

1/18/2023

SBCAG Board of Directors
511 E. Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA
RE: Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans

Dear SBCAG Board of Directors:

The Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce, from Goleta to Carpinteria, would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the Santa Barbara Airport (SBA). The Chamber enjoys a very positive relationship with the Airport. The Chamber is a major stakeholder in the airport's continued economic development efforts. Additionally, SBA are involved members of the Chamber, and therefore stakeholders in our success in supporting business and government on the South Coast.

The Santa Barbara Airport is a key driver of the South Coast's economic development vitality, as well as throughout all of Santa Barbara County. They are long-term supporters of community involvement and have been frequent and engaged participants in community events hosted by the Chamber and other local organizations. Additionally, SBA has displayed a consistent willingness to collaborate on community projects through data sharing, communications, and other means of support. For many years, SBA both supported and participated in the annual Goleta Lemon Festival, using their public booth at the festival to give community members the opportunity to connect directly with SBA staff.

The airport's presence in our region has only grown more impactful and positive over time. Year-to-date in November of 2022 the Santa Barbara Airport's passenger count reached 1,123,077. Goleta hotel demand is 95% recovered when compared to pre-pandemic levels, an accomplishment that would not have been possible without the airport's performance. SBA's continued work to increase accessibility have helped our region attract new demographics of visitors and travelers. All of which has led to record TOT throughout the region.

The airport also offers an attractive travel option for South Coast businesses and residents alike. The convenience and partnerships SBA offers to local businesses continue to make the South Coast a better place to work and operate a business. Additionally, SBA acts as a hub of advertising for local businesses and events and is always willing to partner with local businesses and organizations to do so.

As we continue to hold important discussions about our region's airports, the Chamber hopes that their economic benefits, as well as the business communities support for, and positive relationship with, Santa Barbara Airport will remain front and center.

Sincerely,



Kristen Miller
President & CEO
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce