

September 28, 2023

Air Carriers, Foreign Air Carriers and Others Operating at Lake Charles Regional Airport

**Re: Notice by Public Agency of Intent to Apply for Authority to Impose a Passenger Facility Charge for New Projects and to Amend an Approved Passenger Facility Charge Program at the Lake Charles Regional Airport (LCH)**

Dear Operator:

The Airport Authority of Airport District Number One Calcasieu Parish (the Authority) intends to submit an application to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to gain authority to initiate a new impose and use application and to amend its current PFC program, which is providing financing for several projects at the Lake Charles Regional Airport.

As required by Section 158.23 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 158, Passenger Facility Charges, the Authority is hereby providing written notice to all air carriers and foreign air carriers operating at the Airport. This letter serves to inform air carriers of the Authority's intent to initiate a new PFC application, amend its current program, and notify air carriers of a PFC Consultation Meeting.

The Authority seeks to:

1. Initiate a new impose and use application to add projects.
2. Update and revise the budget of the existing Application 5, Project 1 for the Non-revenue Public Parking Expansion.
3. Appropriately extend the collection amounts, charge expiration dates, and other related administrative issues.

In accordance with §158.23(e)(1), the Airport Authority requests that air carriers confirm receipt of this letter and additionally state their intended presence at an online meeting scheduled for October 31, 2023, at 9:30 am CDT.

Please email Hannah Solis at [hannah@kutchins-groh.com](mailto:hannah@kutchins-groh.com) with your contact information in order to receive information regarding virtual Consultation Meeting login credentials.

If an air carrier determines that the consultation meeting is not necessary, the Authority requests that the air carrier's certification of agreement or disagreement be forwarded with its written acknowledgment of receiving this notice of intent.

## **Section 158.23 (a) (1) Description of Projects**

The general description of the projects in the existing program remains unchanged from the currently amended approval. This amendment action seeks to increase the approval authority for the Non-Revenue Public Parking Project to account for additional costs associated with the project.

The new projects are further explained following the specifics of the proposed amendment.

### **1. New Impose and Use Application**

1. **Entrance Road Canopy Project**: This project involves the installation of a canopy in the front of the Terminal for the protection of passengers arriving and departing the airport. It provides the Airport's Passengers and Patrons protection from the elements and covers the Airport Road in front of the Terminal. This element of PFC will complete the project funding profile to accompany Federal funding provided under the Airport Improvement Program and CAREs Act funding.
  - AIP Funding \$3,111,111
  - State Funding \$ 613,930
  - PFC Funding \$ 200,000
  - CFC Funding \$ 200,000
  
2. **Crash Alert System**: This project includes the installation of the system that connects the Airport Traffic Control Tower, Airport Operations, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting personnel, and the Airport's Department of Public Safety for all emergency and alert notifications as required by FAR Part 139 and the Airport's Certification Manual. This project is a 100% PFC-funded project.
  - PFC Funding - \$83,741
  
3. **BIL Loading Bridges**: This project is to replace two outdated and damaged Passenger Loading bridges at gates 2 and 3 for the Airport's passenger terminal. Its completion resulted in the full electrification of the Airport's passenger boarding bridges including pre-conditioned air, ground power units, and charging of the associated infrastructure. This element of PFC will complete the project funding profile to accompany Federal funding provided under the Airport Terminal Program of the Biparty Infrastructure Law (BIL).
  - ATP Funding \$2,500,000
  - State Funding \$ 131,579
  - PFC Funding \$ 300,000
  
4. **Non-Revenue Overflow Parking Lot**: This project will provide a new non-revenue area for public parking in overflow conditions of the Airport's Terminal Parking lot. With the resurgence of air travel following the COVID Pandemic, the Airport has seen record passenger levels and significant increases in demand for parking. This has resulted in daily overflow of the lot. With no surface lot available, the Airport's customers have been forced to park in the grass surrounding the existing lot. Completion of this project will provide a safe efficient way to provide parking in the overflow conditions. This project is a 100% PFC-funded project.
  - PFC Funding - \$ 2,500,000

5. PFC Professional Services (App 6): This project involves the recapture of the professional service fees associated with the preparation of the PFC application. The objective of this project is to successfully navigate the Passenger Facility Charge application process in a manner acceptable to the FAA that will result in the Airport's ability to impose and use the PFC as set out by FAR Part 158. Successful completion of the application will afford the Airport the opportunity to continue the collection of PFC revenue for its Capital Development Program. This project is a 100% PFC-funded project.
  - PFC Funding - \$60,000
  
6. PFC Professional Services (SOAR Admin., Close-out, and Audit Costs): This project involves the professional services associated with the required annual audits of the program as well as the monthly administration, review, and update of all SOAR transactions for the life of the application. This is a 100% PFC-funded project.
  - PFC Funding - \$ 120,000

## 2. Amendment of Application 18-05-C-01-LCH

### Increase the Approval Authority of Non-Revenue Terminal Area Public Parking Expansion

In the aftermath of the COVID Pandemic, Airport’s across the country are experiencing significant cost increases associated with all construction projects. The original approved project began construction in 2019 before the Pandemic. Shortly after completing the enabling packages, all expansion was halted due to the sharp downturn in demand. Now, the Airport is experiencing record numbers of passengers and the project is ready to be completed; however, as with all construction efforts, the budgets and costs have significantly increased. This amendment will provide the needed PFC revenue to complete the project as envisioned and provide the required level of service for the Airport’s Customers. This amendment action seeks to increase the approved collection authority to account for allowable costs associated with the approved project and to update the associated financial plan. The PFC portion of the project budget is being increased from \$1,000,000 to \$3,500,000, to cover the costs of the project.

The remaining projects in the original application (as amended) remain the same in scope and budget as follows:

05-02 Construct Airline Wastewater Disposal Apparatus	\$ 7,500.00
05-03 Passenger Bridge Improvements	\$157,620.00
05-04 Airport Security Improvement Project	\$150,000.00
05-05 Professional Services for the PFC Program Administration	\$100,000.00

### Section 158.23 (a)(3) Request that a Class of Air Carriers Not Be Required to Collect the PFC

Under Section 158.11 of FAR Part 158, the Authority may request in its application to the FAA to impose a PFC that any class of air carrier not be required to collect the PFC if the number of passengers enplaned

by the carriers in the class constitutes no more than one percent (1%) of the total number of passengers enplaned annually at the Airport. The number of passengers enplaned annually by the requested class of ATCO-Non-Scheduled/On-Demand Air Carriers filing FAA Form 1800-31 represents approximately 0.0% of total passengers enplaned at the Airport in 2021. The 2021 ACAIS Report included no carriers filing under FAA Form 1800-31.

The Authority believes that the PFC revenue to be collected from the requested class of carriers does not justify the administrative burden that would be imposed on the carriers and the Authority in collecting and accounting for the revenues.

The Authority further believes that the requested class of on-demand air taxi operators is logically distinguishable from the air carriers providing regularly scheduled air service at the main Airport passenger terminal building and that the exclusion of such on-demand operators will not have a discriminatory effect.

**Section 158.23 (a)(2) PFC Level, Effective Date, Expiration Date, and Total Revenue**

PFC Level:	\$4.50
Charge Effective Date:	April 1, 2024
Estimated Charge Expiration Date:	July 1, 2038
Total PFC Revenue:	\$3,263,741

**Section 158.23 (a) (4) Meeting Notice**

The Authority will hold an online airline consultation meeting on October 31, 2023, at 9:30 am CDT to discuss the proposed application and answer any questions.

It is requested that you provide the Authority with your written responses and Certifications of Agreement/Disagreement to the proposed action within 30 days of the consultation meeting or receipt of this letter if no meeting is desired.

Should you have any questions, please contact us. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss this program with you.

Sincerely,



Mr. Heath Allen, CM  
Executive Director

Cc Mr. Ben Guttery, FAA PFC Program Manager  
Mr. Bradley C. Kutchins, Kutchins& Groh, LLC

**(Final) Enplanements by Air Carrier for Calendar Year 2022**

Lake Charles Regional (LCH)

Heath Allen Po Drawer 5820, Lake Charles, LA 70606

LCH

SCHEDULE TYPE CARRIER NAME (CARRIER CODE)	ENPLANEMENTS		TOTAL
	SCHEDULED	NONSCHEDULED	
CRAC - Large Certificated Air Carriers, filing T-100.			
COMMUTEAIR LLC DBA COMMUTEAIR (C5#)	21,963	0	21,963
Envoy Air (MQ#)	21,808	0	21,808
SkyWest Airlines, Inc. (OO)	17,506	0	17,506
WESTERN AIR CHARTER, INC. D/B/A JET EDGE (3FQ)	0	11	11
CRAC Total	61,277	11	61,288
SITE TOTAL	61,277	11	61,288