Summary of Aviation Legislation in California

Updated by: Caltrans, Division of Aeronautics

On September 17, 2009

2009-10 Regular Session

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September 11, 2009, was the last day for each house to pass bills for this first year of the two-year session. October 11, 2009, is the last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before September 11. A short summary of each bill is provided below. Read the bill's full text plus analysis at the official website for California legislative information at <www.leginfo.ca.gov> Click "Bill Information" and Search for the bill number.

Bill Number & Author		Subject	1st Policy	1st Fiscal	1st Floor	2nd Policy	2nd Fiscal	2nd Floor	Gov. Desk
SB 481 (Cox)		Safety – Bird strike management							
Color Code: Green indicates passage; Yellow indicates upcoming hearing/vote and date; **Red** check indicates Governor's signature.									

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SB 481, *Senator Cox-Fair Oaks, District 01 (Airports: wildlife)*
This bill would protect airport officials from state sanctions for actions taken in accordance with certain U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permits.
The Latest – 9/9/09 Bill passed its second Senate floor vote and it is now up to the Governor to sign or veto.

ABX4 10, *Committee on Budget, Transportation*
This budget trailer bill became law on July 28, 2009. Section 3 of the bill adds language to the Aeronautics Act in the Public Utilities Code directing a transfer of $4.0 million from the Aeronautics Account to the General Fund and suspension of the Division's authority to issue new Annual Credit Grants, Acquisition & Development funds, and AIP Local Match for fiscal year 2009/2010. Here is the whole section of the bill related to the Aeronautics Act:

"SEC. 3. Section 21683.3 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

21683.3. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the grant or funding programs described in Sections 21682, 21683, and 21683.1 are suspended for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

(b) Upon the order of the Director of Finance, the Controller shall transfer four million dollars ($4,000,000) from the Aeronautics Account to the General Fund.

(c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2011, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2011, deletes or extends that date."

AB 1272, *Assembly Member Hill-San Mateo, District 19 (Emergency medical services: trauma center)*

This bill relates to the Emergency Medical Services System and designated trauma centers. As local services plan their systems they will be required to include air transportation of trauma patients to, and between trauma centers. This bill no longer specifically refers to helicopter landing pads and the permitting process, the Aeronautics Act or CEQA as was called for in previous versions.

The Latest – This bill was re-referred to the Committee on Health but was not heard by them by the time committee hearings closed. The bill is stalled for the remainder of the year but may be revived in the second year of the session.

SB 649, *Senator Ashburn-Bakersfield, District 18 (Transportation)*

"On or before June 30, 2010, the Department of Transportation shall transfer, for fair market value, ownership of 577 acres known as Site A of the Mojave Bypass property in Kern County , except for that portion of the property constituting the right-of-way for State Highway Route 14, to the East Kern Airport District for open-pace purposes."

The Latest – This bill is now Chaptered in law as written above.

SB 737, *Senator Negrete McLeod-Chino, District 32 (Airports: airport land use commissions)*

This bill would delete some sections of airport land use law leaving fewer options for counties to establish an airport land use commission (ALUC). Some counties would be required to establish a new, so-called single-entity airport land use commission or designate an established planning body for airport planning responsibilities. No county would be exempt from the airport land use requirements.

The Latest: - 6/2/09 This bill failed to pass out of the Senate and is therefore dead for at least this first year of the two-year session. It is possible for the bill to make progress if changes are made to it early next year.

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