



PORT KENNEWICK

COMMISSIONERS | CALVIN E. DUDNEY | DAVID W. HANSON | GENE WAGNER

April 14, 2009

The Honorable Dale Jackson
Mayor, City of West Richland
3801 West Van Giesen
West Richland, Washington 99353

Re: Response to March 16, 2009 Letter

Dear Mayor Jackson:

Thank you for your letter of March 16, 2009 requesting the Port's response to your questions regarding anticipated efforts with respect to Vista Field Airport, and how those efforts would impact ongoing progress on Port redevelopment efforts in West Richland. Your question is certainly on point and timely.

As you know, for the past year or so the Port has been engaged in a fact-finding mission regarding the future of the Vista Field Airport in Kennewick. Results so far indicate that a closure of the Airport would likely be a major task, especially for a small Port such as ours. The Port would likely need to plan for a large investment of staff time and Port financial resources in the event the Port Commission elected to close the Airport. Calculations prepared by Port staff and JUB Engineering, indicate that a closure and redevelopment of the Airport into shovel-ready parcels for resale, could cost several million dollars or more. Presently we are not comfortable that this Port could tackle such a task without redirecting a significant level of resources to this project, and a redirection of resources to Vista Field Airport could create a shortfall of resources for other Port projects.

With that being said, this Port has made a commitment to City of West Richland to be a valuable partner in helping your city develop a commercial and industrial base which will, in turn, help as you move forward in your efforts to improve the city's overall economic climate. Recent examples include our joint efforts to land Pacific Rim Winery and others and our purchase of the racetrack property for near term redevelopment. We, too, cherish our newly-formed working relationship and want nothing to get in the way of our continued success in your community.

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To: Mayor Dale Jackson

Re: Response to March 16, 2009 Letter to Port

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We, as Commissioners, are carefully reviewing the Vista Field Airport situation and feel that we are close to making a decision on its future. We assure you that no allocation of Port resources will be made, if that allocation of resources seriously impacts our ability to continue to perform in your jurisdiction. We suggest a continued dialog between your staff and our staff, and your elected officials with our elected officials as we go forward. Perhaps a joint Port Commission-

City Council meeting would be in order. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us (staff or elected officials) at any time to discuss this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



David Hanson, President



Gene Wagner, Vice President



Calvin E. Dudney, Secretary