



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: December 9, 2009

To: Tony Garcia, Compliance Program Manager, AWP-620.1

From: John R. Howard, Manager, San Jose FSDO

Prepared by: Terje Kristiansen, FLM – GA Unit X 126

Subject: Safety Determination of South County Airport of Santa Clara County,
California

On December 3, 2009, personnel from the San Jose FSDO accomplished a safety review of the proposed parachute drop zone at the South County Airport of Santa Clara County. Operations Inspectors Matthew Hill and Paul King conducted the evaluation with Jeff Bodine, representing Garlic City Skydiving and W. Carl Honaker, Director (Santa Clara) County Airports also attending on site. Mr. Raciore Cavole from the San Francisco Airport District Office was invited but was unable to attend.

Based upon the results of the December 3, 2009, safety review it has been determined that the proposed drop zone on the South County Airport of Santa Clara County could be supported from a safety standpoint if the nine (9) conditions stipulated (attached) were agreed to by Mr. Garcia, Mr. Bodine, and Mr. Honaker.

**Original Signed by
John R. Howard**

Attachment: Required conditions that must be agreed to by Mr. Tony Garcia, Mr. Jeff Bodine, and Mr. W. Carl Honaker

The required conditions relating to safety at the South County Airport of Santa Clara County during parachute jump activities are (the specified conditions do not limit the use of the drop zone based upon the runway in use at the time of the parachute operations):

1. All jumps must be conducted in full compliance with 14 CFR Part 105.
2. A NOTAM must be established and published through the appropriate aeronautical entity to advise all airport users of the parachute jump activities.
3. Radio contact between the jump aircraft and NORCAL or Oakland ARTCC must be established and maintained throughout the jump activity.
4. The jump aircraft pilot will communicate with NORCAL or Oakland ARTCC and visually scan the area to ensure aircraft are not entering or maneuvering within the traffic pattern prior to authorizing jumpers to depart the aircraft.
5. Radio transmissions will be conducted by the jump aircraft on the South County Airport of Santa Clara County advisory frequency 122.70 (CTAF/UNICOM) to alert anyone in the area that jump activities are in progress.
6. Jumpers will be briefed to maintain directional control at all times and remain clear of the runway and stay within the designated drop zone area.
7. Airport management will ensure the Airport Facility Directory and San Francisco Sectional charts are updated to indicate (by parachute symbol depiction) that a designated Parachute Drop Zone has been established at the South County Airport of Santa Clara County.
8. Airport management will ensure the advisory information is updated to advise all who utilize South County Airport of Santa Clara County that a Parachute Drop Zone has been established and its location on the airport.
9. Airport management will advise all aircraft operators based at South County Airport of Santa Clara County of the establishment and location of a Parachute Drop Zone at the airport.

Note: In the interest of aviation safety the San Jose FSDO further recommends strongly that Garlic City Skydiving officials notify all flight schools, flying clubs, and FBO's within a 30 NM radius of South County Airport of Santa Clara County at least 14 days prior to the official establishment of the drop zone and the imminent skydiving activities. This advance notice will allow operators to train and brief inexperienced pilots how to behave near drop zones with respect to arrivals, touch and go, and departure procedures.