

# FLIGHT TIMES

Summer 2015: Montgomery Field Edition

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO AIRPORTS  
MONTGOMERY FIELD      BROWN FIELD



*New History of Montgomery Field wall at Montgomery Field*

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## **Calendar of Events:**

- Sep 7: Labor Day
- Sep 8: AAC Meeting at MYF, 3:00 PM
- Oct 13: AAC Meeting at SDM, 3:00 PM

## Message from the Airports Deputy Director, Rod Propst, A.A.E.

Dear Airport Tenants & Users,

I have been here in San Diego, as the Deputy Director of the Airports Division, for over six months. I was very pleased to have been selected to lead the City's Airports Division and am committed to serving all of our customers, both internal and external, to the best of my ability. I am interested in hearing your thoughts and welcome your input, as the Airports Division strives to make Montgomery and Brown Fields world class General Aviation Airports, a part of a "World Class City".

One of my biggest challenges is insufficient planning and oversight by the Airports Division, which has resulted in missed opportunities for development and revenue generation at Brown Field and Montgomery Field. This has created an adverse effect on the Airports Division's ability to clearly and consistently communicate its vision and maximize the development opportunities that current and potential leaseholders have proposed.

I have reviewed the City of San Diego Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFR) for Fiscal Years 2010 to 2014, and have found that Total Assets have increased by \$6,371,000; Net Assets have increased by \$6,230,000; during the five years Operating Efficiency has been as low as a loss of (\$512,000) to a high of \$576,000 and in FY 2014, a \$49,000 increase; ***Operating Efficiency has trended downward from a high of 13.8% to 1.1% in FY 2014***; Debt has remained constant at minimal levels of less than 5% when compared to Assets and Net Assets (Equity); and Cash has increased in four of the five years by as much as \$1,334,000. (See the Comparison Table):

FY	Total Assets	Cur. Assets	Total Liab.	Cur. Liab.	Net Assets	Profit	Cur. Ratio	OP Margin	Net Margin	Debt Ratio	Debt/ Eq	Cash + / -
2010	\$ 27,328,000	\$13,894,000	\$1,019,000	\$ 497,000	\$26,309,000	<b>\$(512,000)</b>	27.96	<b>-10.90%</b>	<b>-7.90%</b>	3.73%	3.87%	\$ 1,334,000
2011	\$ 28,436,000	\$15,049,000	\$1,142,000	\$ 508,000	\$27,294,000	\$ 475,000	29.62	10%	13.60%	4.0%	4.20%	\$ 910,000
2012	\$ 29,092,000	\$15,466,000	\$ 927,000	\$ 243,000	\$28,165,000	\$ 576,000	63.65	13.8%	15.56%	3.20%	3.30%	\$ 638,000
2013	\$ 33,612,000	\$15,587,000	\$1,524,000	\$ 850,000	\$32,088,000	\$ 199,000	18.34	4.0%	5.20%	4.53%	4.75%	<b>\$ (334,000)</b>
2014	\$ 33,699,000	\$16,078,000	\$1,160,000	\$ 300,000	\$32,539,000	\$ 49,000	53.59	1.1%	6.90%	3.44%	3.56%	\$ 865,000

The downward trend in Operating Efficiency is a direct reflection of the insufficient planning and oversight mentioned above. The Airports Division staff and I are working diligently to correct this by creating policy documents, which will ultimately be approved by the City Council, and operating procedures documents which will guide our day-to-day activities. Given a transparent framework in which to work, I believe we can make progress toward making the City of San Diego's Airports "world class General Aviation Airports".

Continued on page 3.

Airports Deputy Director Message Continued:

My intent as the Airports Division's Deputy Director and Division head is to:

- Operate both airports safely and efficiently.
- Eliminate all “hold-over” leases & secure long-term leases for Coast Aviation, National Air College, and the Gibbs parcels.
- Evaluate the “Spiders” area as to its best and highest use which may simply be “tiedowns”.
- Get the 17 acres east of the hotel at MYF released from being classified as *environmentally sensitive habitat*.
- My most pressing immediate priority is to secure a new long term lease with/for Crown Air.
- I intend to present to the “month-to-month” tiedown customers at MYF, the *opportunity* to enter into a *long-term lease* (at least 10-15 years) for the parcels upon which their “interim use” hangars are, thereby protecting their investment and in the future returning those tiedown parcels to the airport for future redevelopment.
- Gain City Council and Mayoral approval to move the threshold of Runway 28 Right at MYF 1,200 feet to the east thereby enabling the “full” use of all 4,600 feet of that runway.
- Hire another OPS Assistant at MYF in order to have Airport staff at the field seven days a week.
- Hire another Property Agent to assist in all the property management functions that have been ignored for years.
- Be attentive to input from stakeholders at the two airports and citizens affected by the airports.
- Annually, fairly and reasonably evaluate “Rates & Charges” per City and FAA policy guidance.

My ultimate goal is to leave the City of San Diego Airports better than I received them and financially efficient without burdening the tenants and users.

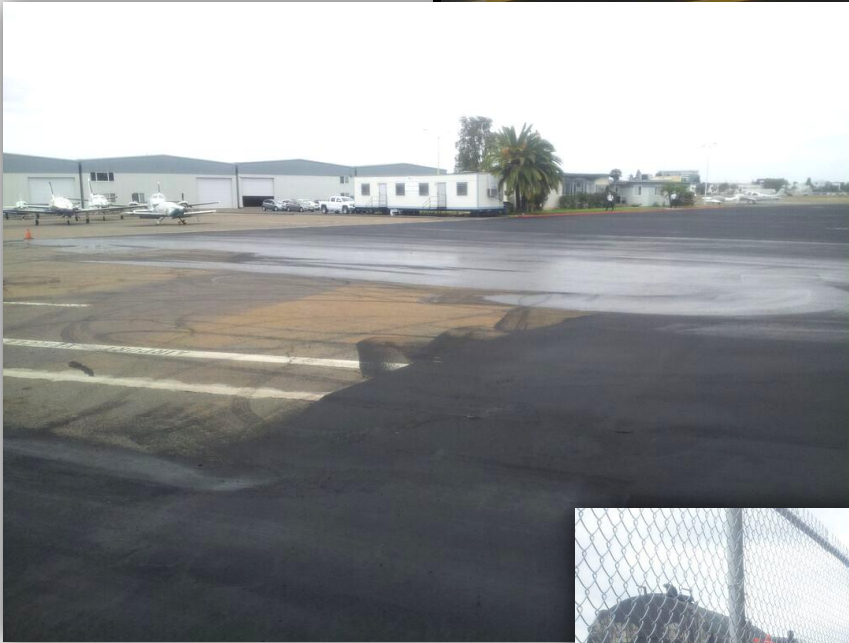
I am at your Service,

Rod Propst, A.A.E.



## Slurry Seal of Transient Ramp and Flat Top Completed

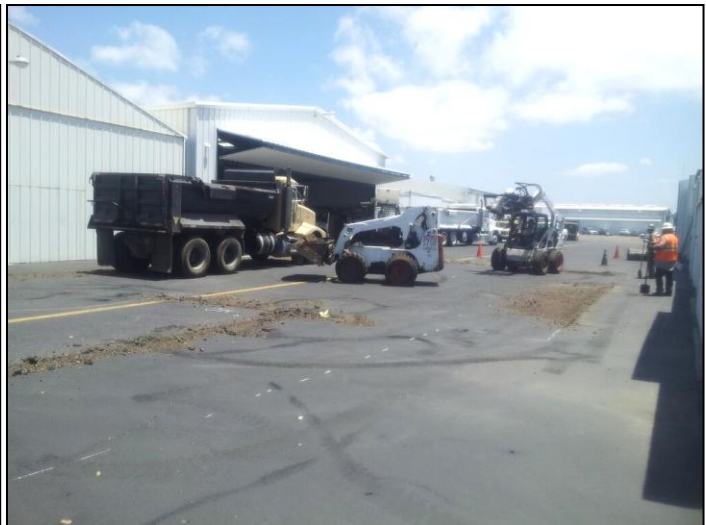
On April 29th, Montgomery Field began a large project resealing the transient ramp as well as Flat Top leasehold. Statewide Stripes performed the sealing and restriping of the 30 tie down as well as providing new hangar identification markings for each hangar. The project took a week to finish at a total cost of \$49,000.





## Asphalt Repairs on Marigold

The Airports Division completed a series of pavement repairs to Marigold and the SDFD helicopter landing pad. Total cost of the repairs was \$20,000. G Scott Asphalt was the contractor used for this project under a City-wide general requirements contract.



## New Name for Montgomery Field Proposed

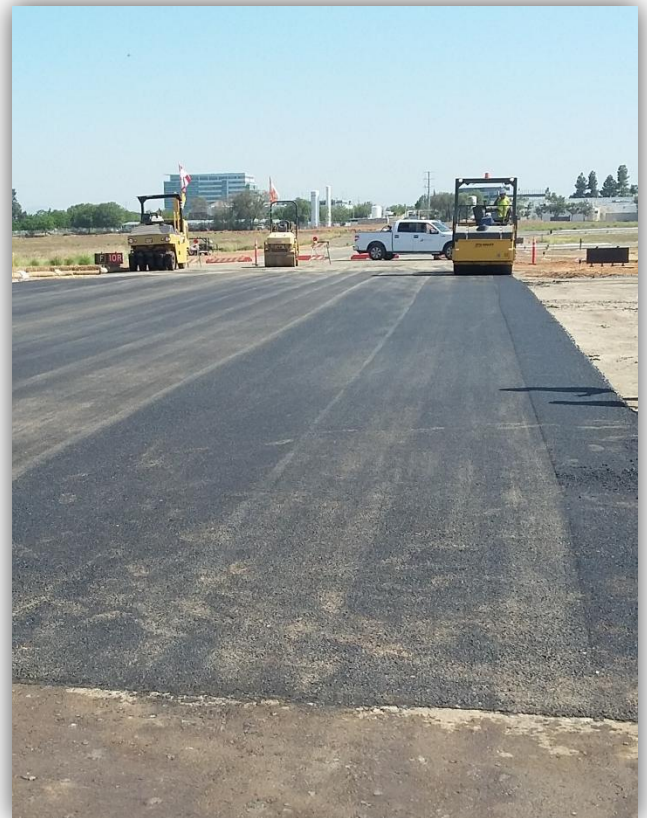
At the August 11, 2015 Airport Advisory Committee meeting, the City of San Diego proposed changing the airports name to *San Diego Executive Airport at Gibbs Field*; *Gibbs Executive Airport*; or *Gibbs Executive Airport at San Diego*. Montgomery Field Airport is re-branding the airport to develop and grow. As part of this we wish to change the airport name to identify its connection to the City, our plans to expand as an Executive Airport, and to honor the Gibbs Family as the founders of the airport. We welcome the pilot community to join us at the September Airport Advisory Committee to give their comments on which name they prefer, prior to the committee's vote.



# MYF Runway 5/23 Rehabilitation Project Begins

Montgomery Field began a \$5 million rehabilitation of the cross wind runway, 5/23, and taxiway G. The project, which began on June 15, has already completed a temporary taxiway that parallels taxiway G. During construction runway 5/23 will be closed as well as runway 10R/28L to allow for the re-alignment of taxiway G eliminating an identified hot spot.

The project is funded largely by a two FAA grants. West Coast General is the contractor for construction, while Kimley-Horn provided design and consulting services.





## Water Wise Landscaping at MYF

As part of the city's efforts to cut 16% of water usage Montgomery Field has begun a three phase landscaping project to install water wise plants and a drip water system. The former sprinkler heads were a spray system that used 3-4 gallons per minute; there were also several places where water over sprayed, missing the plants and running off into the gutter. With the new drip system water usage has been reduced to .9 gallons per hour. Landscaping improvements are planned for the median along John J. Montgomery Drive as well as around the

main terminal building. A new landscaping plan is being developed for the entire airport to assist new and current developments on the airport cut water usage moving forward into the future.

## Noise Reminder

Noise limits remain in effect for Montgomery Field during the runway project. The limit for nighttime operations (11:30 P.M. – 6:30 A.M.) is 70 decibels, while the limit for daytime operations (6:30 A.M. – 11:30 P.M.) is 88 decibels. Exceeding the noise limits may result in a fine of up to \$250. The best way to avoid exceeding the noise limits is to avoid takeoffs between 11:30 P.M. and 6:30 A.M., and to use a good noise abatement departure profile at all times.



Residents are intensely annoyed by repetitive over flights of airplanes and helicopters at low altitude, even when the noise levels are below the established limits. This is especially noticeable during the summer months, as the number of flights increase along with the amount of time people spend outdoors at home with families. Pilots are requested to take this into consideration and utilize patterns and flight routes that minimize noise impacts to the community. Single-event noise levels from high-performance pistons can be greatly reduced with modest RPM reductions. Contact the noise office at (858) 573-1436 with questions or to find out the noise level of your takeoff.



## New Lobby Furniture at Montgomery Field

The terminal lobby at Montgomery Field has replaced their ageing furniture as a result of the Lobby Renovation project. The lobby has also recently added new LED lighting, repainted the walls, and put up a wall memorial to the history of Montgomery Field. Further changes will be coming through the rest of the year to include ADA electronic doors, digital signage, and updated directional signs.



## New Deputy Director Rod Propst, A.A.E.

Mr. Propst holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Oregon State University and a Master of Arts degree in Business Administration from Webster University. He has been designated an Accredited Airport Executive by the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) and a Certified Airport Executive by the Southwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (SWAAAE).



Mr. Propst has been an Airport Manager for over 25 years both while serving on active duty in the U.S. Marines and in the civil sector. Mr. Propst was the “Airfield Operations Officer” at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, California, as well as, the Airport Manager at both McNary Field in Salem, Oregon and at Fullerton, California. For the past two years, Mr. Propst has been the General Manager / Chief Operating Officer of the Sedona-Oak Creek Airport Authority in Sedona, Arizona. Sedona Airport is a busy G.A. airport located in one of the country’s most beautiful destinations and serves a diverse variety of aircraft. The Sedona-Oak Creek Airport Authority is also the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) at Sedona Airport and Mr. Propst was responsible for this “entrepreneurial” portion of the airport business as well. During his time at Sedona, Mr. Propst was elected to and served on the Arizona Airports Association’s (AzAA) Board of Directors as the Second Vice-President.

Mr. Propst was recently selected as the Deputy Director for Airports for the City of San Diego. As the leader of the Airports Division, which is part of the City of San Diego’s Real Estate Assets Department (READ), he is responsible for the management and operation of the two general aviation airports, Montgomery Field and Brown Field, within the City of San Diego. These two airports are the designated “reliever” airports for the San Diego International Airport.

Mr. Propst is a retired Marine Corps aviator and has logged over 3,000 hours of flight time in a variety of aircraft. He holds a FAA Airline Transport Pilot certificate with type ratings in both turbo-jet aircraft and helicopters.

Mr. Propst is an adjunct faculty member of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale (Off Campus Academic Programs) and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (World Wide), teaching aviation management courses, with an emphasis on “Airport Operations and Airport Finance”, at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

While the Airport Manager for the Fullerton Municipal Airport, Mr. Propst served for sixteen years as the Vice-Chair of the Orange County Airport Land Use Commission. He additionally was a member of and the Chair for the Aviation Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) of the Aviation Task Force for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

Mr. Propst has served twice as the District Chair for the Los Amigos District of the Orange County Council of the Boy Scouts of America and is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, where he served on the Board of Directors for the Sedona Elks Lodge, in Sedona, Arizona.



## Monarchs Arrive at Montgomery Field

The new landscaping at Montgomery Field has attracted Monarch butterflies. You may see their caterpillars eating away at the tropical milkweed, but they are a welcome sight and iconic to San Diego. Please come down and take a look. You may find one of the chrysalis' hanging in the dwarf palm trees that line the median, or the butterflies visiting the many flowers that are blooming.



## Montgomery Field (MYF)

3750 John J Montgomery Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123

Airport Administration: (858) 573-1427  
Airport Manager: (858) 573-1430  
Airport Operations: (858) 573-1440  
Airport Noise Office: (858) 573-1436



## Brown Field (SDM)

1424 Continental Street  
San Diego, CA 92154

Airport Administration: (858) 573-1427  
Airport Manager: (619) 424-0456  
Airport Operations: (619) 424-0455  
Airport Noise Office: (858) 573-1436



For comments or suggestions on the content or format of this newsletter, please contact the editor at:  
(858) 573-1436 or [wreiter@sandiego.gov](mailto:wreiter@sandiego.gov)

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