incentive program like this, and initial conversations with the FAA are very positive. They are willing to explore a test-bed program at TRK.
- 2) Adopt one Fly Quiet window to match the Town of Truckee Noise Ordinance of 10pm – 7am.
- 3) Allow arrivals/departures during the 1-hour left (6am) and right (11pm) of the Fly Quiet, without penalty, if the pilot can depart on established noise abatement procedures out of the area (not for training). Examples include departing RWY 11 or RWY 02 with flight paths towards Brockway Summit or climbing out to the southeast of the airfield. Continue to offer waivers when requested for safety of flight issues. Still ask pilots to use this extra hour only when necessary and abide by the 10pm-7am window.
- 4) Expand the noise emissions program to include a touch-and-go policy; with potential to provide a fuel rebate if/when requested to depart the area due to traffic congestion or noise.
- 5) Discontinue the Home-Based Program discount.
- 6) Proactively communicate these initiatives as part of a hangar revitalization program. Seek feedback from local pilots and communicate with all stakeholders to include the community on what actions TTAD is taking to holistically address pilot and community concerns.

FISCAL IMPACT: TBD.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: TBD.

SAMPLE MOTION(S): I move to (approve, deny, or continue) exploring the 7 items in the proposed incentive program that will address both noise emission reductions and flying safety.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Tab 8a: Sully's Take on WINGS
- Tab 8b: FAA WINGS Program Overview