



Council Agenda Report

From: Dick McKinley, Public Works Director
Subject: Resolution of Support for Paso Robles to Host the 2019 AOPA Regional Conference
Date: May 2, 2017

Facts

1. The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is recognized as the leading national organization representing general aviation.
2. AOPA has recently shifted from a large annual convention, held at just one location nationally, to a series (4 or 5) of regional conventions, held around the country at smaller airports, thereby providing a greater exposure to more of the flying community. This concept has met with great success. AOPA has issued a Request for Proposals from interested airports to host the events in 2019.
3. The scope of this two day event (Friday and Saturday) requires proposers to identify the ability to accommodate a specific size of gathering:
 - 2,500 people in attendance
 - 1,000 cars
 - 500 airplanes
4. The Airport Commission, at its April 20, 2017 meeting recommended City Council support of the effort.
5. A City Council Resolution expressing official support for the event is an essential element of the submittal.

Options

1. Do nothing;
2. Approve Resolution 17-XXX showing the City Council support the City's application to host the AOPA Regional Conference at the Paso Robles Airport in 2019.

Analysis and Conclusions

The influx of 2,500 people from all over the west coast is undoubtedly a benefit to the local economy and the ongoing effort to promote our area. There is ample opportunity to involve any and all service providers – restaurants, hotels, wineries, etc. – in promotion efforts of whatever scale is desired. The first step is to be accepted as an event site.

The airport is capable of meeting the site requirements, as this event is very similar in size to our annual airshow. The local events calendars have been reviewed and the required three possible event dates submitted impose the least impact on our local schedules for the year. The Paso Robles Airport is well situated to host the 2019 AOPA event, and staff have been working closely with AOPA to hopefully secure this event.

Fiscal Impact

There can be significant financial impact to the community and the City of having an event of this magnitude at the Airport. The people who attend will largely stay in local hotels (probably 400 of the 500 pilots and their families, while the rest will camp), and many will stay in town after the event ends on Saturday and return home on Sunday. This means more hotel nights, and more meals in local restaurants.

In addition, the allure of the wineries will encourage high AOPA attendance and bring people who will want to spend time and money visiting those wineries.

The Airport will receive some additional revenues through fuel flowage fees, but will have some offsetting expenses related to hosting the event.

Recommendation

Approve Resolution 17-XXX showing the City Council's support of the City's application to host the AOPA Regional Conference at the Paso Robles Airport in 2019.

Attachment

Resolution 17-XXX Supporting AOPA Event Application

RESOLUTION NO. 17-XXX

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR AND ENDORSING THE PROPOSAL TO HOST AN
AIRCRAFT OWNER & PILOT ASSOCIATION (AOPA) REGIONAL CONFERENCE
DURING 2019 AT THE PASO ROBLES AIRPORT

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso de Robles operates the Paso Robles Municipal Airport for the service and benefit of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the vital role aviation plays in the economic stability of the local area; and

WHEREAS, the City supports efforts to enhance and grow the local aviation community; and

WHEREAS, the City welcomes the opportunity to host special events that invite visitors into the area to showcase and sample the local fare and experiences; and

WHEREAS, a proposal is being prepared for submittal to AOPA to host a regional conference of the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association, a two-day fly-in event at the Paso Robles Airport, to take place in 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. All of the above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The City Council does hereby support and encourage the selection of Paso Robles as the site for an AOPA Regional Conference during 2019.

Section 3. The City Council does approve the use of the airport facilities as necessary for the staging and operation of the proposed event.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect on the date approved by the City Council.

APPROVED this 2nd day of May, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Steven W. Martin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kristen L. Buxkemper, Deputy City Clerk