



July 17, 2024

The Honorable Stephanie E. Hulsey  
c/o Office of the County Counsel  
County of Monterey  
168 W. Alisal Street, 3rd Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Re: *Monterey Peninsula Airport District's Response to 2023-2024  
Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Report – "Monterey Fire  
Department: Overdue for Overhaul"*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Ann Leffel, Chair  
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Michael La Pier, AAE  
Executive Director  
Scott Huber  
District Counsel

Dear Judge Hulsey:

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933, subsection (c), et seq., the Monterey Peninsula Airport District, which operates the Monterey Regional Airport (collectively referred to as "MPAD"), has reviewed the 2023-2024 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report ("Final Report") entitled "Monterey Fire Department: Overdue for Overhaul". The MPAD would like to thank the Grand Jury members for their effort and dedication in researching the issues and in preparing the annual report.

In preparing this response, information and input was obtained from various sources regarding each finding and recommendation, including several staff members, whose information and input is incorporated in the responses. In response to the Final Report released June 13 2024, the MPAD Board of Directors unanimously approved the following response in a public session of its duly noticed meeting held on July 17, 2024.

At the outset, the MPAD Board of Directors notes that the fire services are provided pursuant to an agreement with the City of Monterey. As outlined in the Agreement, the MPAD provides ground space at no cost for the City to locate its modular trailer for use by firefighters. The MPAD does not own, control or maintain any portion of the modular trailer in use by the City.

## FINDINGS

F12. Firefighter companies at the airport south-side modular trailer do not have access to safe inside changing and storage areas for their turnout gear, violating NFPA standards and causing potential harm and distress for firefighters.

**Response:** Unable to agree or disagree.

The modular trailer complies with all building codes and is a permitted structure. As to all other issues raised by the Grand Jury related to access to inside changing and storage areas, compliance with NFPA standards, and potential firefighter distress and harm, the City of Monterey will address those matters as they do not come within the subject matter jurisdiction of the MPAD.

F13. Fire engines at the airport south-side modular trailer are exposed to the weather hastening deterioration and increased costs for repair or replacement.

**Response:** Agree.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

R12. The City of Monterey, MFD and MPAD Administration collaborate to provide safe and private decontamination changing and storage areas for turnout gear at the airport modular trailer to comply with NFPA standards by October 31, 2024.

**Response:** Will be implemented, in part; Will not be implemented, in part.

As mentioned above, fire service is provided to the Monterey Regional Airport by the City of Monterey through a fire services agreement with MPAD. As such, the south-side modular trailer is owned by the City and all compliance with NFPA standards is the responsibility of the City. The MPAD is ready, willing and able to collaborate with the City related to the facilities it provides for the City firefighters that serve at the Monterey Regional Airport.

Because the Monterey Fire Department's ("MFD") employees are members of a bargaining unit, the MPAD is not legally able to meet with them to discuss the status of facilities owned and provided by the City. Accordingly, the MPAD cannot implement this recommendation as it pertains to MFD. However, the MPAD is ready, willing and able to collaborate with the City pertaining to this recommendation.

R13. Until a permanent facility is constructed, the City of Monterey collaborate with MPAD to provide a protective structure for the fire apparatus at the south-side modular trailer by October 31, 2024.

**Response:** Will be implemented.

As previously mentioned, fire service is provided to the Monterey Regional Airport by the City of Monterey through a fire services agreement with MPAD. As such, the south-side modular trailer and all related appurtenances are owned by the City. Should the City of Monterey desire to do so, the MPAD is ready, willing and able to collaborate with the City related to the provision of a protective structure for the fire apparatus.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Ann Leffel".

Mary Ann Leffel, Chair  
Monterey Peninsula Airport District