

6.11 Regional Airport System

Airports are a major contributor to the local, state and national economy and aviation plays a significant role in California's transportation system. This includes the movement of people and goods within and beyond the state's network of over 813 heliports and public-use airports. As of 2003, aviation contributes about 9 percent of both total state employment (1.7 million jobs) and total state output (\$110.7 billion) annually. Aviation also improves mobility, generates tax revenue, saves lives through emergency response, medical and firefighting services, annually transports air cargo valued at over \$170 billion and generates over \$14 billion in tourist dollars which improves our economy.

The extent that aviation is addressed in an RTP varies depending on each region. The RTP should plan for the aviation system within the region by identifying the following:

1. An overview of the role the airport system has within the region;
2. An inventory of the commercial and general aviation airports within the region. This should include a general description of each airport (number of commercial flights, based aircraft, number of annual operations, etc.);
3. Airport ground access and required ground access plans - If the region contains primary air-carrier airport(s), the RTP shall include an Airport Ground Access Improvement Program as specified in California Government Code 65081. A primary air-carrier airport is defined by the Federal Aviation Administration as having 10,000 annual passenger enplanements;
4. A list of short (5 year) and long-range (10 year) airport capital improvement plan (CIP) projects for the airports within the region;
5. Outcomes of the California Aviation System Plan and regional aviation system planning efforts; and,
6. The identification of the region's Airport Land Use Commission established pursuant to Public Utilities Code 21670(a) as well as the title and date of the most current airport planning documents: the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, the Airport Master Plan, and the Airport Layout Plan.

Additional information regarding land use compatibility concerns affecting airports can be found at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/landuse.html>

For questions and additional information regarding the state aviation program and its airport planning activities for a specific region please visit the Caltrans Division of Aeronautics website:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/index.html>

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/planners.html>

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/document/OfficeOfPlanningStaff_June2009.pdf

Requirements (Shalls)

Federal: Title 23 CFR Part 450.322(b) requires short and long-range strategies for an integrated multimodal transportation system.

State: California Government Code Section 65080(a) states that “Each transportation planning agency shall prepare and adopt a regional transportation plan directed at achieving a coordinated and balanced regional transportation system, including...aviation facilities and services. California Government Code 65081.1(a) requires each RTPA with a primary air-carrier airport to have an Airport Ground Access Improvement Program for mass transportation. 65081.1(b) requires that the Airport Ground Access Improvement Program shall address the development and extension of mass transit systems, including passenger rail service, major arterial and highway widening and extension projects, and any other ground access improvement projects the planning agency deems appropriate.

Recommendations (Shoulds)

Federal: None

State: None

Best Practices:

<http://www.actc-amador.org/projects/reports.php>