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## MCAA still trying to woo airline

Gaines renews concerns about zoning change

By NEIL YOUNG/The Daily News

BULLHEAD CITY - Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport officials are inching closer to an agreement with an airline to provide scheduled passenger service, John Hastings, MCAA board of directors president, revealed at Tuesday's quarterly Mohave County Airport Authority board meeting, held at Laughlin Ranch.

Results of a recent air passenger survey have been tabulated. There is a demand for service to Los Angeles, Orange County and Phoenix. The survey was mailed with Bullhead City sewer bills, tripling the response to a previous survey.

David Gaines, airport director, revisited comments he made at the Oct. 1 Bullhead City Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, in which he spoke against a proposal to raise city building height limits from 35 to 60 feet.

Gaines told the MCAA board that he's less concerned about the heights per se than the fact taller buildings would increase the population density around the airport.

Encroaching development around an airport, which triggers safety concerns and noise complaints, "strangles the airport," affecting such things as the number of flights permitted and the time of day they're allowed to take off and land, Gaines said.

He recommended the MCAA board go on record regarding the proposal after it passes the Planning and Zoning Commission and is forwarded to the city council for final approval.

The airport will hire a consultant to perform a noise study. The most recent study was done in 1996, Gaines said.

- Darryl Thompson, the airport's assistant director, reported that nine additional security cameras have been installed, and 25 more loudspeakers have been placed both inside and outside the terminal. A second X-ray machine has been added to the passenger screening area, Thompson said.

- Due to budget shortfalls, the state has cleaned out the state aviation fund for two consecutive years, but Gaines said it appears they will leave some money in the fund this year. "There is strong support within ADOT to preserve the aviation fund because it's been fairly well-advertised that fund has taken a greater hit percentage-wise than any other fund or department in the state in the last couple of years." The money is distributed to Arizona airports to match federal grants. The state owes Laughlin/Bullhead airport \$110,000, Gaines said.

- The airport is working on moving the rental car wash facility away from the main entrance for cosmetic reasons. It should cost approximately \$20,000 to do so, Gaines said.

- Airport officials have temporarily removed their "for lease" signs for potential tenants on airport land fronting Highway 95, pending resolution of sign code issues with the city.

- Plaques of appreciation were given to former board members Tony Dias and Lisa McCabe. Dias had served three terms as president. McCabe had recently been elected president to succeed Dias, but she resigned from the board to become president of the Bullhead Regional Economic Development Authority.

- Vacancies from the resignations of Dias and Debbie Dauenhauer were filled, Jena Morga was selected to fill the remainder of Dias' term, ending in April 2012, and Patrick Wilson was appointed to fill Dauenhauer's unexpired term, ending in April 2011. The MCAA board was recently reduced from 11 to 9 members. McCabe and Mark Clark, who resigned after being elected to the Bullhead City council, were not replaced.

- Board member Wade Faul was elected treasurer.

The next quarterly meeting will be held Jan. 12.