



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Quality, Excellence, Innovation

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Marin County Board of Supervisors  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
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**SUBJECT: Ordinance Amending the Airport Business Operating Standards to Include new Section 12.06.035 Standards for Skydiving**

Accounting

Dear Board Members:

Airport

**RECOMMENDATION:** 1) Introduce the Ordinance by title only; and 2) schedule Merit Hearing date for May 3, 2016, at 10:30 a.m.

Building Maintenance

Capital Projects

**SUMMARY:** Title 12 (Aircraft) of the Marin County Code has airport business operating standards that are applicable to Gness Field, Novato - the County's General Aviation airport. These business operating standards include: Aircraft flight training; airframe and power plant repair and maintenance; aircraft sales, radio and avionics sales/repair/services; commercial fueling; and other aeronautical operating requirements. These existing and the proposed business standards are consistent with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant assurance requirements and Advisory Circulars (specifically AC No: 150/5190-7). This proposal is to add business operating standards for skydiving operations, currently not defined by existing standards.

Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)

Communications Maintenance

County Garage

Disability Access

Engineering & Survey

The need to create these skydiving business operating standards arises out of a pending airport business license application for commercial skydiving operations. On June 5, 2014, the Aviation Commission heard the Golden Gate Skydiving business proposal and conditionally recommended approval of the business license with two stipulations regarding wind speed limitations and an offsite retrieval plan. The applicant subsequently submitted an informal complaint to the Federal Aviation Administration on August 27, 2014, alleging that the recommended airport business license conditions were a violation of the County's FAA grant assurances.

Flood Control & Water Resources

Land Development

Purchasing

Real Estate

Reprographic Services

The County subsequently suspended processing the application until the FAA provided a determination on the informal complaint. On March 8, 2016, the County received a safety review from the FAA Flight Standards District Office (attached FAA memo with a July 16, 2015 date, received on March 8, 2016). This clears the way to move forward with amending the code and processing the skydiving airport business license application.

Road Maintenance

Stormwater Program

Transportation & Traffic Operations

Waste Management

Staff submitted a draft skydiving business operating standards ordinance to the Aviation Commission for comment at its regular meeting on April 7, 2016. The Aviation Commission recommended that certain exclusive use requirements for skydiving businesses be removed from the draft ordinance. The proposed ordinance before your Board reflects and incorporates those recommendations. Staff requests that your Board schedule a Merit Hearing on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. After the Board's action at the hearing, we will return to your Board with a recommendation and details of the proposed conditional business license for Golden Gate Skydiving.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no direct impact to the General Fund by this action.

<b>REVIEWED BY:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Department of Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Respectfully submitted,

GRB



Dan Jensen  
Airport Manager

Attachments: FAA Memorandum, Parachute Drop Zone, Gness Field (DVO)  
Proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 12.06 -  
Standards for Skydiving

cc: Golden Gate Skydiving  
David Binder, FAA Oakland FSDO  
Dennis Fogarty, FAA Western-Pacific NextGenBranch

