



# Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport

## Media Information Guide

Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport  
2550 Laughlin View Drive  
Bullhead City, Mohave County, Arizona 86429  
928-754-2134  
Email: [admin@flyifp.com](mailto:admin@flyifp.com)  
Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

### **Inquiries**

Media inquiries should be directed to the Airport Director at 928-754-2134 or by email at [admin@flyifp.com](mailto:admin@flyifp.com).

Airport news releases are made available online at [flyifp.com](http://flyifp.com) and on FaceBook at [www.facebook.com/FlyIFP](http://www.facebook.com/FlyIFP). To receive news releases directly by email, call 928-754-2134 or email [admin@flyifp.com](mailto:admin@flyifp.com).

The airport does not represent the airlines, TSA, rental car agencies, or any other tenant of the airport; news media should direct requests for specific information to the company or agency involved.

Current commercial air charter carrier;

Sun Country Airlines Media Relations Team  
651-900-8400  
[mediarelations@suncountry.com](mailto:mediarelations@suncountry.com)

### **Airport Access**

LBIA's passenger terminal is a public facility operated by Mohave County Airport Authority. News media may photograph or film publicly accessible areas without permission of the Authority. As a courtesy, airport officials ask news organizations to notify the Airport Director when a news team is sent to the airport and that media representatives check in at the administration office when on site.

While at the airport filming, taking photos or conducting interviews, news media are required to overtly display press identification. Media members may not leave equipment unattended or stage equipment or personnel in a manner that blocks or restricts movement through major pathways, emergency escape routes or emergency exits or allow the same to interfere with airport or airline operations.

Commercial filming and photography require pre-approval by the Airport Director.

Security restrictions are critical to airport safety. Unauthorized access to a restricted area of the airport complex will result in arrest and denial of future access.

### **Leased areas**

Areas leased by airlines and other tenants are under the control of those organizations and news media access must be approved by the appropriate tenant. These areas include but are not limited to ticket counters and associated areas and aircraft hangars and associated properties.



## Media Information Guide, continued

### Security Screening Area

The security screening area is operated by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in space leased for that purpose. Inquiries regarding any aspect of security screening, including restrictions on filming or photography should be directed to the TSA public affairs office. Media may go beyond the TSA checkpoint only if escorted by an employee of an airline, the TSA, or the Airport Authority.

Lorie Dankers, TSA Regional Spokesperson Arizona  
[Lorie.dankers@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:Lorie.dankers@tsa.dhs.gov)

Operations Center  
801-606-8887

### Airfield

Airfield access is strictly controlled. Requests for filming in the aircraft movement areas are handled on a case-by-case basis and will be accommodated to the extent staffing and operational considerations permit.

Marked vehicles and personal or unmarked vehicles must be parked in the public parking area.

Mohave County Airport Authority reserves the right to restrict news media activity at any location on airport premises if warranted by public security, safety, or operational concerns.

In a non-aircraft emergency situation the Airport Director coordinates the release of information with the Assistant Airport Director or Incident Commander. Bullhead City Police are in charge of investigating traffic accidents and criminal activities on airport property. Fire officials handle fire and rescue operations.

### Emergencies

It is the policy of Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport to cooperate with the news media to the greatest extent possible. During major incidents or long-term situations, information will be posted on the Airport's website at [www.flyifp.com](http://www.flyifp.com) and on social media.

If the emergency is expected to generate extensive media attention, briefings may be conducted by the Airport Director, Assistant Director or other spokesperson.

If an aircraft is involved, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and/or the Federal Aviation Administration investigating team will take charge of the investigation and the release of any information referencing that investigation.

Generally, in an aircraft emergency the following holds:

- NTSB and the airline involved release the cause of an aircraft crash or incident after an investigation has been conducted. Until then, no agency will speculate about the cause of the incident.
- The passenger manifest (list of names of passengers and crewmembers on an aircraft) is released by the airline, not the airport.



## Media Kit

# Media Information Guide, continued

### Emergencies, continued

- The FAA, not the airport, releases information on air traffic control communication with the pilot of an aircraft involved in an incident.
- Initial confirmation of deaths resulting from the crash of an airplane is made by the coroner, medical examiner, or other designated law enforcement officers, and information will not be released until family members are notified.

During an emergency involving aircraft, the airport representative will provide **ONLY** the following information:

- Date and time of incident
- Name of Airline
- Type of aircraft and flight number
- Number of persons on board, if confirmed
- General description of the incident
- Impact on airport operations

All other information must be provided by the airline representative or the NTSB. Airport personnel will only provide information that has been confirmed by the airline or the appropriate federal agency.

Only credentialed members of recognized media organizations with visible identification will be permitted in media briefing areas. The Incident Commander will determine whether media will be escorted onto the air operations area. The official in charge will determine any restrictions on the movement of news media that may be necessary to allow a safe and orderly response to the incident.

Photographs and video may be taken from any area where access has been permitted, however Public Safety and Airport Operations officials may restrict the use of flash, strobes and other high-intensity lighting that may affect situation response.

Members of the media must not restrict the public's access to gates, ticket counters, baggage or other areas in the terminal. During an aircraft incident, access to passengers may be subject to approval by the involved airline or the NTSB.

Media representatives will not resist, obstruct, oppose or interfere with any law enforcement officer in the lawful execution of their duties and are not exempt from any federal, state or local laws and will be treated in the same manner as any violator if arrested.

LBIA will make every effort to provide a working area for credentialed media.



# Fact Sheet

Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport is an economic driver of the Tri-state, generating about \$150 million to the local economy. One of the busiest non-metropolitan passenger airports in the region, the airport offers daily service to more than 100 cities in the U.S. provided by Sun Country Airlines through scheduled charter flights for the Riverside Resort and Harrah’s Laughlin Casino. Additionally, the airport is the main base for Air Methods Tri-State Care Flight, a helicopter and fixed wing air ambulance company. Fixed base operations for general aviation, business aircraft and commercial flights are provided by Signature Flight Support.

<b>Three Letter Identifier</b>	IFP – commonly referred to as International Fun Place.
<b>Owner/Operator</b>	The airport is owned by Mohave County and operated under long-term lease by Mohave County Airport Authority.
<b>Funding</b>	The airport is self-sustaining by charging fees to airport users. Airport capital projects are funded by grants from the Federal Aviation Administration and Arizona Department of Transportation, as well as passenger facility charges.
<b>Employees</b>	The Airport Authority employs 16 full-time staff. Three hundred people work on airport property, which includes big box stores such as Sam’s Club and Home Depot. These stores have long-term leases with the airport.
<b>Location</b>	<p>LBIA is located one mile (2 km) north of the central business district of Bullhead City in Mohave County, Arizona, USA. The airport is across the Colorado River and one block away from the community of Laughlin, Nevada.</p> <p>Arizona does not change with Daylight Savings Time. During the winter months, Arizona is Mountain Standard Time and during the summer months is Pacific Daylight Time. UTC -7</p> <p>Latitude/Longitude: 35-9-16.6 N / 114-33-33.6 W</p> <p>Elevation above sea level: 707 feet/215 meters</p>
<b>Elevation above sea level</b>	707 feet (215 meters)
<b>Size</b>	650 acres (260 ha)
<b>Runway</b>	8,501 feet x 150 feet Full length parallel taxiway
<b>Facilities</b>	<p>The 10,500-square-foot commercial terminal opened in 1991 and hosts airline counters, security screening area, and baggage claim and dock, as well as airport administration.</p> <p>A 10,000-square foot holdroom with three gate areas, opened in 2005, connected to the terminal by a 100-foot covered walkway.</p>
<b>Ground Transportation</b>	<p>Three rental car agencies located in the main terminal</p> <p>Casino Shuttle Services</p> <p>Parking: There are no parking fees at the airport. Over 400 spaces are conveniently located near the terminal. Parking lot is safe, clean and well-lit.</p>
<b>Traffic Control Tower</b>	FAA contract Traffic Control Tower opened in 1999. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.
<b>Aircraft Rescue Fire Station</b>	The 13,000-square-foot fire station opened in 2012. The airport employs 6 firefighters who man the station 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.
<b>2019 operations</b>	10,086 operations comprised of 2132 air carrier, 1822 air taxi, 605 local general aviation, 5278 itinerant general aviation and 249 military.
<b>2019 enplanements</b>	Approximately 130,000



## Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport

### Overview

Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport serves as the gateway to Arizona's West Coast – 340 miles of Colorado River waters and thousands of miles of shoreline off Lake Mohave and Lake Mead available for outdoor and water recreation and the casino resorts of our neighboring city of Laughlin, Nevada, which attract more than 2 million visitors each year.

#### **Ownership and management**

Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport is owned by Mohave County on Mohave County-owned land. Mohave County Airport Authority, a nonprofit corporation, operates the airport on a long-term lease.

MCAA was formed for development, promotion and improvement of air transportation and commerce in Mohave County. The Authority is made of a seven member Board of Directors and a general membership. The Authority's primary role is to provide policy guidance to airport management.

The airport is self-sustaining by charging fees to airport users. Airport capital projects are funded by grants from the Federal Aviation Administration and Arizona Department of Transportation, as well as passenger facility charges.

#### **Air Service**

Sun Country Airlines with Boeing 737s provides daily commercial service from more than 100 North American cities as charter flights for the Riverside Resort and Harrah's Laughlin. Additionally, the airport is the main base for Tri-State Care Flight, a helicopter and fixed wing air ambulance company.

Fixed base operations for general aviation, business aircraft and commercial flights are provided by Signature Flight Support. Services include fuel farm, crew lounge and workstation with internet, limited hangar space and available tie down space. Operating hours are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

There are approximately 29 Based aircraft.

#### **Location**

Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport is located one mile (2 km) north of the central business district of Bullhead City in Mohave County, Arizona, USA.

Located near the juncture of Arizona, California and Nevada, Bullhead City offers a desert climate for year-round outdoors and water recreation enthusiasts, several award-winning champion golf courses, parks, shopping, family and fine dining and the Colorado River History Museum.

Historic attractions of the area include Grand Canyon Caverns, Katherine Gold Mine, the ancient petroglyphs of Grapevine Canyon and the gold mining town of Oatman on Historic Route 66.

The airport is situated directly across the Colorado River from our neighboring community Laughlin, Nevada, which offers casino resorts and diverse entertainment venues featuring world-class performers.



## **Media Kit**

### **Runway**

Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport has one runway. Runway 16/34 is 8,501 feet (2,591 meters) and full-length parallel taxiway with asphalt surface.

The runway and taxiways have medium intensity lighting systems which can be turned on by a pilot clicking the radio transmission button in the cockpit. Runway end identifier lights are installed at each end of the runway, in addition to a precision approach path indicator system at each end.

### **Airport Development**

Over the past seven years, the airport has invested more than \$35 million in improvements, including a new Airport Fire Station with state-of-the-art new airport firefighting vehicle, a rehabilitated taxiway system; a 1,000-foot runway extension project, general aviation and commercial ramp rehabilitation and expansion of the commercial aircraft remain overnight area.

Over the next 20 years, the airport is projecting investment of up to \$150 million. Projects in 2022 include the renovation of the main terminal public restrooms, design of the main Taxiway rehabilitation, Apron security lighting upgrades to LED, upgrade of the runway PAPIs to LED, and acquisition of ARFF foam testing equipment. Over the next few years, projects will include the rehabilitation of the main taxiway and connectors, renovation of our terminal holdroom public restrooms, possible construction of new aircraft t-hangars, other terminal building enhancements, and the general aviation apron sealcoat.

The economic benefit of the airport to the local economy is about \$150 million.

### **Community Involvement**

Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport opens its doors and welcomes the community to walk onto the airport ramp areas, chat with pilots and get up close to aircraft in celebration of the past, present and future of aviation through its annual National Aviation Day celebration.

Partnering with Kingman Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 765 and the airport's fixed based operator Signature Flight, Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport hosts an annual Young Eagles program, which extends the community celebration of all things aviation through free 20 minute general aviation flights for youth between the ages of 8 and 17.

Every age from elementary school students to seniors take part in airport tours which offer a behind-the-scenes look at the airport terminal building and airport fire trucks.

### **Recent Awards**

2014 Fire Industry Education and Resource Organization Design Award for the Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport Fire Station, DWL Architects + Planners

2011 Airport of the Year, Arizona Department of Transportation



# Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport

## History



*Bullhead City Airport in the 1940s.  
Photo courtesy C. Waller.*

It was water, not air that launched the Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport.

Bureau of Land Management began construction of Davis Dam power plant in 1942, a year after land was purchased from the State of Arizona for the project.

The following year, a runway was established on BLM property approximately two miles south of the Davis Dam power plant construction site on what is now known as the Airport Commercial Center. Built by workers at Davis Dam, the airport was used to provide laborers, supplies and materials for the dam project, which was completed in 1953.

In 1968, Mohave County leased what was known as Bullhead City Airport from BLM for a 50-year period and in 1971 the county subleased a portion of Bullhead City Airport Inc., a private enterprise that provided fixed based operation services at the airport. Seven years later, Mohave County negotiated a new 25 year lease for the then entire 135-acre airport with the newly formed Mohave County Airport Authority.

BLM transferred airport property to the State of Arizona in 1983 and the Arizona State Land Department subsequently sold at public auction property that included the airport parcel to Bullhead City Airport Inc. The sale included two stipulations: first, the buyer would have to dedicate 433 acres to Mohave County for airport use and second, the buyer would complete a flood control project within two years of the land purchase.

Don Laughlin, founder of the Nevada town that bears his name and owner of the Riverside Resort, bought the rights to operate Bullhead City Airport in 1984 from Bullhead City Airport Inc.

Seven years later, Laughlin gave the airport and 433 acres of his Bullhead City land for the airport to Mohave County to own and operate. Laughlin also financed a major flood control project which he extended to include much of Bullhead City. The gift, including the land, was valued at \$9 million.

The following year, Mohave County Airport Authority commissioned a Master Plan to build a new jet-capable runway east of the existing airport and to develop a new apron and commercial passenger terminal. During construction, general aviation remained at the old airport, using a taxiway to access the new runway. Over time, general aviation relocated to the new site and the connecting taxiway was closed and the old airport site decommissioned.

A grand opening celebration of the new airfield took place November 9, 1991. The airport moved from its location along Highway 95 to its current location. Until then, the airfield was known as the Bullhead City Airport. Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport honored both Don Laughlin and the growth of air service through the 90s from such airlines as Air Laughlin, Vanguard Airlines, Viscount Air Services as well as Boeing 737 and McDonnell Douglas DC-9 flights from Sky Harbor International Airport. Within two years, passenger traffic more than doubled. FedEx Express became the airport's main cargo airline.





## Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport History, continued



Fire Station 4, manned fulltime by Bullhead City Fire Department, opened on the airport in 1991. Six years later, Mohave County Airport Authority established its own continually manned fire department, employing six full-time firefighters. The airport further improved aeronautical services and safety in 1999 with the opening

of the FAA contract air traffic control tower.

Sun Country began service to Bullhead City from Minneapolis in 2002 and the airline ultimately decided to make Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport a hub for the American Southwest region.

The airport made its big screen debut in the opening scenes of the 2003 Miramax comedy film "View from the Top." Starring Gwyneth Paltrow as an airline attendant on her first flight, the airport is seen as the departing airport for a "Sierra Airlines" flight to Fresno. The Martin 404 airliner used in the movie, owned by the Planes of Fame museum in Chino, California, takes off from the airport against the glittering backdrop of Laughlin casinos.

In 2005, the airport opened a 10,000-square-foot steel and concrete masonry holdroom/3-gate building east of the main terminal. The building was oversized to accommodate a future second floor and joined to the main building by a 100-foot covered walkway.

Three years later the airport underwent a multi-million dollar terminal renovation that increased passenger capacity and included a heightened security system. More than 4,700-square-feet of space was added for passenger and baggage screening and a new baggage conveyor was installed behind the ticket counters to take baggage to the new TSA bag screening area.



The airport secured two FAA grants in 2011 totaling \$7.6 million. One grant funded a 13,000-square-foot aircraft rescue fire station and fire truck. The fire station was the first building designed with the new master plan. Completed in 2013, the fire station received a 2014 Fire Industry Education and Resource Organization Design Award.

Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport was chosen as the Arizona Department of Transportation Airport of the Year for 2011.

In 2016, LBIA celebrated 25 years since its grand opening. The airport also received a \$750,000 U.S. Department of Transportation Small Community Air Service grant toward a year's contract of scheduled commercial service. From 2017 to 2018, American Airlines/American Eagle provided daily service to and from Phoenix.



Today, daily commercial service from more than 100 cities in the U.S. and Canada is operated by Sun Country Airlines with Boeing 737s as charter flights for the Riverside Resort and Harrah's Laughlin. Additionally, the airport is the main base for Air Methods Tri-State Care Flight, a helicopter and fixed wing air ambulance company.



## Airport Director Bio



### **Jeremy Keating, Airport Director**

Mr. Keating is responsible for the development of airport policy and administers all activities associated with the day-to-day operation, management, strategy and long-term capital development projects of the airport. He oversees the Airport staff and the Airport budget.

Daily commercial service from more than 100 cities in the U.S. and Canada is operated by Sun Country Airlines and Swift Air with Boeing 737s, as charter flights for the Riverside Resort and Harrah's Laughlin. Additionally, the airport is the main base for Air Methods Tri-State Care Flight, a helicopter and fixed wing air ambulance company.

Over the past seven years, the airport has invested more than \$35 million in improvements, including a new Airport Fire Station with state-of-the-art new airport firefighting vehicle, a rehabilitated taxiway system, a 1,000-foot runway extension project, general aviation and commercial ramp rehabilitation, and expansion of the commercial aircraft remain overnight area.

The annual economic benefit of the airport to the local economy is about \$150 million.

Mr. Keating joined the Mohave County Airport Authority in 2011 from Davenport Municipal Airport in Davenport, Iowa where he served as Airport Manager. He previously held airport operations positions with progressive responsibility at Midland International Airport in Texas, as well as Gillespie Field in San Diego County, John Wayne Airport and San Jose International Airport.

Mr. Keating is a certified member of the American Association of Airport Executives. Mr. Keating earned a bachelor's degree in Aviation Management at St. Cloud State University, Minnesota after receiving his FAA private helicopter license in 1997.