



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 11/5/2008

Agenda Placement: 9A

Airport Land Use Commission Board Agenda Letter

TO: Airport Land Use Commission
FROM: John McDowell for Hillary Gitelman - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning
REPORT BY: RONALD GEE, PLANNER III - 707.253.4417
SUBJECT: Airship Ventures Zeppelin Information Item

RECOMMENDATION

AIRSHIP VENTURES ZEPPELIN INFORMATION ITEM

Brief report concerning Airship Ventures which has begun operations for regularly-scheduled flights from the Oakland and Sonoma County airports on November 1, 2008 including a Sonoma and Napa Valley sight-seeing tour.

Staff Recommendation: Receive information.

Staff Contact: Ronald Gee, 299-1351

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Airship Ventures has brought a Zeppelin NT airship to the San Francisco Bay Area for daily sight-seeing flights, advertising operations, corporate and event occasions, and scientific missions. Airship Ventures will operate regularly-scheduled flights from Oakland and Sonoma County airports beginning on November first. The gondola can hold up to 12 passengers and itineraries will include tours of the South Bay/Silicon Valley, San Francisco skyline, Sonoma/Napa Valley wine country, and Monterey/Big Sur.

This item is being brought before the ALUC merely as an information item so that the Commission and public are aware that sight-seeing tours may commence over the northern Napa Valley. Airspace is controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The County and ALUC have no jurisdiction over this business except for the ability to regulate take offs and landings occurring within the County, of which none are proposed to occur.

When the Sonoma/Napa Valley wine country tours begin, we may receive complaints about noise or UFO-related calls (at least initially). Complaints should be directed to the:

- 1) Sonoma Airport Manager (707) 565-7243 or Recorded information: (707) 565-7240; and
- 2) Oakland International Airport, Noise Management Hotline (510) 563-6463.

There is no need to refer calls to the Napa County Airport Manager, Martin Pehl.

The internet link below has information about the new zeppelin, its flights and other background information:

<http://www.airshipventures.com/>

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

Airport Land Use Commission: Approve

Reviewed By: John McDowell