



Transportation
Security
Administration

May 7, 2018

Mr. Nick Schiavo, Interim Airport Director
Santa Fe Regional Airport
PO Box 909
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0909

Re: SAF Airport Security Program

Dear Mr. Schiavo,

The Santa Fe Regional Airport (SAF) was re-categorized from a Category IV to a Category III airport by the Transportation Security Administration effective December 15, 2016, authorizing commercial aircraft with seating configurations of 61 or greater to operate in and out of SAF. As such, SAF was required to implement an Airport Security Program (ASP) detailing its compliance with all federally mandated security regulations required by Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 49 §1542. These requirements, including an implementation of a Complete Security Program, are mandated for all Category III Airports. Since December of 2016, TSA has partnered with SAF to assist SAF with meeting these regulations. TSA has leniently awaited the submittal and implementation of a fully compliant ASP detailing exactly how SAF is finally meeting all of its regulatory requirements.

The previous SAF Airport Director, Cameron Humphries, requested a short-term delay in full implementation all of the measures required under a Complete Program, citing budgetary funding issues. As the TSA Federal Security Director for New Mexico, in the spirit of partnering with SAF, I authorized a short term usage of alternative security measures while a grant from the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management was awarded to SAF.

SAF was awarded the grant in January of 2017, which was to be used for SAF to acquire and install essential security equipment, allowing SAF to finally meet all of the requirements of a Complete Program. However; as of this date SAF has yet to implement all of the previously agreed upon requirements contained in CFR 49 §1542, including a fully compliant ASP. These measures should have been implemented several months ago under the previous Airport Director.

It has now come to our attention that the remaining obstruction preventing SAF from implementing its fully compliant security program, is that a change is required to the Santa Fe City Code allowing SAF to implement certain parts of its ASP. It is our understanding that these changes to the City Code should have been made years ago, but was never submitted by previous Airport Directors. TSA fully supports this change which would allow SAF to implement its fully compliant ASP, bringing SAF into full compliance with the required regulations.

It should be noted that further delays of SAF implementing all of the required permanent security measures as previously agreed upon, jeopardize the future operation of SAF as a Category III airport. An airport operator found to be in violation of these regulations may be subject to a Civil Penalty of up to \$13,066 per day/violation and possible revocation of your operational certificate as a Category III airport. Your Complete Program must be fully implemented without any further delay.

Sincerely,



Jesse C. Sanchez
Federal Security Director – TSA NM
2920-A Yale Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106-4231

JS: sp