

County Airports Business Plan: A Message from SCAPA President Mike Brogley

Contributed by Mike Brogley
Sunday, 28 January 2018

SCAPA Members,

I was happy to see a good turnout of SCAPA members along with other local pilots in spite of the rain at the Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 information meeting for the Santa Clara County Airports Business Plan Update hosted by Airports Director Eric Peterson. As I said at the meeting, I was also glad to see the mindshare that the airports are getting from Eric's boss, Director of Roads and Airports Harry Freitas. With all the deferred maintenance we've seen at both E16 and RHV, the airports have sometimes felt like the redheaded stepchild of the Roads and Airports Department, so the increased attention we're getting lately from the new generation of management is welcome.

But as you know, there's a reason the airports are now getting this attention: Efforts are afoot to change the level of commitment that Santa Clara County will sustain to its two remaining airports. That's why it is important for pilots to make our support for maintaining, improving and continuing to operate both Reid-Hillview and San Martin airports in the meetings that the County Airport folks are conducting.

The next Airport Business Plan Update meeting will be held on February 15th targeting, but not restricted to, members of the RHV neighborhood community, and I'd like to encourage any pilots that have time in their schedules to attend - the meeting details are:

Santa Clara County Airports Business Plan Update Meeting with Reid-Hillview Airport Neighbors

February 15th, 2018, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Hank Lopez Center

1694 Adrian Way

San Jose, CA 95122

The other point I heard loud and clear from the meeting last night was the statement that the county staff, with whom SCAPA has made a multi-year effort to build strong communications channels, are not the decision makers in this: The decisions that are going to be made about the future of Santa Clara County's Airports are going to be made by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

And we have a golden opportunity to communicate our views with our District 1 Supervisor, Mike Wasserman, when SCAPA hosts Supervisor Mike Wasserman as our speaker at the Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018 SCAPA meeting at the Wings of History Museum. Mike will talk to us about his view of the county airports and the airports business plan update that is

currently under way by county staff at the Board of Supervisor's request. This is our opportunity to communicate our concerns regarding airport preservation and upgrades, accepting FAA funds, hangar lease expirations, possible future county airport curfews, full time employee on airport, and similar issues.

We gather starting at 5:30pm, dinner is at 6pm (\$15 members, \$20 non-members) and our presentation starts at 7pm.

Don't miss this opportunity to help communicate the enthusiasm and vibrancy of our local airport community, and it's value to the south county region.

The flyer we're distributing for the February SCAPA Meeting with Supervisor Wasserman is available for download [here](#). Feel free to print this flyer out and share it with your non-SCAPA-member friends (and encourage them to join SCAPA!).

Thanks for helping us make a strong turnout for the SCAPA meeting on February 13th!

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Mike Brogley, 2018 SCAPA Board President

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