



News Release

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Contact:
David Vossbrink
Communications Director
(408) 501-7700

SAN JOSE AWARDED \$4.6 MILLION GRANT FOR AIRPORT AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ***First airport in the West to get federal environmental grant***

SAN JOSE, CA – Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) has been awarded a \$4.6 million grant to install airport and ground service equipment that will help improve local air quality under the Federal Aviation Administration’s Voluntary Airport Low Emissions (VALE) Program.

The grant will help fund the installation of “pre-conditioned air” and electrical power upgrades at thirteen airport gates in Terminal A that will reduce the need for diesel equipment and aircraft engine operations while aircraft are parked at the gate. SJC is the first airport west of Houston to receive a VALE grant, and so far only nine other airports have received VALE grants.

“The San José Green Vision encourages our staff and partners to find creative ways and new resources to achieve our community’s goals for sustainability,” said Mayor Chuck Reed. “This grant will advance the airport’s strong commitment to clean air and energy efficiency.”

Pre-conditioned air units provide cooled air for the comfort of passengers while aircraft are parked at the gate and eliminate the need for aircraft engines to idle on the ground. This will result in lower emissions, reduce the need for on-board auxiliary power units to support idling, and allow for more efficient use of electrical power.

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“With this federal support we can become even more efficient, cost effective, and green with immediate reductions in emissions from aircraft and diesel equipment,” said Bill Sherry, San José director of aviation.

The VALE grant for preconditioned air is one of the many efforts by SJC to improve environmental quality in the vicinity of the Airport. Among these are the design and construction of its new terminal to achieve LEED sustainability certification; use of recycled water and water conservation landscaping; energy conservation; solid waste recycling; and other pollution prevention measures.

The combined airport emissions from aircraft operations and ground support equipment typically represent less than five percent of regulated emissions in California. Surface transportation sources such as cars and trucks account for approximately 90 percent of total emissions.

In addition to the Terminal A gates that will be retrofitted using grant funds, the remainder of SJC’s aircraft gates will be equipped with pre-conditioned air units as a result of the Airport’s modernization program and new terminal construction currently under way. All 28 gates will be equipped when the new airport opens in summer 2010, which will further reduce emissions from airport operations.

The total cost for the terminal electrical upgrades and pre-conditioned air units for the 13 gates is \$6,052,310. Under the VALE program, the federal government pays 75 percent of the eligible project cost. San José’s 25-percent share of the project cost is \$1.5 million. SJC worked in close cooperation with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, California Air Resources Board, and Jacobs Consultancy to prepare its clean-air proposal to the FAA.

The VALE program was established under the “Vision 100 Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act of 2003” to reduce airport ground emissions at commercial service airports located in designated air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas.

The program allows airports to use federal Passenger Facility Charges and Airport Improvement Program grants to finance low-emission vehicles, refueling and recharging stations, gate electrification, and other air quality improvements.

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About Mineta San José International Airport

Mineta San José International Airport, a self-supporting enterprise, is owned and operated by the City of San José. SJC served 9.7 million passengers and handled approximately 209 million pounds of air cargo in 2008. SJC has approximately 150 daily flights a day on 13 domestic and international carriers to 27 nonstop destinations.

Mineta San José International Airport is located in San José, California's third largest city and the nation's tenth largest city (population of 989,500).

For more Airport information, visit www.sjc.org, or call Airport Customer Service at (408) 501-0979. Motorists can also tune their radios to 530 AM within two miles of SJC for current information on airport traffic, parking and security.

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