

## Challenges for General Aviation

Collected GA fuel taxes in CA are distributed Statewide. Of the estimated \$365 million generated in 2007, 60% went to local governments while 38% went to the State General Fund. Only 2% was made available for reinvestment in GA.



Local planning documents often ignore airports resulting in land use decisions incompatible with airports.



The value of airports as “economic engines” is not well understood by local governments and therefore often omitted from economic development programs.



A system of airports capable of handling emergency aircraft in remote portions of the State results in faster response during disaster and recovery operations.



Limited State funding inhibits planned airport programs, reduces flights bringing necessary commerce into the State, and hurts economies that depend on tourism.



## Key Contacts

**Federal Aviation Administration**  
Western Pacific Region  
Web: [http://www.faa.gov/airports/western\\_pacific/](http://www.faa.gov/airports/western_pacific/)

**Business, Transportation & Housing Agency**  
980 9th Street, Suite 2450  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2719  
Web: [www.bth.ca.gov](http://www.bth.ca.gov)

**California Transportation Commission, Technical Advisory Committee for Aeronautics**  
1120 N Street, MS 52  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Web: [www.catc.ca.gov/committees/taca/](http://www.catc.ca.gov/committees/taca/)

**State Senate, Transportation and Housing Committee**  
(916) 651-4121  
Web: [www.senate.ca.gov/ftp/sen/committee/STANDING/TRANSPORTATION/\\_home1/PROFILE.HTM](http://www.senate.ca.gov/ftp/sen/committee/STANDING/TRANSPORTATION/_home1/PROFILE.HTM)

**State Assembly, Committee on Transportation**  
(916) 319-2093  
Web: <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/newcomframeset.asp?committee=24>

**CalPilots**  
P.O. Box 6868  
San Carlos, CA 94070-6868  
Web: [www.calpilots.org](http://www.calpilots.org)

**Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association**  
421 Aviation Way  
Frederick, Maryland 21701  
Web: [www.aopa.org](http://www.aopa.org)

**National Business Aviation Association**  
1200 18th Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036  
Web: [www.nbaa.org](http://www.nbaa.org)



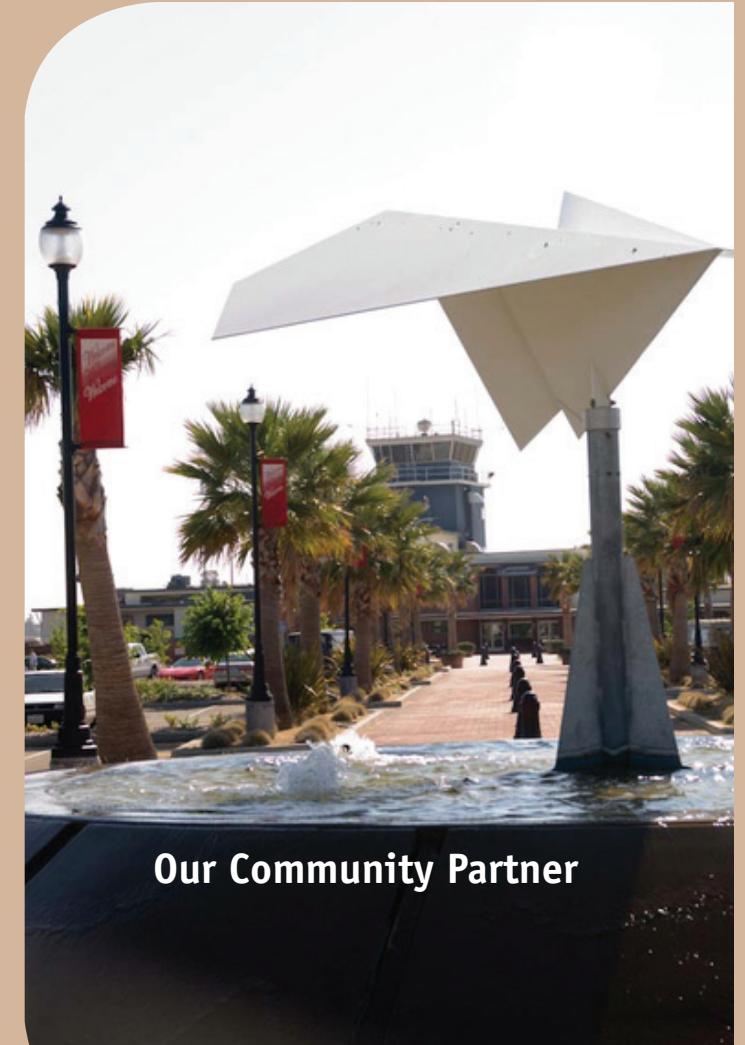
California Department of  
Transportation  
Division of Aeronautics  
1120 N Street, MS 40  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/)

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Department of Transportation  
Division of Aeronautics

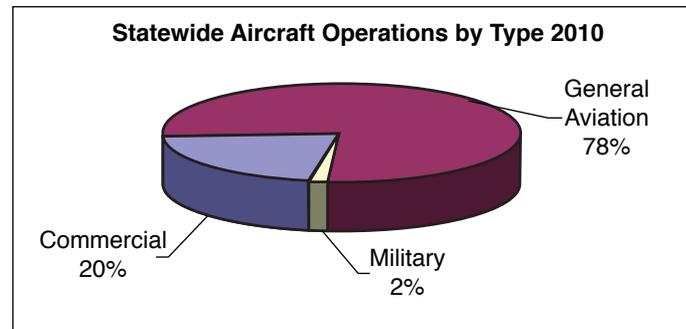
## Sustaining General Aviation



Our Community Partner

## General Aviation

In simplest terms, General Aviation (GA) is non-scheduled airline service and non-military aviation. That leaves room for a wide range of aircraft types including business, aeromedical, police and fire, cargo, agriculture, plus many others. In fact, 78% of all aircraft operations in California are GA. With so many jobs and business depending on GA, its no wonder this mode of transportation has become vital to the economic health of California. As we adopt new methods of economic sustainability, GA will undoubtedly show its place in our prosperity.



## Tourism

From the deserts of Death Valley to the snow-capped Sierra Nevada, from quaint coastal retreats to bustling urban centers, GA is a vital link to the diversity that makes California a global tourist destination. GA provides greater accessibility to remote and desirable areas helping these communities prosper. Preserving the airports in these areas keeps these destinations alive and prosperous.

- Average length of stay and monies spent increases when aviation is included
- Greater accessibility to world-class entertainment and recreation
- Local food and wine industries thrive when supported by aviation

View our video "California's General Aviation Airports: Links to Vitality" at: [www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/oairportVitality.html](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/oairportVitality.html)



## Emergency Response & Recovery

Earthquakes and wildfires are two natural events that are a part of life in California. When they occur, Californian's expect aviation to be available for immediate response and recovery, particularly in remote or inaccessible areas. Reinvesting in the airports that support such flights not only saves lives and property, but benefits the region with other aviation activities.

- Fire suppression and law enforcement operations need multiple bases of operation for rapid response
- GA airports become hubs for disaster response crews and supplies
- Aeromedical response time improves with more bases from which to operate

## Economics

As California's population grows and decentralizes, GA is expected to support more business types and the movement of high value, time-sensitive goods in areas outside traditional urban cores.

- Aviation generates tax revenue that is distributed statewide and locally
- GA provides businesses with lower location cost options, better access to clients and partners, and creates jobs
- High-value businesses intentionally site near GA airports



## Quality of Life

Today's lifestyles have come to rely on aviation to explore remote destinations, maximize business trips and deliver high value consumer goods overnight.

- GA Airports provide access to worldwide travel opportunities
- GA can help balance family and business time
- GA offers daily flights of fruits, vegetables, and other time-sensitive goods



## Funding

Maintaining our aviation infrastructure and protecting our GA airports allows us to continually receive GA's many benefits. The monies the State invests in GA improvements is derived solely from aviation fuel excise tax but additionally supports the State General Fund and local communities.

- \$270 million was estimated to be needed for general aviation airport improvements in 2010
- In 2009, \$1 million was allocated for airport improvements

## Supporting GA

GA is vitally important to our economy because it picks up where commercial aviation leaves off. Recognizing that the 31 commercial service airports cannot fulfill all the State's aviation needs, we have the ability to champion the 218 GA airports that support our diverse needs. Visit your local airport or write aviation officials expressing support for the many benefits of GA.