

March 14, 2023

Bluff Council Special Meeting

Public Comment – Wes Shook

The Town Council of Bluff, can control development in the Town Limits of Bluff and as such they are allowed to prevent the construction of Aviation Facilities within those boundaries. The Aeronautic Division of UDOT, has no rules or regulations concerning individual landing sites for private or commercial operations. You can read the Advanced Air Mobility Legislative Report they have produced, which is just that a report and has not been adopted at this time.

The Federal Aviation Administration, is the controlling party and set the parameters of all aviation facilities. AC-150/5390-2D Heliport Design outlines the requirements for construction of such facilities. In addition, FAA Form 7480-1 needs to be submitted 90 days prior to construction and approval.

The construction on aviation facilities within residential area seems to create a real safety hazard, when we have an airport a few miles west of the town which is supported by the state and the FAA and one could consider underutilized.

The infill of Copper Cliffs 1 & 2 subdivision in progressing. In the past year 3 new houses have been constructed with more to come along with the possibility of commercial development next to the HWY 191.

The development of aviation facilities within the residential area leads to the issue of excessive noise and ensuing complaints from residents. During my tenure as the Manager of the Air Tanker Base on the Santa Barbara Airport monthly meetings were held to answer complaints of noise. This air facility was built in WW11 and was then infilled with housing. The city spent hundreds of thousand dollars to install materials in private home to reduce noise issues.

Aviation resources take and land into the wind, as we all know the wind mostly comes from the west or southwest which would require the land and take off over commercial and residential areas. In addition, there is on major transmission line running just North of HWY 191 and there is a power line along the South side of HWY 191.

Aviation resources require fuel to operate, hence fuel will need to be stored on site either in a fixed tank or mobile. How will this fuel be set up to contain fuel spills. Will the owner be responsible for the safe management of fuel supply, and the waste that comes along with an aviation operation.

I have spent since 1972, working on the safety of aviation operations for the US Forest Service. I worked both with fixed and rotary winged aircraft. I have managed large operations. I have gained quite a bit of experience concerning aviation operations and received training and taught at National Aviation Safety Courses. Based on my experience & training I see no benefit to the Town for additional aviation facilities and only see negative results for the Town if Aviation Facilities are allowed.

Wes Shook Bluff UT