

14. 24-51762 Recommendation to authorize City Manager, or designee, to execute any and all documents necessary with authorized fuel providers at the Long Beach Airport to implement an unleaded aviation fuel subsidy program at the Long Beach Airport to facilitate the transition from leaded to unleaded aviation fuel, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$200,000 through December 31, 2025; and

Increase appropriations in the Airport Fund Group in the Airport Department by \$200,000 offset by Airport funds available. (Districts 4, 5)

Office or Department:

Suggested Action: Approve recommendation.

January 23, 2024

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute any and all documents necessary with authorized fuel providers at the Long Beach Airport to implement an unleaded aviation fuel subsidy program at the Long Beach Airport to facilitate the transition from leaded to unleaded aviation fuel, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$200,000 through December 31, 2025; and,

Increase appropriations in the Airport Fund Group in the Airport Department by \$200,000 offset by Airport funds available. (Districts 4, 5)

DISCUSSION

City Council approval is requested to implement an Unleaded Aviation Fuel Subsidy Program (Program) to minimize the costs to consumers associated with the transition to unleaded avgas at the Long Beach Airport (Airport). On August 7, 2023, Signature Aviation, a fuel provider at the Airport, commenced the sale of an unleaded 94-grade fuel (UL94) product produced by Swift Fuels (Swift) of Indiana. The sale price of UL94 for consumers can be \$2 to \$4 more per gallon than leaded 100-grade fuel (100LL) varieties (Leaded Avgas). The Program will allow fuel providers to sell Unleaded Aviation Gasoline (Unleaded Avgas) at the same “out-the-door” price as 100LL, subject to reimbursement from the Airport for the cost differential. The Program will run through December 31, 2025. Initial Program reimbursements are budgeted at \$200,000.

The Federal Aviation Administration has identified the year 2030 for the elimination of leaded aviation fuel for all piston-powered aircraft. In support of an earlier transition, a few airports have implemented similar programs to lower the cost of any currently available Unleaded Avgas. Staff recommends implementing a similar program intended to encourage an earlier transition to Unleaded Avgas by eliminating the cost differential to consumers between Leaded Avgas and Unleaded Avgas.

On October 18, 2022, the City Council directed the City Manager to work with Airport staff and stakeholders to establish a plan that reduces and mitigates lead pollution and implements potential programs and incentives to transition to the sale and use of commercially viable Unleaded Avgas. This recommendation aligns with City Council directives.

This matter was reviewed by Principal Deputy City Attorney Richard F. Anthony and by Budget Analysis Officer Greg Sorensen on January 5, 2024.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on January 23, 2024, to allow for an unleaded aviation fuel subsidy program to be implemented as soon as possible.


FISCAL IMPACT

The program will allow the Airport to provide reimbursements through December 31, 2025, for a total not to exceed \$200,000. An increase in appropriations is requested in the Airport Fund Group in the Airport Department by \$200,000 for the cost to the Airport for the reimbursements and is offset by Airport funds available. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Guidry
Director
Long Beach Airport

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER

From: Chris Chavez <chris@ccair.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 3:20 PM
To: Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Comments on Item 14: #24-51762 - re: Aviation Fuel (Support)

-EXTERNAL-

Hello, Councilmember Kerr - I wanted to make sure your office received a copy of our comments in support of Item 14 on the council agenda today.

Dear Long Beach City Council Members,

Coalition for Clean Air supports the motion to create an unleaded aviation fuel (avgas) subsidy at Long Beach Airport.

The dangers of lead have been well known for thousands of years. Lead causes harm to the brain, kidneys, liver and bones and is a probable carcinogen. Further, lead causes significant developmental, cognitive and behavioral problems. The use of tetraethyllead in automotive fuels from the 1920s to 1990s is being increasingly viewed as having been a major contributor to the increase in crime rates during the same period.

While lead is no longer used in automotive fuels, avgas for piston-powered general aviation aircraft utilizes lead additives. Considering that most general aviation traffic follows a flight path near Willow Springs Park and over several residential neighborhoods, eliminating leaded fuels from Long Beach Airport is imperative for public health. Additionally, the Federal Aviation Administration has set a target to phase out the use of leaded avgas by 2030, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency has lowered allowable lead screening levels for residential soil from 400 to 200 parts per million.

Incentivizing the use of unleaded avgas is a good first step; however, we hope the City of Long Beach continues to lead on this issue. Going forward, we hope the city continues to push forward and expeditiously phase out the offering of leaded avgas at the airport. Further, we encourage the city to consider how to position itself to support the ongoing development and future adoption of zero-emissions aviation.

Thank you for introducing this motion, and for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Christopher Chavez
Deputy Policy Director
7th district resident

-----Original Message-----

From: Glennis Dolce <glennisd@me.com>

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 7:25 PM

To: Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>
Subject: agenda item 14 1/23/24

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Council Members,

Please have a discussion on this item regarding whether this subsidy will really make much of an impact on leaded avgas pollution when you consider the following:

So two years. At \$100,000 a year. At a cost difference of \$3.80 a gallon that's about 24,000 gallons per year or 2000 gallons per month of UL94 (or any UL that becomes available- I'm assuming, and not just Swift Air avgas)

They are currently selling about 70,000 gallons a month of the 100LL at LGB according to a recent LBPost article.

So 2000 gallons a month would be subsidized while about 68,000 gallons of leaded avgas would continue to be sold.

Does this seem like a substantial effort to reduce lead pollution over neighborhoods?

Have the conversation in public and ask the questions about the numbers.

Thank you.

Glennis Dolce
Cal Heights

-----Original Message-----

From: Myron Wollin <mywollin@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:35 PM

To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Agenda Item 14, 1/23/14

-EXTERNAL-

I support providing an unleaded aviation fuel subsidy program that item 14 on today's agenda (1/23/14) calls for. We need to eliminate as soon as possible unleaded aviation fuel in Long Beach. Lead in Long Beach is unhealthy for all of us, especially our children. That is why lead in automobile fuel was eliminated. We need to do the same for aviation fuel.

Our children's mental IQ needs to be protected. Do the right thing Long Beach!

Myron Wollin