



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: July 18, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Dean Albro, City Manager
d_albro@ci.lompoc.ca.us

Jeff Malawy, City Attorney
Jmalawy@awattorneys.com

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 6596(23) Closing Certain Portions of the Lompoc Airport Property to the Public Between 9:00 pm and 6:00 am

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6596(23), closing certain portions of the Lompoc Airport property to the public between 9:00 pm and 6:00 am.

Background:

The Lompoc Airport property is currently open to the public 24 hours a day.

Government Code Section 37359 provides that “the legislative body having control of any property owned or controlled by the city may at any time withdraw the property from the personal access and use of members of the public, or limit the access or use in area or time or in any other reasonable manner deemed necessary. Any person thereafter using the property without permission or in a manner other than that prescribed is a trespasser. This section does not limit or restrict any person from access or use who has a private right in the property.”

Discussion:

Airplanes can take off and land at the Lompoc Airport at all hours of the day, and consequently, the functional portions of the airport – the runways, buildings, roads, etc. – must remain open to the public at all times. However, a significant portion of the parcels on which the airport sits is open space, including a portion of the Santa Ynez Riverbed area. Staff are aware that some individuals are using the open space on the airport property for purposes unrelated to the airport’s functions and in ways that may endanger the public, airport safety, and may cause pollution and other impacts to the river. Consequently, staff recommends closing the open space areas of the airport property to the public between the hours of 9:00 pm and 6:00 am, to ensure that the only people on

the Airport property during those hours are Airport/City personnel, airport patrons, and those authorized under a lease with the City.

The proposed resolution would close the open space areas of the Airport, located north of George Miller Drive and located north and west of the Airport runway, to all members of the public between the hours of 9:00 pm on one day and 6:00 am the next day. Any individuals present in that location during those hours would be considered a trespasser under state law. A map showing the restricted areas is attached to the resolution.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no anticipated direct fiscal impact as a result of closing the open space portion of the airport property. It is anticipated that staff time, with its related personnel costs, will be required to educate and deter potential trespassers, although the exact quantity of time that will be required is not known.

Conclusion:

Adopting the proposed resolution would close the open space portion of the Lompoc Airport property between the hours of 9:00 pm and 6:00 am, and provide the City with an enforcement mechanism for removing individuals who are present in that location during those hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Albro, City Manager



Jeff Malawy, City Attorney

Attachment: Resolution No. 6596(23)