

Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Response to Grand Jury  
August 5, 2008

Part I

Nut Tree Airport

Issued May 19, 2008

Solano County General Services and Board of Supervisors  
responses to the Grand Jury Report:

Finding #1

The focus of general aviation is changing from recreation to business aviation.

General Services Response to Finding #1

The General Services Department agrees with this finding.

**Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #1**

*The Board concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's finding.*

Recommendation #1

The management of the Nut Tree Airport needs to respond to the trends of the future to ensure the survival of the Airport. This includes developing better communications between management, pilots and the public.

General Services Response to Recommendation #1

The recommendation has been implemented. The management of the Nut Tree Airport constantly strives to respond to the trends of the future to ensure the survival of the airport. The Airport apron was recently rebuilt to provide wider taxi-lanes and tie-downs for large business aircraft. Management also works to develop better communications with the pilots and the public through newsletters, commission meetings, and community meetings.

**Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #1**

*The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's Recommendation.*

Finding #2

The Nut Tree Airport Master Plan is not completed.

General Services Response to Finding #2

The General Services Department agrees with this finding.

**Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #2**

*The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's Finding.*

Recommendation #2

Efforts to fund and prepare the Nut Tree Airport Master Plan should continue. The plan should include a strategic business plan and an airport marketing plan.

General Services Response to Recommendation #2

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. Efforts to fund and prepare the Nut Tree Airport Master Plan continue. On June 4, 2008, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved a grant of \$350,000 for the Airport Master Plan Project. On June 23, 2008, the County received and accepted the grant from the FAA. Preparation of the Master Plan will begin in FY08/09. The project will include a strategic business plan and an airport marketing plan. Staff anticipates awarding the contract for development of the Master Plan late this calendar year. The timeline for completion of the Master Plan is expected to be approximately 18 to 24 months after awarding a contract.

**Board of Supervisor's Response to Recommendation #2**

*The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's Recommendation.*

Finding #3

A formal connection between the Nut Tree Airport and the redeveloped Nut Tree does not exist.

General Services Response to Finding #3

The General Services Department agrees with this finding.

**Board of Supervisor's Response to Finding #3**

*The Board of Supervisors agrees there is no physical access between the Nut Tree Airport and the redeveloped Nut Tree shopping area.*

Recommendation #3

The Nut Tree Airport could attract more aircraft if those landing could easily access dining and shopping facilities. For this reason, efforts should be made to provide better access or transportation to the redeveloped Nut Tree.

General Services Response to Recommendation #3

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented as part of the next security fencing project. The timeline for this is unknown at this time. Pedestrian access gates will be included in the next security fencing project. This will allow the flying public to exit the airport onto the adjacent redeveloped Nut Tree area once the neighboring property owner connects their property to the Airport via a bridge and walkway. The Airport understands the importance of better access to dining and shopping and continues to work on easier access with the developer and the City of Vacaville.

**Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #3**

*The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's Recommendation.*

Finding #4 - The Solano County Aviation Advisory Committee is now taking a more active role though there is still confusion about its relationship with the Board of Supervisors.

**General Services Response to Finding #4**

The General Services Department agrees with this finding.

**Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #4**

*The Board of Supervisors agrees that the Aviation Advisory Committee is taking an active role but does not agree there is confusion about its relationship. The Aviation Advisory Committee is governed by its bylaws, which were approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 22, 2004.*

**Recommendation #4**

The Solano County Aviation Advisory Committee should take a more proactive role with the Board of Supervisors and consistently provide agendas, meeting minutes and reports.

**General Services Response to Recommendation #4**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the next 60 days. General Services has requested that County Counsel review the roles and responsibilities of the Nut Tree Airport Advisory Committee at the next regular meeting of the Committee which is tentatively scheduled for July 17, 2008. Additionally, the Airport Manager will begin forwarding agendas, meeting minutes and reports of the Commission meetings to the Board of Supervisors.

**Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #4**

*The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's Recommendation.*

**Finding #5**

The Fixed Base Operator is a voting member of the Nut Tree Airport Advisory Committee.

**General Services Response to Finding #5**

The General Services Department agrees with this finding.

**Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #5**

*The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's Finding.*

**Recommendation #5**

The Nut Tree Airport Advisory Committee should be an independent body free of influence by those who could benefit financially from decisions of the committee. For this reason, the Fixed Base Operator should be an advisor and not a voting member of the Advisory Committee.

**General Services Response to Recommendation #5**

The recommendation has not been implemented, but may be implemented at a later date if approved by the Board of Supervisors. At the January 24, 2008 Nut Tree Airport Advisory Committee meeting, restructuring of the membership was a topic on the agenda. The topic was discussed and the Committee recommended the removal of the Fixed Based Operator as a voting member of its membership. The General Services Department will be preparing a Board Agenda item on this topic for the Board of Supervisor's consideration. If the Board agrees that the Fixed Based Operator should be removed, then the Committee's Bylaws will be revised to reflect the change in membership.

**Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #5**

*This recommendation requires further analysis. The Board of Supervisors will consider this matter further within the next six months.*

**Finding #6**

The Solano County Aviation Advisory Committee meets quarterly.

**General Services Response to Finding #6**

The General Services Department agrees with this finding.

**Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #6**

*The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's Finding.*

**Recommendation #6**

The Solano County Aviation Advisory Committee should have more frequent regular meetings.

**General Services Response to Recommendation #6**

This recommendation requires further analysis. The General Services Department will request to have this recommendation on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the Nut Tree Airport Advisory Committee for discussion. The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 17, 2008. If the Commission recommends that they meet more frequently than quarterly, the General Services Department will request approval from the Board of Supervisors at the next available Board meeting to amend the By-laws to reflect the change in the frequency of meetings.

**Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #6**

*The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's Recommendation and will consider the issue further within the next six months.*