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HMB airport - MCC inquiry

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To: Gregg Dieguez <gadieguez@gmail.com>

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Hi Gregg,

Please see responses to your questions below:

1. The airport still uses leaded gasoline. Recent studies show health damage in young children near airports, and we have concerned residents and council members.

While we have not conducted air quality testing at Half Moon Bay Airport recently, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) conducted several years of air quality monitoring both on the airfield and in the community surrounding the San Carlos Airport. The air quality monitoring showed results that were consistently below EPA standards for lead, and at the same level as areas away from the Airport. The flight activity at Half Moon Bay Airport is significantly lower (approximately 70% less) than flight activity at San Carlos Airport. Based on this information (and barring lead in the air from other sources), it is highly likely that lead levels in the air in and around Half Moon Bay Airport are far below EPA standards for lead.

2. I don't know the enforceability of the current airport policies, which I would like to understand, especially 'touch and goes'. For example, some pilot did 17 the other day (screenshot below). Can that license be suspended, or can they be fined?

The Airport has a comprehensive noise abatement program that discourages touch and goes at night and on weekend and holiday mornings. We also have a full-time Communications Specialist that conducts outreach with flight schools, pilots, and airports in the larger bay area regarding our Noise Abatement Program and Procedures. The pilots based at Half Moon Bay Airport are some of our best advocates for noise abatement, especially with pilots visiting from other airports. Davi Howard, Airport Communications Specialist can be reached at dhoward@smcgoov.org.

It's important to note that Aircraft in flight are under the sole jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). For safety issues involving aircraft in-flight, the FAA has an online reporting hotline: <https://hotline.faa.gov/>.

The County/Airport does not have the authority to move flight paths, penalize or fine pilots. Touch and goes are an essential component of flight training. That said, we are happy to reach out and talk to pilots that cause noise disturbance for our neighbors. Most pilots are responsive to friendly reminders and conversations about how to reduce noise impacts whenever possible. The Airport is

constantly expanding its noise management program utilizing in-person, online, and ongoing outreach with pilots.

The Airport has a comprehensive noise information webpage at <https://publicworks.smcgov.org/noise-abatement-program>. Noise complaints can be filed online at <https://www.planenoise.com/smc> (*online noise complaints are helpful for us as we can correlate the complaint to an aircraft & provide a more detailed response*). We also have (2) noise abatement videos for Half Moon Bay Airport on our website at <https://publicworks.smcgov.org/smc-airports-video-series>.

3. What is the overall benefit to the County from the airport? I understand there are some emergency response plans, for example.

- Half Moon Bay Airport provides training and scholarships for pilots and aircraft mechanics (SFO is the #1 employer in our County)
- There is a national pilot shortage – flight training cannot occur at large airports like SFO, it must take place at general aviation airports like Half Moon Bay and San Carlos Airports
- Half Moon Bay Airport has an active Disaster Airlift Response Team (DART)
 - Half Moon Bay Airport DART website: <http://www.cecportal.org/disaster-airlift-response-team.html>
 - DART held two training exercises in October 2021 along with the County Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Coastside Emergency Action Program (CEAP)
- Half Moon Bay Airport hosts the annual Dream Machines event that supports that Coastside Adult Day Health Center and several other nonprofits
- The Airport is a designated evacuation location for families and/or large animals during fires and storm events
- The Sheriff's Department uses the Airport for driver's safety training (FAA approved use)
- MCC office space

4. What is the financial impact of the airport? What fees and revenues are received, and what financial costs are incurred?

The Half Moon Bay Airport operates as an Enterprise Fund, using no County General Funds. The Airport is funded with user and business fees, rents, and leases.

Airport tenants and businesses pay property and possessory interest tax for leased space, and aircraft tax, annually which is deposited to the County's General Fund. Those funds are distributed to local cities and public schools. Taxes paid by users of the two County Airports contribute approximately \$1.5 million per year to the County's General Fund.

On sunny days, aircraft fly in and spend money at restaurants in Princeton and the Harbor (and in October, to buy pumpkins) – many stay overnight in local hotels, etc.

5. Is the County the sole entity controlling HMB airport? (City of HMB thinks it has no role, I checked)

The County of San Mateo owns and operates the Half Moon Bay Airport facilities and grounds. The Airport parcel was deeded to the County for use as an Airport (exclusively). Any other use of the property requires approval by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Aircraft in flight are under the sole jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

6. What plans exist for future use of the airport?

- We intend to maintain the existing facilities at the Half Moon Bay Airport
- The Pilot Light Café will be opening soon (where the Three Zero Café was located previously)
- We do not have plans, nor is there demand, for growth due to coastal fog most of the year
- The Airport hopes to replace the aging terminal building with an updated facility that includes community room space

I'm happy to discuss further if you have any additional questions or would like any additional information.

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