



Chapter of California Pilots Association
1745 Sessums Dr. Ste. 1
Redlands CA. 92374-1907

Redlands City Council Candidate Questions-Submitted by the Redlands Airport Association

1. Have you ever been to Redlands airport for travel, to pick up visitors or to attend an event?
Please share a little about your experience at the airport.

Yes, when I still had a current Medical and was actively flying, I did on several occasions take friends and visitors up for scenic flights. I've also flown into Redlands Airport to attend a local wedding, and many years ago I got my CFII from a flight school at Redlands Airport.

2. Have you ever reviewed any of the planning documents about the airport? Please share what you have reviewed.

I have reviewed the REI Business Plan, dated May 2016. In its recommendations it begins with "strengthening the airport brand." It's a great idea, but in fact the City has done virtually *nothing* in the two years since this report was issued. Even the signage at the entrance to the airport is grossly substandard. The report also recommends that the City should get into the fuel vending business (to generate revenue). I am not in favor of this idea. I don't think a municipality should be competing with a private enterprise, especially in such a small market. This is completely contrary to the City's constant refrain of "shop local." The City would, in fact, potentially put the local airport fuel vendor out of business.

3. Some small businesses that have opened or contemplated opening at the airport have complained the City of Redlands is not "business friendly". Recent airport fee schedules being considered by city staff include new "Environmental Impact" fees for businesses at the airport. These include a new annual \$150 Maintenance Operation Environmental fee and a \$200 Fueling Operation Environmental fee. These fees are in addition to existing San Bernardino County Business taxes, Redlands Business Licenses fees, and Redlands Fire Department Inspection fees. Revenue generated at the airport cannot be used elsewhere in the city by law. Even though the airport generates enough revenue to pay its own expenses, additional revenue could be used to improve airport facilities and maintenance. What are your ideas to increase airport revenue while encouraging a "business friendly" climate at the airport?

The complaints from small businesses that the City of Redlands is not "business friendly" are not unique to the airport. I have heard this from a number of other small businesses in Redlands. But as it pertains to the Airport, I would favor a simplified fee schedule that would be competitive with what is assessed at other General Aviation airports in this region. In the last election cycle I proposed the



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idea of having a motel and café built on the vacant land adjacent to the airport. This would also be designed as a conference center. In addition, I would explore the idea of having an A&P Training Course established at the airport as an extension of similar courses at our local colleges.

4. The City of Redlands does not have an active economic development program involving the airport. Hangar development that facilitates basing more aircraft, attracting airport businesses such as a restaurant and new fueling facilities could significantly increase airport revenue. What is your plan, if any, to develop the airport?

As stated above, if the City is going to boast about its Airport, then it needs to back that up with an actual, physical commitment. Certainly the construction of additional hangar space would be a step in that direction.

5. Do you think aviation or airport management experience is necessary to supervise/manage municipal airport operations?

Absolutely!

6. The City of Redlands has an Airport Advisory Board (AAB) which acts in an advisory role to the Redlands City Council. Please share your thoughts on why they have this advisory role and how their recommendations will impact you as a future councilmember.

Why does the City of Redlands have an Airport Advisory Board? I believe it's the same reason that the City has a number of other committees, commissions and boards. In one respect, it's "window dressing" that creates the illusion that the City involves its citizens in routine administration. But in reality, the City seems to do whatever it wants to do, regardless of what is recommended by these entities. My opinion is based on my own experiences as a member of the Street Tree Committee. The City boasts about its beautiful tree-lined streets, but then, contrary to recommendations from the Street Tree Committee, it consistently under funds the "Trees" line item in the budget—by a wide margin.

7. In your opinion, what is currently the most pressing issue at the airport?

It is difficult to isolate a single item as most urgently in need of attention, but high on the list would be a renewed emphasis on aviation easements that are supposed to restrict noise complaints or litigation for new residential housing in the Airport environs. In any case, I would prefer to get a consensus from the persons directly involved in airport operations, and that would certainly include pilots, hangar tenants, flight schools, the FBO, the AAB, and the RAA.