

## San Diego International Airport

**Airport Address** 3225 North Harbor Drive  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Air Cargo Contact** Airport Operations Department  
619-400-2710  
[info@san.org](mailto:info@san.org)

**Caltrans Contacts** District 11: Robin Owen, [Robin\\_Owen@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Robin_Owen@dot.ca.gov), 619-688-2507  
HQ: Debbie Nozuka, [Debbie\\_Nozuka@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Debbie_Nozuka@dot.ca.gov), 916-651-6012

San Diego International Airport (SAN) is situated on the southern California coast – three miles from the Mexico border and 20 miles from Tijuana. It is the busiest single runway airport in the nation and second in the world behind London-Gatwick airport. SAN is owned and operated by the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. SAN is one of three commercial airports (along with Imperial County and McClellan – Palomar) within the District 11 boundaries of San Diego and Imperial counties.

### OPERATIONS

SAN is open for arrivals 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A departure curfew exists for all flights between 11:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. and departures during the curfew hours are subject to large fines.

### FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- The current Airport Master Plan (2008) identifies 69,750 square feet of air cargo buildings on airport property.
- All four all-cargo carriers currently operate out of portable trailers next to the north cargo ramp. Cargo is sorted and loaded off-site then trucked in and out of the airport.
- In 2008, the air cargo apron deficiency was 696,240 square feet. Even with the low cargo forecast, the apron will remain insufficient to meet 2030 demand and plans for expansion are under consideration.
- A Foreign Trade Zone<sup>1</sup> is located about 20 miles from SAN.

### AIRPORT TRADE CHARACTERISTICS

- SAN is served by four all-cargo airlines which fly nonstop to 8 cargo destinations in the United States, with most flights going to Memphis Federal Express (FedEx) and Columbus United Parcel Service (UPS).



- Several airlines carry belly cargo in passenger aircraft and have facilities on airport property.

### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK TRUCKING

#### Primary North-South Routes

- I-5, I-805, and I-15, and SR 163

#### Primary East-West Routes

- I-8 and SR 94

On northbound I-5, there is a low 13'10" vertical clearance to the right at the Pershing Drive off-ramp (post mile 15.4) due to an angled overcrossing.

### SEAPORTS AND RAIL LINE ACCESS

- The Port of San Diego is less than two miles from SAN as the crow flies, but around five miles by vehicle.
- Neither Union Pacific (UP) nor Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) provides freight rail service to SAN.
- High speed rail service to an area just northeast and adjacent to SAN is being planned.

# Freight Planning Fact Sheet

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## PLANNED PROJECTS

- Construction of airfield, roadway, and parking enhancements in addition to new gates to improve efficiency and flexibility are scheduled to open in 2013.
- Construction of new access road to the north area facilities from Sassafras Street/Pacific Highway Intersection is scheduled to open in late 2012.

## OTHER AIRPORT FACTS

- Airlines carried more than 111,772 tons of cargo and 16,658 tons of mail in 2011.
- Continued strong cargo growth is anticipated; however, cargo operations are anticipated to grow more slowly due to increasing size of the aircraft and the ability to carry more cargo per departure.
- Cargo infrastructure will require upgrades and redevelopment in next 10 years to support larger aircraft and additional operations

## CONSTRAINTS AND ISSUES

- Near the border with Mexico and directly adjacent downtown, SAN is ideally located but with encroachment in all directions, expansion is limited and relocation efforts have been unsuccessful to date.
- Terrain and obstacles around the airport limit aircraft payloads for some long haul international routes, but not domestic routes.
- Prohibition on takeoffs between 11:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. limits SAN's cargo expansion potential.
- Airfield capacity constraints of the single runway will begin to constrain growth beyond 2030.

## CALTRANS FOCUS AREAS

- Help SAN meet future passenger and cargo demand needs in the region.
- Implement ways to alleviate highway bottlenecks along truck routes.
- Improve pavement conditions due to truck damage.

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PARTNERS

Port of San Diego: <http://www.portofsandiego.org/>

San Diego Air Pollution Control District:  
<http://www.sdapcd.org/>

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG):  
<http://www.sandag.org/>

## SOURCES

Air Cargo Mode Choice and Demand Study (2010), prepared for Caltrans by TranSystems:  
<http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ogm/aircargo.html>

Air Cargo World: <http://www.aircargoworld.com>

Goods Movement Action Plan (2007), California Air Resource Board and Business, Transportation and Housing: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/gmp/docs/gmap-1-11-07.pdf>

Multi-County Goods Movement Action Plan, Metro, (2008): <http://www.metro.net/projects/mcgmap>

San Diego International Airport:  
<http://www.san.org/>

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<sup>1</sup> Foreign Trade Zone—A port or nearby designated enclosed area where imported goods can be stored or processed free of custom duties prior to re-export.

