

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: October 26-27, 2011

Reference No.: 4.8
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Gary Cathey
Chief
Division of Aeronautics

Subject: **ADOPTION OF THE CALIFORNIA AVIATION SYSTEM PLAN: 2011 POLICY
ELEMENT**

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) adopt the California Aviation System Plan: 2011 Policy Element (PE) described below.

SUMMARY:

The Policy Element (PE) is the primary document that explains the policies and general business activities of the California Department of Transportation (Department), Division of Aeronautics (Division). The Division's primary duties and functions are defined by statute, codified in the State Aeronautics Act (Aeronautics Act) and contained within the California Public Utilities Code (PUC), Section 21001 et seq. The seven policy areas include: Stewardship and Preservation, Safety, Mobility, Airport Integration in Land Use Planning, Economics, Environment, and Education and Research.

The 2011 version of the PE continues the refinement of Division policies and actions based on the needs of the California aviation system and Department policies and programs. In particular, this version of the PE closely reflects current activities directed through Planning and Modal Programs and the Division of Transportation Planning. Moreover, it better explains to external partners how the Division balances its operations between federal mandates, largely those from the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Aeronautics Act.

Unchanged since 1965, funding for the Division is derived from the State Aeronautics Account. The Aeronautics Account is funded from General Aviation fuel excise tax revenues collected and not from the State's General Fund or Department itself. Excise taxes are collected at the rate of 2 cents per gallon for non-commercial jet fuel and 18 cents per gallon for aviation gasoline. The flow of revenue is explained under Revenue and Taxation Code Section 8352.3.

There are no fiscal or project obligations tied to approval of the PE.

BACKGROUND:

The 2011 Policy Element (PE) is one of the major California Aviation System Plan (CASP) reports, also known as elements. CASP elements are prepared by the California Department of Transportation (Department), Division of Aeronautics (Division) and updated approximately every five years per California PUC Section 21701, et seq. The Policy Element was last updated in February 2006.

Since the Aeronautics Act's formal amendment to include the CASP in 1989, the PE has expanded and contracted in an attempt to capture Department programs and the needs of California aviation. The 2011 update of the PE revisited the manner in which the policies and objectives of the Division have been expressed to the public. After reviewing PE's of the last 22 years, it was determined that the new generation of aviation and transportation professionals could benefit from a reiteration of the Division's core responsibilities that are enumerated in PUC Section 21001 et seq., the Aeronautics Act. These core responsibilities form the foundation of the policies found in the document and guide the daily business of the Division.

As a result of the above, the primary objective of the 2011 PE is to provide an overview of the Division's statutory obligations and operational directives. The secondary objective is to ensure that during the current period of fiscal challenge, limited resources are first guided towards fulfilling statutory obligations before addressing desired objectives. To accomplish this, the PE was divided into two sections. Section 1: Guiding Principles, which explains the Division's Federal, State, and Department priorities. Section 2: Policies, Goals, Implementation and Performance, outlines the seven major policy areas, corresponding objectives and implementing actions that reflect the policies and direction of the Division.