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April 12, 2022

Midcoast Community Council Members
PO Box 248
Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248

Re: Response to Memo Dated February 23, 2022, "Lead Exposure and Contamination Near Half Moon Bay Airport" from the Midcoast Community Council

Dear Midcoast Community Council Members:

The memo from the Midcoast Community Council (MCC) regarding their concerns about the impact of leaded aviation fuel at the Half Moon Bay Airport was forwarded to our Department.

We have reached out to the MCC and Gretchen Kelly, the County's Airport Manager, will be attending the next MCC meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, to address the MCC's concerns. In advance of your meeting, we are providing you with our responses (R) to your questions and concerns (I) as listed below.

- I1.) An analysis of blood lead levels in children within the areas of Moss Beach, Montara, Princeton, and El Granada, which are all located within two miles of the runway.**
- R1.) The County of San Mateo Health Department (County Health) estimates that 80 percent (80%) of homes in our County contain lead-based paint or lead plumbing. Lead can also be found in many household items including painted toys, furniture, cosmetics, food and liquid containers, and jewelry. While reducing lead exposure for children is a priority, it's impossible to isolate lead exposure from the Half Moon Bay Airport versus other sources. County Health has a comprehensive webpage with information and resources for reducing lead exposure for children at <https://www.smchealth.org/services-preventing-lead-poisoning>. County Health recommends that children have lead levels tested at age one (1) and two (2) years old. Most insurance providers will pay for the test. If elevated lead levels are detected, County Health can help evaluate and eliminate sources of lead from homes. Following are additional resources from County Health for residents on [testing your home for lead](#), [how to file a complaint during building construction](#); and [how to safely remodel your home](#).



12.) Soil testing of the ground surrounding the airport, including fields where food is grown for human consumption.

- R2.) The Half Moon Bay Airport (Airport) has a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as required by its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. The Airport is inspected annually for compliance. Stormwater runoff samples from the Airport are collected, tested, and reported to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) several times per year. The SWRCB does not require testing for lead. However, the Airport has requested that its SWPPP consultant perform a voluntary stormwater runoff collection to test for lead. The stormwater sample lead test results will be shared with the MCC when received.

Half Moon Bay Airport stormwater sample test results are available on the SWRCB webpage at: <https://smarts.waterboards.ca.gov/smarts/>. Half Moon Bay Airport (HAF) stormwater sample test results remain well within Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Numeric Action Levels (NAL).

13.) Water testing of the Montara Water and Sanitary District wells located at the Half Moon Bay Airport and used for drinking water.

- R3.) The Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD) tests its water for lead and other contaminants as required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and SWRCB. MWSD test results are available online at <http://mwsd.montara.org/documents-and-links>. MWSD explained to the Airport that lead is “not detectable” in water tested regularly from wells at the Half Moon Bay Airport. However, lead is sometimes “detectable” in water sampled from the taps of MWSD customer homes due to lead plumbing in the home(s).

14.) We request that San Mateo County take immediate steps to sell an unleaded fuel option at the Half Moon Bay Airport, as it has required of fuel providers at the San Carlos Airport since 2014. We also ask that the County be at the forefront of the transition to eliminate the use of leaded fuel in San Mateo County as soon as feasible.

- R4.) There is currently no unleaded aviation fuel certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for use in all aircraft. The FAA has committed to certifying an unleaded aviation fuel for use in all aircraft by 2030. Until FAA certification, each aircraft owner must apply for and obtain a Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) to use unleaded aviation fuel. The two largest flight schools at San Carlos Airport have obtained the STC for each aircraft to use unleaded aviation fuel. As a result, many flight training aircraft using the Half Moon Bay Airport are operating on unleaded aviation fuel.

In partnership with our Board of Supervisors, the fuel provider at San Carlos Airport was the first in California to sell unleaded aviation fuel. The fuel provider ensures each aircraft has the appropriate STC prior to dispensing unleaded aviation fuel. To date, the San Carlos Airport is successfully selling approximately sixty-five percent (65%) unleaded aviation fuel to pilots.

TO: Midcoast Community Council
DATE: April 12, 2022

The Airport is currently working with the County's Executive Office to evaluate the MCC's request for an unleaded fuel tank at the Airport. Due to the low volume of aviation fuel sold, only self-serve fuel is offered to pilots at this time. The County is evaluating options for safely providing self-serve unleaded aviation fuel and incentivizing the use of unleaded aviation fuel at the Half Moon Bay Airport.

Very truly yours,



Ann M. Stillman

Interim Director of Public Works

Encl: MCC Memo to Board of Supervisors, dated February 23, 2022

cc: Board of Supervisors

Midcoast Community Council

An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar

PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248 | midcoastcommunitycouncil.org

Claire Toutant | Gregg Dieguez | Michelle Weil | Len Erickson | Dave Olson | Jill Grant | Dan Haggerty

Chair Vice-Chair Treasurer Secretary

Date: February 23, 2022
To: San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
Cc: Gretchen Kelly, Manager, County of San Mateo Airports
From: Midcoast Community Council
Subject: Lead Exposure and Contamination Near Half Moon Bay Airport

The Midcoast Community Council is concerned about the impact of leaded aviation fuel sold at the Half Moon Bay Airport (KHAF). A [peer-reviewed study](#) commissioned by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors last year found that children living near the Reid-Hillview airport had increased levels of lead in their blood. Lead is a cumulative toxicant that is particularly harmful to young children. Even low levels have been shown to reduce a child's learning capacity, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement. According to [the CDC](#), **there is no safe level of lead in blood.**

We request that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors commission a study of lead exposure and contamination surrounding the Half Moon Bay Airport. The study should include the following:

1. An analysis of blood lead levels in children within the areas of Moss Beach, Montara, Princeton, and El Granada, which are all located within two miles of the runway.
2. Soil testing of the ground surrounding the airport, including fields where food is grown for human consumption.
3. Water testing of the Montara Water and Sanitary District wells located at the Half Moon Bay Airport and used for drinking water.

In addition, we request that San Mateo County take immediate steps to sell an unleaded fuel option at the Half Moon Bay Airport, as it has required of fuel providers at the San Carlos Airport since 2014. We also ask that the County be at the forefront of the transition to eliminate the use of leaded fuel in San Mateo County as soon as feasible.

s/Michelle Weil, Treasurer