



Media Release

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COLORADO AVIATION COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO FINDINGS OF NO LEAD CONTAMINATION NEAR ROCKY MOUNTAIN METRO AIRPORT

Denver, Colo. – The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) and Colorado Pilots Association (CPA) released the following statement welcoming the findings of no lead contamination in communities near Rocky Mountain Metro Airport, and reaffirming the commitment of the aviation industry to safely replace leaded aviation gas by 2030:

“Colorado’s aviation community is pleased with the finding of studies commissioned by our neighbors that confirmed that our communities are not being contaminated with lead. While we are puzzled as to why these three municipalities have not publicized these results, the findings themselves are unsurprising and confirm what several others around the country have found. It is worth noting that according to the National Energy Administration, the amount of aviation gasoline (avgas) sales in Colorado over one year equate to 12 hours’ worth of automobile fuel.

“This in no way diminishes our commitment to pursuing a safe, orderly transition away from leaded avgas. We, along with the entire aviation industry, are eagerly working with manufacturers on a safe, commercially viable unleaded alternative by the end of 2030 or sooner. Low-lead fuel is used in piston engine aircraft as a safety requirement to prevent catastrophic engine failure and is accordingly required for the safe operation of many aircraft. Aircraft needing the higher-octane fuel to fly safely include those performing such important missions as search and rescue, disaster relief, agricultural support, law enforcement and medical transport. Therefore, it is imperative that the transition to an unleaded fuel be made in an orderly, federally regulated manner to ensure the safety of pilots, passengers, and the general public”.

Four separate lead contamination surveys, commissioned by the Town of Superior, and conducted there and in the Cities of Louisville and Lafayette, all reported no detectable lead levels in airborne samples. The reports note that the sampling locations were “chosen by the Town with respect to each location’s proximity to the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (RMMA) flight patterns.” The Town of Superior initially commissioned an airborne lead survey which took place on two dates in May 2023, and found lead samples were all “below the analytical reporting limit”, and that “results of the two sampling events indicate there were no detectable levels of airborne lead particles present above the laboratory reporting limit on the

days sampled.” The Town commissioned a subsequent surface lead wipe survey in September 2023. That survey found that lead levels were below detectable limits at 13 of the 14 sample sites- the 14th site was in an older home known to have contained legacy lead-based paint. Airborne and surface lead contamination surveys were next conducted in the Cities of Lafayette and Louisville in October and November of 2023 respectively, and similarly found lead levels at below detectable levels.

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The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) is a grassroots membership organization focused on the support and promotion of Business and General Aviation across the State of Colorado.

The Colorado Pilots Association is an organization of pilots and aviation supporters dedicated to the furtherance and enhancement of general aviation interests in the State of Colorado.