

Airport set to purchase state land

By NEIL YOUNG The Daily News | Posted: Wednesday, January 13, 2016 12:06 am

BULLHEAD CITY — Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport is planning for future growth. The airport is preparing to purchase a parcel owned by the Arizona State Land Department. It is land to the south of the airport fire station and southeast of the runways. Discussions with State Land will begin soon. “There’s a big portion there between the Parkway and all the way down to the runway,” said Jeremy Keating, airport director, at Tuesday’s meeting of the Mohave County Airport Authority board of directors. “We’re looking at a piece of that for future use if we need to expand, to build a new terminal, and now is the time to look at purchasing a piece of property while the prices are low. It doesn’t mean we’re going to build on it right away, but it means we would like to go through the process to acquire the land as quickly as possible.”

Other projects at the airport include:

* **Runway and taxiway extension** -- “We’re going into the third month of that construction and that’s primarily earth work — a lot of dirt moving and the new perimeter fence and new perimeter road will get constructed and then, once that phase is done, then we’ll be going out to bid for Phase Two, which will be actually extending the pavement” another 1,000 feet, expanding the runway to 8,500 feet, Keating said. He said he expects construction on the runway to get underway sometime this fall. The project is estimated to cost \$9.3 million and will be funded mostly by a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration to be awarded late this summer.

* **Terminal emergency power upgrade** -- awarded to Corbins Electric at an approximate cost of \$100,000. “It’s not just rewiring. They have to order some new electronics and that takes a few months to get the electronics produced ... we’re expecting that project to begin sometime in April,” Keating said. “That will help us keep the majority of the terminal and airfield lights on when there’s a power failure. What happens is right now, we have some lights, but it’s very minimal and it was determined that our generator is capable of handling a larger load, and right now, we have no air conditioning or heater when we have a power failure.” The project should be completed just in time for triple-digit temperatures, he said.

* **Security upgrades to the air traffic control tower** -- “The FAA is always changing informational material and requirements on airports and one of the things that has changed over the years is security obviously has changed in lieu of world events ... we’ll be increasing some of the security requirements around the control tower,” Keating said.