



Solano County  
**Airport Land Use Commission**  
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Ray Schoch  
Chairman

## SOLANO COUNTY AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF November 12, 2009

The regular meeting of the Solano County Airport Land Use Commission was held Thursday, November 12, 2009 in the Solano County Administration Center, Multi-Purpose Room, 675 Texas St., Fairfield, CA 94533.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Schoch, Commissioners Potter, Baldwin, Baumler, and Vancil

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Stockard, Cavanagh and Seiden

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Leland, Resource Management, Lee Axelrad, County Council, Diane Buschman, Resource Management

Items 1, 2 & 3: Chairman Schoch called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Item 4. Public Comment  
There were no public comments.

Item 5. Approval of the Minutes of October 8, 2009  
The minutes of October 8, 2009 were approved.

Item 6 ALUC-09-03: Public Hearing on a Request for a Land Use Compatibility Determination for a 422' tall 2MW Wind Turbine to be installed at 3101 Busch Drive, Fairfield, CA

Dave Feinstein, City of Fairfield, stated that the Solano County staff report more than adequately addressed all the issues and was pleased that it recommended that the ALUC find the project consistent with the Travis AFB Land Use Compatibility Plan (TALUCP). He stated that he would be bringing the ALUC's determination on the project back to the City of Fairfield Planning Commission.

Jim Leland, Solano County, noted that the ALUC previously heard this item back in October of 2008. At that time it was also referred to staff at Travis

AFB who analyzed it and found no issues with the single wind turbine that was proposed. The ALUC found the project to be consistent with the TALUCP. Now a new ALUC determination is required because the applicant is proposing changes to the project. The changes include a new wind turbine manufacturer and relocation of the wind turbine approximately 800 feet to the west of the original location. Travis AFB had been asked for their comments on the modified project. They have responded that they had no issues with the project.

Commissioner Baldwin asked if the wind turbine was closer to Interstate 80. Mr. Leland responded that he believed it was further way from the interstate. Commissioner Potter asked if the wind turbine would add to the radar interference being experienced by Travis AFB. Mr. Leland answered that Travis AFB had indicated that they had no issue the Anheuser-Busch single wind turbine in the proposed location because it was not in the sector that Travis AFB was concerned about. Commissioner Vancil asked for clarification on the location of the proposed wind turbine. Mr. Leland, with the assistance of Mr. Feinstein, briefly described the first and current proposed locations of the wind turbine. Commissioner Baumler made a motion that the Commission find the Anheuser-Busch wind turbine project consistent with the Travis AFB Land Use Compatibility Plan. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. Chairman Schoch asked for a verbal vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 7. Discussion of Changes to the Flight Rules at the Rio Vista Municipal Airport

Commissioner Baldwin stated that the FAA has increased the minimums on descent altitudes at the Rio Vista Municipal Airport. Users of the airport want to determine why the FAA raised the minimums and what can be done about it. Chairman Schoch opened the hearing to receive public comment.

Ben Doyle, JDA Aviation Technology Solutions, briefly explained why he believed the FAA increased the minimum descent altitude (MDA) at the Rio Vista Municipal Airport and how the minimums could be lowered. JDA conducted an assessment of the impact of various structures around the airport. Mr. Doyle summarized FAA documents for the Rio Vista Airport obtained from the National Flight Procedures Office. Updated FAA survey data revealed a 225' tower and some trees as new flight obstacles. The tower has been determined to lie in the path of a final approach segment at the Rio Vista Airport. In addition to the 225' the FAA added on 32 additional feet for "slough" and another 50' to accommodate any inaccuracies in the survey. He added that the FAA applies an additional 250' above the highest structure for obstacle clearance. Mr. Doyle stated that one of the ways the minimum could be reduced would be to have the tower surveyed and submit the findings to the FAA. The FAA could use the new findings to redesign the approach and lower the minimum by 50 feet. Mr. Doyle concluded by asking if there were any questions.

Commissioner Potter asked Mr. Doyle who had contacted him to research this issue and come before the ALUC. Mr. Doyle answered that he was asked

by Nextera on behalf of the wind turbine developers in the WRA. Commissioner Potter asked if they had made any inquiries to the utility company that erected the tower as to whether they notified the FAA of the placement of the tower. Mr. Doyle replied that he had not made any inquiries to utility companies about the tower. Commissioner Baldwin asked if the FAA would be able to identify the location of the trees. Mr. Doyle answered that FAA data showed 2C and 1A accuracy for the trees and the tower and that accuracy was not going to be improved at all.

Hale Conklin, Rio Vista Airport Advisory Commission, stated that the power line tower in question had been standing in that location for at least 41 years. He asked Mr. Doyle if he knew why it took the FAA so long to become aware of it. Mr. Doyle responded that he did not have an answer to that question. Mr. Conklin stated that he was concerned for the future of the Rio Vista Municipal Airport. He thought that the County should be giving the local airports in Solano County more attention. He stated that the Rio Vista Airport is one of the busiest general aviation training facilities in Northern California. The Travis Aero club which has six certified flight instructors is located there. He also stated that enXco claimed that only 42 IFR operations were flown in and out of the Rio Vista Airport last year. He continued that enXco only counted those approaches flown in IFR conditions and handled to their conclusion at either Travis AFB or "NorCal". They didn't include the hundreds of instrument approaches and missed approaches flown in VFR conditions. Mr. Conklin stated that he and other airport supporters want to do whatever it takes to protect the future of their airport and hoped that they would get more support from the County. He stated that he did not believe that the City of Rio Vista or the Rio Vista Airport Commission were notified during the permitting process for the Shiloh II wind turbine project. He also stated that one FAA representative told them that the reason the minimums were changed was because of the Shiloh II wind turbines. Mr. Conklin stated that they did not want development in the WRA to affect the future of the Rio Vista Airport and asked that impacts to their airport also be considered for any future development in the WRA.

Cliff Graham, Nextera, gave the ALUC an update on their wind energy project Montezuma Wind Energy Center. The project will have 16 wind turbines. They are currently working with other wind energy developers and the Air Force on the development of a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement. Mr. Graham also stated that Nextera had gone to the Rio Vista Municipal Airport and shared information about their project. Nextera will be coming before the ALUC in January 2010 to get a determination on the project EIR.

Commissioner Vancil asked if any of the 16 turbines were taller than any others. Mr. Graham answered that they are the same height but some of them would be higher than others depending on whether or not they were placed on a rise or a shallow area.

There being no further comments or questions the public comment session was closed and the ALUC entered into a closed session.

Item 8. Closed Session

Item 9. Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the Solano County Airport Land Use Commission will be held on **Thursday, December 10, 2009**, in the Solano County Administration Center, Multi-Purpose Room, 675 Texas St., Fairfield, CA 94533