

ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

Representing City and County Governments of the San Francisco Bay Area



ABAG

MEMO

To: Executive Board

From: Marisa Cravens, Regional Planner, Association of Bay Area Governments
ABAG Staff Liaison to the Regional Airport Planning Committee (RAPC) 

Date: July 1, 2008

Subject: Revision of Memorandum of Understanding to expand the Regional Airport Planning Committee to include representation from Stockton, Sacramento, and Monterey Airports

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) created the Regional Airport Planning Committee (RAPC) to advise the three agencies on regional aviation matters. Along with elected officials nominated by the three regional agencies, RAPC includes voting representatives from San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose airports as well as a General Aviation representative.

At its June 27th meeting, the Regional Airport Planning Committee voted to expand its current membership to include representation from Sacramento, San Joaquin and Monterey Counties. The current Regional Airport Systems Plan update includes the commercial airports in these counties (Sacramento, Stockton, and Monterey Airports.) New members will be non-voting.

The inclusion of these counties recognizes that the economies, air space, travel patterns and housing trends in the area are linking the nine-county Bay Area to its neighboring counties, creating a mega-region that has been described as the area from Monterey to Auburn and Cloverdale to Modesto. The residents of all three counties use Bay Area airports at varying levels, with significant usage by San Joaquin County and Monterey County residents. Based on this usage, San Joaquin and Monterey Counties are both within the Bay Area airports' catchment areas and will need to be part of any solution designed to address projected congestion at the Bay Area's main commercial airports.

The Regional Airport Systems Plan update, which is considering several different scenarios to accommodate projected congestion at the Bay Area's main commercial airports, includes a scenario that diverts traffic to these mega-regional airports. All three counties have commercial airports; Sacramento International Airport is the most mature and provides a significantly higher level of service than either Stockton Metropolitan or Monterey Peninsula Airports.

Given the nature of the issues likely to arise, the Committee determined that elected officials would be the most appropriate representatives but that each county should determine their representative and appoint an alternate. The Committee expressed concern over the long distances that these members would be required to travel and that if their attendance was not consistent, that the proposed change could make it

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difficult for RAPC to achieve a quorum. Therefore, RAPC will keep its current quorum of ten members. The addition of three new members will bring total RAPC membership to 22.

Staff requests the Executive Board's approval to revise the MOU to expand the committee membership to include the designated non-voting representatives from the three counties. ABAG's Legal Counsel has reviewed and approved the changes. RAPC has approved revision to the MOU. RAPC staff is also requesting that MTC and BCDC approve revisions.