

**Report to La Quinta City Council  
Palm Springs International Airport Commission Meeting  
April 16, 2014**

**Budget:**

The Airport Commission Budget Committee met earlier this month, and released its draft budget for fiscal year 2014/2015. The entire commission reviewed the draft, and approved it for submission to the Palm Springs City Council for approval. The major points of the budget are:

1. It is balanced, with a very slight planned surplus. Revenue shows a 5% increase to \$18,332,558.
2. It includes the local portion of all FAA grants for capital projects (\$1,260,000).
3. It accounts for the maintenance of about \$6,000,000 in unrestricted cash.

The entire capital outlay for FY2014/15 Special Projects is \$3,333,000, and includes:

1. Sustainable Landscaping Conversion
2. Replacing some airport vehicles, including a bucket truck
3. Replace 30 year old HVAC system
4. Replace worn/stained carpet in the main terminal
5. Replace a/c in loading/boarding ramps
6. ADA improvements for the parking lot
7. Replace escalators to the Bono terminal

2013/14 is the year of the highest Federal grants (\$10 million) since 1979. Next year is expected to exceed \$11 million.

**Passenger Activity:**

Passenger activity was up 7.2% from last March, and it set yet another record.

**Airport Master Plan:**

Our Master Plan was adopted in January 2010, with a horizon going out to 2028. Our periodic update has been delayed due to the environmental requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). With the help of the Staff and our Consultant, a Mitigated Negative Declaration is being submitted to the regulatory agencies. Both the Master Plan and the Mitigated Negative Declaration are too large to send via email, but if anyone wishes to see the entire documents, I can prepare a memory stick for you to transfer the files. Otherwise, I will attempt to summarize the activities.

Regarding the Master Plan, the options considered ranged from doing nothing; to the building of an entirely new passenger processing facility south of the terminal. After review, the plan that is to be submitted addresses the Immediate Action Plan, which includes expanding the existing ticketing, baggage, car rental, and security facilities; while doing nothing to preclude an ultimate redesign of the passenger process at a later date.

Options to expand the car rental facility were identified for either the north end of the terminal or the south end. Traffic patterns were analyzed, and the result is that neither choice significantly affects traffic on the adjacent city streets in a negative way.

Regarding the environmental issues studied for the Mitigated Negative Declaration, many factors were studied. Most factors showed no significant environment issues, while a few required some degree of mitigation. The factors included:

Aesthetics: no issue

Agricultural Resources: no land was used for agriculture in the recent past

Air Quality: only impaired during construction

Biological/Habitat Preservation: no endangered species identified

Cultural: some WWII aircraft ruins were found, but not impacted

Geology and soils: No fault traces found

Green House Gases: only impacted during construction

Hazardous Materials: none

Land Use and Planning: NA

Hydrology and Water Quality: no impact

Noise: no impact outside the existing noise cone study

Mineral Resources: none

Population: no impact

Public Services: minor impact during construction

Transportation and Traffic: no impact, as the project is to reduce traffic flow

Utilities and Services: none

Mitigation methods are being identified for the construction phase.

Based on the minor mitigation required, and the report from the Consultant, the Commission recommended that the Master Plan and Mitigated Negative Declaration be submitted to the City Council. They have already been distributed for public comment.

The rest of the schedule is:

May 13: Review by the Historic Preservation Committee

May 28: Submit to the City

June 8: Approval by the City

**Signature Lease Amendment:**

Signature has requested that we add to their lease, the hangar that was vacated by Heckmann Aviation last quarter. Because Heckmann had such a low rental rate, this will result in roughly a doubling of the revenue from the hangar lease. Furthermore, Signature will return some unused land that had been on their lease. This land can be used for expanding our car rental facility. Another parcel of land that was returned to us was formerly used as a horse stable for the Palm Springs Mounted Police. We will add this space to our zone for business development; such as the iHUB.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2014.

Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

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