

Filling in the cracks at the airport

March 17, 2023



Ryan Cooley, director of the Border Coast Regional Airport Authority (BCRAA) addressed the Board of Supervisors last week and updated supervisors on the proposed Phase 2 rehabilitation of runway 18-36. Phase 1 for \$333,000 for pre-design has already been authorized. Because of COVID, the authority's five percent matching fund allocation was waived.

Cooley seeks Federal Aviation Approval (FAA) approval of a 95 percent grant of an \$8 million award to repair numerous cracks along the runway. The grant could rise to as high as \$9.2 million if repairs are deemed more extensive. The BCRAA share of the grant is approximately \$400,000.

The Border Coast member partners are the City of Crescent City, Del Norte County, City of Brookings, Curry County, the Elk Valley Rancheria and the Tolowa Dee-ni' Tribe. Divided equally each partner is asked to contribute approximately \$77,000 for the project.

Cooley indicated, "It's my hope all the partners will embrace this safety project. Jack McNamara Field is the multi-partner airport serving Del Norte and Curry counties." The board approved the grant application and requests for equal support for the Rehabilitation project on a 4-1 vote, Supervisor Dean Wilson dissenting. Wilson expressed his concern with language in the motion including a caveat open to increasing the funding if the other partner(s) did not contribute their equal share.

There was no discussion on the airport's other runway, 12-30, also in need of rehabilitation, according to Cooley.

In other airport news, the extension of the Alternate Emergency Air Service FAA support continues through September 30, 2024. The support for Contour Air is just under \$3.6 million annually, according to BCRAA fiscal director Patty Stanley.

Cooley reports a second Contour flight will commence during the summer schedule. A supplemental flight will be added on Fridays and Sundays, effective in late Spring.

Contour Air flies into Oakland.