

# Watsonville airport to get a facelift

Watsonville Airport will get a facelift this month when several taxiways get new pavement and 75 new parking spaces for planes are added.

The bulk of the \$564,000 project will be paid by federal funds. The city will have to come up with 10 percent, \$56,400, for its portion.

Construction is scheduled to begin about Aug. 19, and will take about 50 working days to complete, according to the contractor.

Along with the new blacktop surfaces, the airport will get a new lighting system for the west end of its secondary runway, which will help pilots

know whether they are landing at the correct angle of descent. The lighting system is called Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI).

The taxiway that runs parallel to the airport's main runway, which runs north-south between Freedom Boulevard and Highway 1, will be resurfaced. Also, the taxiway alongside the airport's secondary runway, which runs east-west between Manfre Road and Airport Boulevard, will be converted to plane-parking spaces called tie-down spaces, Ackerman said.

A new taxiway will be built closer to the secondary runway than the old one was, he said.

Taxiways are used by planes to drive from one end of the runway to the other to either park or prepare for takeoffs.

The new tie-down spaces will come in handy since the airport is crowded by more than 350 permanently based planes and as many as 150 visiting planes a week, Ackerman said.

Incoming and outgoing planes will be redirected from area's where roadwork is being done.

Even though all planes will be ordered to use one runway or taxiway while the work is being done on the other, traffic won't be bogged down, Ackerman said.

Most planes only use one runway anyway, he said.