



Legislation Text

File #: 24-0345, **Version:** 1

Planning and Building Department, Airports Division, recommending the Board:

- 1) Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to sign and submit to CALFIRE a timber harvest exemption form for the removal of approximately three acres of trees necessary for the safety of operations at the Georgetown Airport; and
- 2) Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a budget transfer increasing revenue and appropriations by \$50,000 for the Georgetown Airport for Fiscal Year 2023-24 to fund tree removal work. (4/5 vote required)

FUNDING: General Fund.

DISCUSSION / BACKGROUND

Three acres of trees adjacent to the runway approach at the Georgetown Airport are currently presenting tree obstruction hazards penetrating navigable airspace, resulting in the suspension of nighttime operations at the airport. Airports Division staff worked with the County's airport consultant to prepare a site map and flag and paint the boundary of the trees to be removed adjacent to the runway approach.

Pursuant to 14 CCR § 1104.1(a), the County can clear up to three acres without a Timber Harvest Plan by completing and submitting a "Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption" form to the State of California, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). With this exemption form, the work must be completed by a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO). This work will mitigate the obstructions that are of immediate concern and help with the effort to have nighttime operations restored at the Georgetown Airport.

There are an additional three to four acres of trees that do not pose the same imminent threat but will still need to be removed to ensure compliance with federal regulations. Staff will continue to work with the County's airport consultant on a Timber Harvest Plan and an Environmental Assessment in order to gain access to Federal Aviation Administration funding for the remaining tree removal.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board may elect not to approve the budget transfer.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION

N/A

OTHER DEPARTMENT / AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Chief Administrative Office, Auditor/Controller

CAO RECOMMENDATION / COMMENTS

Approve as recommended.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approval of this item would increase the FY 2023-24 budget for the Georgetown Airport Enterprise Fund by \$50,000 and reduce General Fund Contingency by the same amount.

CLERK OF THE BOARD FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

The Clerk of the Board will obtain the Chair's signature on the original budget transfer and will forward the budget transfer to the Auditor/Controller for processing.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPONENT

N/a

CONTACT

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