

RESOLUTION NO. 1444

A RESOLUTION OF THE PORT OF PASCO, SUPPORTING COMPATIBLE LAND USE PLANNING TO ENABLE FUTURE GROWTH OF THE TRI-CITIES AIRPORT

WHEREAS, the Port of Pasco owns and operates the Tri-Cities Airport, the fourth largest commercial airport in the State of Washington serving the Tri-Cities region along with a large portion of southeast Washington and northeast Oregon; and

WHEREAS, the number of enplaned passengers, frequency of flights, and size of aircraft at the Tri-Cities Airport has consistently increased and is expected to continue increasing into the future; and

WHEREAS, runway 12/30 to the northwest of the airport is the only runway which can be extended to accommodate larger aircraft; and

WHEREAS, the FAA encourages strong land use protections to accommodate future airport growth; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Growth Management Act requires towns, cities, and counties to discourage development of incompatible land uses adjacent to public use airports through adoption of comprehensive plan policies and development regulations; and

WHEREAS, the current county zoning designation of agricultural is generally considered compatible with the airport operations; and

WHEREAS, residential development is generally incompatible near airports because of noise, safety, fumes, vibration, light and perception of low-flying aircraft; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a request to add an additional 160 acres to the City of Pasco's Urban Growth Area (UGA), potentially for new residential development; and

WHEREAS, the modification to residential could result in the airport being prevented from an expansion that would accommodate larger aircraft and growth of the airport; and

WHEREAS, approximately 74 acres of the requested UGA expansion falls within airport safety compatibility zones 2 and 4 as referenced in both the City of Pasco and Franklin County Airport Overlay Zoning Codes.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Port of Pasco Commission wishes to express the following recommendations on the 160-acre UGA expansion request:

- 1) Under no circumstances should that portion of the land falling within Airport Safety Compatibility Zones 2 and 4 be added to the City of Pasco UGA for residential development; and
- 2) The Port would prefer that the entire 160-acres remain outside of the City UGA to reduce future conflicts between residences and aircraft operations.


BE IT RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be immediately transmitted to the City of Pasco, Franklin County, and the Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation Division.

ADOPTED this 8th day of December, 2016

PORT OF PASCO COMMISSIONERS

Ronald P. Reimann, President


Jean Ryckman, Vice President


James T. Klindworth, Secretary