

June 30, 2019

County of Humboldt  
Board of Supervisors  
Honorable Rex Bohn, Chairperson

Subject: Humboldt County Aviation Advisory Committee Appointment

My "At Large" appointment to the Humboldt County Aviation Advisory Committee (HCAAC) expires this date. I have been Secretary for this Committee since 2002 and served prior to that time as an Alternate Member, but I find that my current personal and business commitments will make it difficult for me to continue to serve in this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the County of Humboldt for the extended period of time that I have been a member of the Committee. I am honored to have been a small part of the creation of the new County Department of Aviation and the hiring of the new Director of Aviation, Cody Roggatz. These recent developments, that enable the airport system to be an independent entity under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, are probably the most positive things that could have been done for the future of the County airport system. Although ACV is our primary commercial airport, the entire system including Murray Field, Rohnerville, Kneeland, Dinsmore, and Garberville are essential parts of our local economy. The strategic location of each of them, across our rugged and largely rural area, also enhances our ability to respond promptly and effectively to likely natural disasters such as earthquakes, fires, and flooding.

It is my fervent hope that the Board of Supervisors will continue their unwavering support of the County airports by providing Mr. Roggatz with whatever supplemental financial and staffing support that is found to be necessary in order to get the new department running smoothly and to also promptly correct any past deficiencies in our FAA Airport Capital Improvement Program grant obligations. These FAA grant programs leverage significant dollars into our airports and are vitally necessary in order to make the airport system operate reliably and efficiently, without imparting significant impact upon the County's General Fund. There are many unmet airport deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects that are currently unfunded partially due to our past record of non-compliance with FAA grant funding obligations. I hope that every effort possible will be made to correct this situation. Any additional Department of Aviation staffing or funding necessary to do so may rightly be considered an investment in the future of the economy of Humboldt County.

Thank you, again, for my opportunity to serve on the HCAAC. I wish you continued success as the supporters and stewards of our airport system.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Fenton

CC. Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board  
Alex Stillman, Chairperson, HCAAC  
Cody Roggatz, Director of Aviation