

DATE: 4/2/2024
TO: Hon Mayor and Members of the Torrance City Council
FROM: Jim Gates
SUBJECT: Landing light repair/replacement project status

The Torrance Airport continues to be closed from sunset to sunrise because shoddy maintenance over the years has resulted in failure of the taxiway lights, so we are told. According to the report to the Airport Commission, a contract was awarded nearly a year ago to fix this problem :

AIRPORT COMMISSION
MAY 11, 2023

"Taxiway Light and Wire Replacement The taxiway Light and Wire Replacement was awarded on April 11, 2023 to Belco Elecnor an electrical contractor. This is a multi-location project that involves several taxiway sections. We held a preconstruction meeting on April 25, 2023 with Belco Elecnor staff and will continue to meet with them in the next several weeks. Belco has as experience with airport electrical projects throughout the local area and they are locally based in Chino, CA. We are working diligently with them to formalize construction details before starting project. We will have monthly updates as we progress throughout this development.

- We anticipate initiating work May 2023*
- We anticipate completing work to be completed by July 2023"*

Recent inquiries into the complete lack of progress has resulted in the following March 18 e-mail from the Airport Manager to Michael Hayworth, who had complained about how the continued closure was adversely affecting his business:

Hi Michael,

Sorry for my delayed response. I was away at a City conference.

I totally understand your frustration. Trust me we are working diligently to complete the work as soon as practical.

We anticipated the project to be completed now but with the inclement weather we have experienced in late January through February has severely impacted our timeline. Our project involves repairing our electrical grid that is housed in the infield areas (grass), but with the heavy rains it has become impossible to do electrical work with so much saturation.

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The good news is that we are starting our project today 3/18 (overnight) and working all week to make up for lost time. Prior to our re-start we were working during the day. We expect to make progress in the next few weeks. If all goes well and with the overnight work, we expect to complete sooner than the expected 4-6 weeks. I don't have an exact timeline just yet, but I remain optimistic, and I will get a better picture later this week.

This delay has also, according to Dave Smith (President of the Robinson Helicopter Company) severely impacted their testing program, which requires evaluation of their designs in a night-time environment.

To summarize:

DATE	START REPAIR	WORK COMPLETE	ELAPSED TIME
5/11/2023	5/2023	7/2023	3 months
3/18/2024	1/2024	4/2024	3 months
SCHEDULE SLIP	9 months	9 months	

We need immediate answers to the following questions:

1. Why was this not completed during the summer of 2023, when it was DRY?
2. Why was the work postponed until the rainy season?
3. Who caused the NINE MONTH DELAY?