

# Cottonwood Municipal Airport

## AIRPORT OPERATIONS & NOISE ABATEMENT REPORT

June 5, 2024



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### 1. Monthly Operations & Noise Abatement Report

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- a. April 2024 report is attached. The Airport Operations & Noise Abatement Reports are posted to the [airport website](#).

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### 2. Noise Abatement Action Plan (approved August 2019) **updates shown in RED below**

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#### 1) Goal 1: Reduce noise over residential areas.

- a. Place signage at the airport to remind pilots of the Airport Noise Action Plan. This may remind pilots who were not aware that pilots are requested to take off to the north if safely when possible.

**STATUS: CLOSED.** Signs were installed in April 2019; however, the request to FAA to officially increase the Traffic Pattern Altitude (TPA) for light aircraft was not completed. The TPA increase request was submitted to FAA on December 28, 2021. On April 12, 2022, the Airport received from FAA a Notice of Airport Airspace Analysis Determination Alter Public Use Airport \*\* NO OBJECTION \*\* to raise the VFR traffic pattern from 800 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) to 1000 feet AGL.



- b. Keep in place the current policy that the calm wind runway is 32. This was done to encourage pilots to take off to the north where residents are farthest from the runway,

**STATUS: CLOSED.** Runway 32 is listed in the official Airport/Facility Directory Remarks Section (A110-002) as the calm wind runway and on the airfield noise abatement signage installed in April 2019.



- c. Work with the FBO to communicate with pilots over the radio to remind them of the preferred procedures.

**STATUS: CONTINUOUS.** Airport staff is monitoring and communicating with pilots when necessary.

- d. Support flight schools in developing an auxiliary training field in northern Arizona.

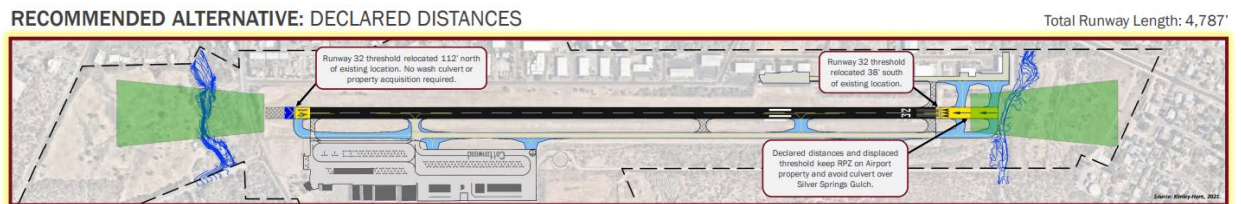
**STATUS: OPEN.** The Airport Commission drafted and approved a letter to the County Board of Supervisors on March 2, 2022 requesting Yavapai County to be an active participant and provide the necessary support to make this goal a reality and/or support another airfield in the Verde Valley to accommodate the flight training needs of the region while helping to reduce the amount of flight training occurring at Cottonwood. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is exploring the potential to develop an auxiliary field in the vicinity of the Drake Cement Plant north of the Prescott Regional Airport.

- e. Request that pilots not conduct midfield or intersection takeoffs. This will increase the altitude of the aircraft by a few hundred feet over the areas of concern. However, this will not impact the altitude of aircraft doing touch-and-go's.

**STATUS: CLOSED.** The Airport Operating Rules (§ 2.3 AIRCRAFT TAXIING, TAKE-OFF, AND LANDING) have prohibited *midfield & intersection takeoffs and stop-and-go operations* (which FAA allows an Airport to regulate) since May 2010. A request to add this language to the official FAA Airport/Facility Directory Remarks Section was submitted to FAA in January 2022. This request has not yet been published in the Airport Data Information Portal; staff is continuing to follow-up with FAA.

- f. During the upcoming Airport Master Plan process explore the possibility of extending the runway to the south in order to increase the height over the residences to the north.

**STATUS: CLOSED.** The City is examining the runway length for possible lengthening as part of the current Airport Master Plan update. The current runway length is 4,250 feet. Three runway alternatives were developed; the recommended alternative is to extend by approximately 535 feet (423 feet to the south and 112 feet to the north) for a new length of 4,787 feet. This length will not change the types and classes of aircraft that currently use the airport.



- g. Work with many of the bush pilots and training groups in northern Arizona to develop a non-paved landing field for training purpose away from residential areas.

**STATUS: CLOSED.** The bush pilot training school that was the primary impetus for this item has ceased operations. The need for this action item has diminished and for this reason it has been placed on hold. This item can be revisited in the future if the need arises again.

- h. Update the Airport Facilities Directory (AFD) now the Chart Supplement Guide per the items above. Below are the current airport remarks in the AFD as well as the proposed:

- i. **CURRENT AIRPORT REMARKS:** AIRPORT REMARKS: Unattended. Fuel avbl 24 hrs with major credit card. Emergency phone 928-634-4246 (Police Dispatch). Wildlife on or in vicinity of arpt. Parachute Jumping. Hang gliders invof arpt. No touch-and-go 30 minutes before SS until 30 minutes after dawn. Acft departing Rwy 14 maintain heading for 1 NM by departure end and 500' AGL prior to turning. Departing Rwy 32 maintain rwy heading for .6 NM and 500' AGL prior to turning. Check CTAF for local flight training restrictions. Rwy 32 designated calm wind rwy. TPA—helicopter 4060(500), single 4360(800), multi 4560(1000), turbine 5050(1500).

- ii. **PROPOSED AIRPORT REMARKS:** Unattended. Fuel avbl 24 hrs with major credit card. Emergency phone 928-634-4246 (Police Dispatch). Wildlife on or in vicinity of arpt. Parachute Jumping. Hang gliders invof arpt. No touch-and-go 30 minutes before SS until 30 minutes after dawn. Noise Action procedure in effect. No midfield departures. Acft departing Rwy 14 maintain heading for 1 NM by departure end and 500' AGL prior to

turning. Check CTAF for local flight training restrictions. Rwy 32 designated calm wind rwy. TPA—helicopter 4060(500), single 4360(800), multi 4560(1000), turbine 5050(1500).

**STATUS: OPEN.** Multiple items in the PROPOSED REMARKS have already been updated (Departing Rwy 32 maintain rwy heading for .6 NM and 500' prior to turning) or have been recently submitted to FAA for inclusion (raising TPA from 800 feet to 1000 feet (refer to Item 1a regarding the TPA increase); no midfield, intersection or stop-and-go operations (refer to item 1e). Additional items will be submitted as needed.

## 2) **Goal: Prevent future incompatible growth around the airport.**

- a. Meet with the Planning and Zoning Department to develop a method of identifying developments which may not be compatible based on proximity to the airport.

**STATUS: CONTINUOUS.** The Airport is provided with all City of Cottonwood Code Review Board development proposals for review and comment on airport-related issues to include compatible land use, height restrictions, aviation easements, or other concerns.

- b. Explore the possibility of developing a City Ordinance which would require landlords to disclose to potential tenants in a similar method as state law requires when selling a property.

**STATUS: OPEN**

- c. Develop a program to inform realtors, property managers and others of the areas of the City which may be impacted by the airports.

**STATUS: CLOSED.** The Homeowners, Renters, and Realtors Guide has been completed and published to the airport website; staff is coordinating outreach to area realtors to disseminate the document.

- d. Complete a Master Plan for the airport which explores the community's desires and concerns for the future of the airport.

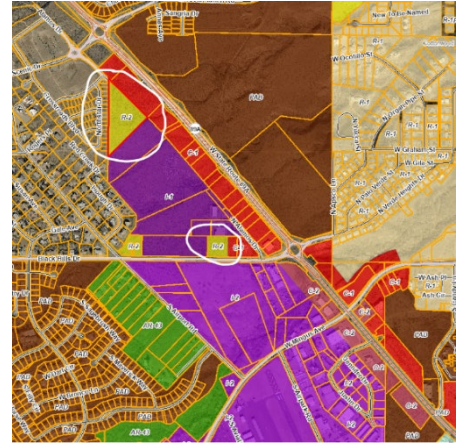
**STATUS: CLOSED.** The final Airport Master Plan Update Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and public meeting was held on January 19, 2023. The Airport Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan set (ALP) have been submitted to FAA for review and comment. FAA does not approve/disapprove the Master Plan but does ultimately approve the Airport Layout Plan set subject to any comments received from FAA requiring modification. FAA approved the ALP.

- e. Develop a video to be placed on the airport's website advising pilots of the noise action procedures.

**STATUS: CLOSED.** The Airport reached out to the FAA Runway Safety office in March 2022 for assistance with developing a "From the Flight Deck" video similar to those created for Prescott, Flagstaff, Phoenix Deer Valley, Mesa-Falcon Field, and other airports. FAA only creates these videos for airports with air traffic control towers (which Cottonwood does not have); however, FAA suggested contacting the Aviation Safety Group of Arizona (ASAG) who are creating similar videos for non-towered airports in Arizona. ASAG has completed safety videos for Marana and Sedona. ASAG commenced work on the Cottonwood video on May 20, 2022. This video will incorporate both noise abatement and safety items. The video has been completed and published to YouTube by ASAG. The video is linked to the [airport website](#).

- f. There are two remaining residential properties located north of the airport which are not compatible due to the proximity to the airport. Work with these owners to either dedicate an aviation easement and/or rezone to an appropriate zoning.

**STATUS: CLOSED.** Neither property currently has a physical address assigned to it at this time. The Airport is working with Community Development to re-zone the properties from R-2 (residential) to I-1 (industrial) and complete an aviation easement for each parcel with each owner. Letters were mailed April 25, 2022 to the property owners to start discussion of re-zoning the parcels. The Airport received a response from the owner of the northern parcel and will enter into further discussions. The other parcel owner has asked if the City will compensate them for changing the zoning designation; this is not being pursued by the City at this time.



- g. Place a map on the Airport's website displaying the areas which can reasonably be expected to be impacted by aircraft noise.

**STATUS: CLOSED.** The airport links to the [Airport Traffic Pattern map](#), which has been in place since 2006, as required by A.R.S. § 28-8486. This map is being updated as part of the Airport Master Plan update. The airport website was updated in January 2022 to include links to the [Arizona Department of Real Estate](#) regarding A.R.S. § 28-8486 (Territory In The Vicinity Of A Public Airport), enacted by the 1999 Legislature. Kimley-Horn and Associates has updated the Airport Traffic Pattern Map as part of the Airport Master Plan Update (discussed at the July 6, 2022 Airport Commission meeting under NEW BUSINESS). Map published to [State Department of Real Estate website](#) with an effective date of September 1, 2022; the map for the County Recorder has been submitted.

### 3) Accountability on the items listed above:

- a. Place this action plan on the Airport Commission's agenda each month until the action plan is completed.

**STATUS: CONTINUOUS.** The status and implementation of the Noise Action Plan is being placed on the Airport Commission's agenda each month until the action plan is completed.

- b. Provide a written update to the City Council monthly on the progress of the Noise Action Plan until all items are complete.

**STATUS: CONTINUOUS.** The Airport Operations & Noise Complaint Report, to include progress on implementation of the Noise Action Plan, is being provided to City Council monthly until all items are complete.

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### 3. Additional Noise Abatement Action Items & Information

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- a. **Airport Website updates** – The webpage has been updated and will continue to be refined to include more information on the airport's noise abatement program and efforts. The airport has added noise abatement information to the airport website ([Whispertrack](#)) to further disseminate the noise abatement policies.
- b. **Noise Abatement message for AWOS message.** The Aviation Weather Observing System (AWOS) Voice Remark feature is being used, and updated as needed, to disseminate noise abatement messaging for the airport. The AWOS message is available by calling 928.634.0916. The AWOS data is now being published to the [Aviation Weather Center](#) website effective November 11, 2022.



c. **Noise Abatement Practice modifications** – At the May 6, 2022 Airport Commission meeting, the following modifications were made to the established voluntary noise abatement practices:

1. **“avoid touch & go’s 30 minutes before sunset and 30 minutes after dawn” to “avoid repetitive flight training between 6 PM and 8 AM weekdays and 6 PM and 9 AM weekends and holidays.”** This request is voluntary. An email was disseminated to all airport tenants and flight schools at Cottonwood, Prescott, and a Scottsdale-based operator. Published in the Airport Data Information Portal (ADIP).
2. The request was added for **“No more than four (4) aircraft conducting repetitive flight training operations in the traffic pattern at any time.”** Published in the Airport Data Information Portal (ADIP).
3. **“Acft departing Rwy 14 maintain heading for 1 NM by departure end and 500’ AGL prior to turning” and “Acft departing Rwy 32 maintain rwy heading for .6 NM and 500’ AGL prior to turning”** were consolidated and updated to **“Maintain runway heading until 1000 feet AGL prior to turning.”** These requests have not yet been published in the Airport Data Information Portal; staff is following-up with FAA.
4. The request was added for **“Use Vy (best-rate-of-climb) airspeed until reaching 1000 feet AGL.”** Published in the Airport Data Information Portal (ADIP).

f. **Pilot Guides – Fixed Wing** – The Airport has requested funding in the new fiscal year to develop and publish separate pilot guides for fixed wing aircraft and helicopters to help provide a downloadable guide providing pilots with more detailed information about the airport to include noise abatement and general flight patterns.

The primary goal of these guides is safety with noise abatement a secondary benefit. These guides will be similar in nature to those used Mesa-Falcon Field ([fixed wing](#)) ([helicopters](#)) and other airports. The pilots guide task order has been completed and the guide published and added to the airport website.

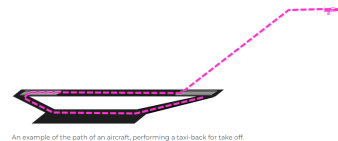
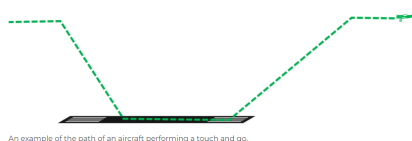
For helicopter operations, the intent is to also establish, in cooperation with helicopter operators, more establish routes and reporting points for flying to/from the airport and/or the hospital helipad.

g. **Pilots Guide – Helicopters** – Airport Commissioners Bill Wade and John Sutton will be leading the efforts to draft a new helicopter pilots guide.

h. **Full Stop Taxi Backs** – The Airport has worked with Embry-Riddle and Leighnor Aircraft to implement the policy to conduct full-stop taxi backs (rather than touch & go’s) before 8 AM Monday to Friday and before 9 AM Saturday and Sunday.

Touch & Go’s are defined as the aircraft lands and departs the runway without stopping or exiting the runway while the Full-Stop Taxi Backs are defined as the aircraft lands, exits the runway, and taxis back to the start of the runway.

When conducting full-stop taxi backs, aircraft will gain additional altitude prior to exiting the airport boundary compared to a touch & go which will help provide a small reduction in noise as aircraft climb to the traffic pattern altitude.



i. **Virtower** – Virtower received a grant from FAA to purchase and provide additional ADS-B antennas. Cottonwood Airport has received a second ADS-B antenna (at no cost) for installation at a location to be determined in coordination with the City IT Department that will improve the ADS-B's area coverage. The current antenna is located on the airport beacon tower. Additional antennas are also scheduled for Sedona and Prescott to further improve area coverage.

j. **Airport Noise Working Group**

The Airport Noise Working Group (ANWG) has been established by the City of Cottonwood, as owner and operator of Cottonwood Municipal Airport, to act in an advisory capacity to discuss, research, and provide recommendations to help mitigate community concerns related to airport operations and aircraft noise.

The City has established this 12-member working group as a subcommittee of the Airport Commission to represent residential and aviation interests in the development and implementation of recommended noise abatement policies for the Airport consistent with federal aviation regulations pertaining to airport operations and flight safety.

The City will make a concerted effort to implement recommendations put forth by the Airport Commission working group. Airport management will work with FAA and others with jurisdiction over these matters, to ensure recommendations are appropriately addressed. Recommendations must not violate federal/state grant assurances, existing laws, federal rules and regulations, or potentially impacting flight safety.

The City of Cottonwood is seeking three (3) Cottonwood resident volunteers to serve for a three-year term on an Airport Noise Working Group. Applications were due on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. The Airport Commission will review and score the applications and conduct short interviews with each applicant at the February 7, 2024 Airport Commission Meeting. The selected individuals will be approved at the March 6, 2024 meeting. The Cottonwood City Council ex-officio member will be selected by City Council at the first available opportunity.

The working group will include one Clarkdale Town Council Member and three community members. Clarkdale residents were selected by the Town of Clarkdale.

The first two meetings have been held and the Chair and Vice Chair selected (Laura Jones, Joe Bob Grisham). The Airport Noise Working Group will meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month at the Council Chambers. The meetings will also be hosted on ZOOM. *All meeting information posted to the City of Cottonwood website similar to other boards and commissions. ([https://cottonwoodaz.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=1](https://cottonwoodaz.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=1))*

k. **Transient Landing Fees**

The Airport has been tasked with exploring the possibility of enacting landing fees for all transient aircraft. In February 2023, Vector Airport Systems and Virtower announced a global strategic partnership (attached). The pairing of these two companies provides the technology for airports to have the technological means to consider landing fees rather than relying upon dedicated airport staff. This system is being looked at by a number of airports in Arizona and across the nation.

The initial presentation of this system will be made at the March 6, 2024 Airport Commission meeting by Vector Airport Systems. The Airport will host this meeting via ZOOM to allow for pilots and citizens to be able to watch and learn about the system. The airport anticipates conducting

multiple meetings through the airport commission and noise advisory working group to discuss and address this item before planning to present the system pros and cons to City Council for discussion and consideration for adoption by the City.

For more information on the Vector system, visit: <https://www.vector-us.com/planepass>

All information on the landing fees system to include questions received to date and the overall process are posted to the [airport website](#).



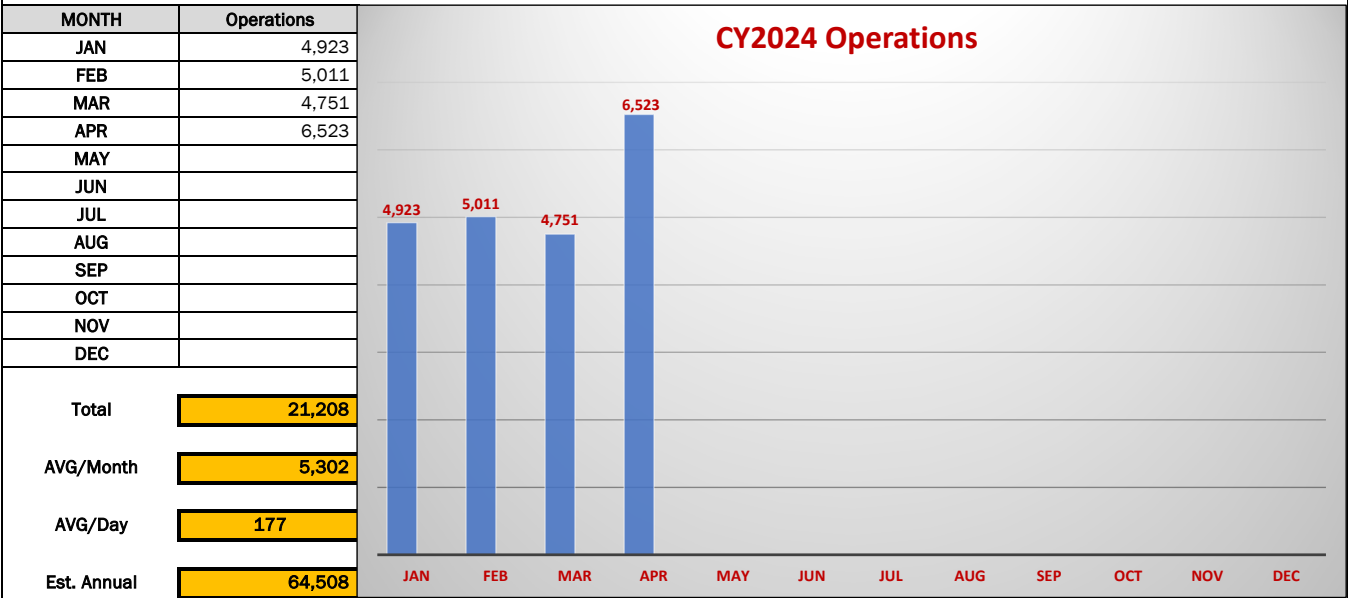


COTTONWOOD MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

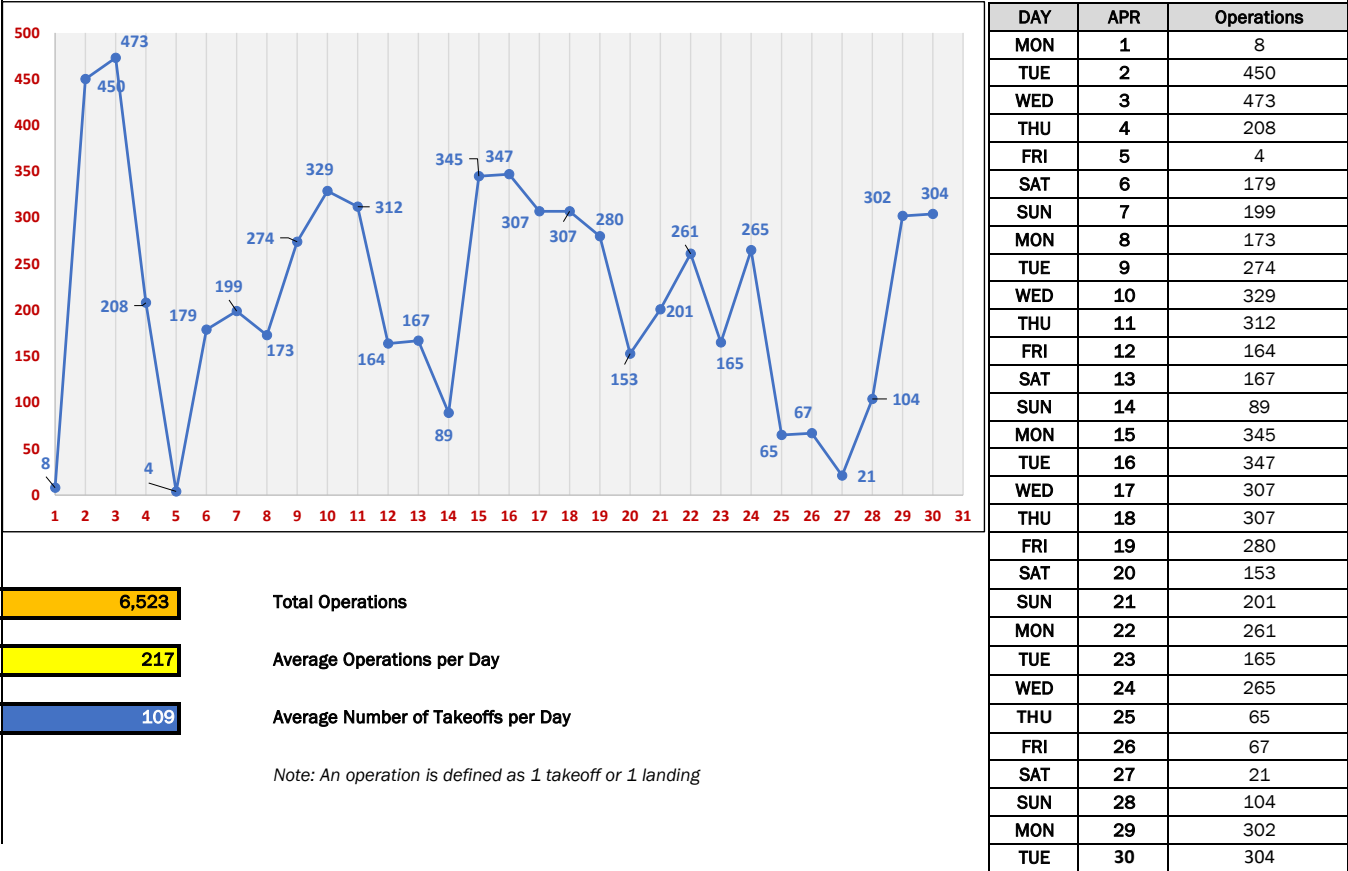
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Airport Operations



APRIL



COTTONWOOD MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

AIRPORT OPERATIONS & NOISE ABATEMENT REPORT

APRIL 2024

Annual Operations Comparison

OPERATIONS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2021	2,773	4,390	4,647	4,149	3,048	2,224	1,972	1,891	1,809	2,661	4,300	3,070	36,934
2022	3,444	3,158	3,955	4,085	4,506	2,863	1,864	2,349	1,756	2,237	2,756	2,068	35,041
2023	2,918	4,175	4,606	5,504	4,062	4,096	3,237	3,367	3,162	4,066	6,352	4,758	50,303
2024	4,923	5,011	4,751	6,523									21,208
AVG	3,515	4,184	4,490	5,065	3,872	3,061	2,358	2,536	2,242	2,988	4,469	3,299	35,872

