



# Memorandum

**TO: TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**FROM:** John Aitken, A.A.E.  
Director of Aviation

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON AIRPORT SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE:** January 15, 2020

Approved

Date

1-24-20

## RECOMMENDATION

Accept this report on the Airport's first Sustainability Management Plan.

## BACKGROUND

The Airport initiated an Airport Sustainability Management Plan to serve as our environmental platform for establishing Mineta San José International Airport as a global leader in environmental stewardship. The Plan leverages the triple-bottom line approach to sustainability, where environmental, economic and social benefits are optimized. It builds on the good environmental sustainability work that the Airport has accomplished to date, and provides several initiatives around eight key environmental dimensions to create a roadmap for continuously progressing our sustainability programs. The environmental dimensions include energy, water, waste, ground transportation, natural resources, social responsibility, sustainability governance and climate action.

To set the stage for developing meaningful strategies across these environmental dimensions, Airport staff inventoried the Airport's current state, that included evaluation of performance data for greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, water use, ground transportation, and solid waste. Airport staff then developed an inventory of past and current initiatives across these dimensions. The baseline assessment of these dimensions provided metrics and insight into what is working well and opportunities for improvement with regards to sustainability at SJC. The future initiatives outlined in the Plan were based on this initial assessment.

## ANALYSIS

The Airport's Sustainability Management Plan serves as a roadmap from current day through 2032 to implement initiatives in the above environmental dimensions. In addition, the Airport

staff coordinated with the City of San José's Climate Smart San José Plan, Envision 2040 and goals within it, and the City's General Plan.

Some of the proposed initiatives within the Airport Sustainability Management Plan include:

### **Energy**

The major initiatives within this dimension include the Airport's plans to pursue purchasing 100% renewable energy through San José Clean Energy's Total Green Option and ensuring 20% of energy needs are met with onsite renewable sources. The Airport will also encourage passengers to offset the carbon associated with air travel through the Good Traveler program.

### **Water**

The Water reduction initiatives include a goal of meeting 50% of water usage needs with recycled water at Airport facilities where the ability exists.

### **Ground Transportation**

The Airport has made good progress in this area with the new electric buses and will continue converting to 100% low-emission vehicles when required replacement vehicles are commercially available and feasible. Additionally, and where opportunities exist, the Airport will install solar-powered EV charging in public lots and for Airport-owned electric vehicles. The Airport will also continue to install bike lockers and bike racks.

### **Natural Resources**

With its proximity to the Guadalupe River, the Airport recognizes the importance in preserving natural resources. The Airport plans on conducting creek cleanup events along the Guadalupe River in addition to promoting local environmental and natural resource history for staff and passengers.

### **Social Responsibility**

The Airport has had many recent successes in elevating social awareness, providing support for local programs and community enterprises, and promoting best practices which are all part of supporting the Airport's commitment to sustainability. Social responsibility will continue to play an integral role at SJC. One of the key initiatives the Airport is currently pursuing is the expansion of the food donation program to include all Airport concessions.

### **Sustainability Governance**

The initiatives related to Sustainability Governance are essential to ensure the Airport stays on track with the goals outlined in the Sustainability Management Plan. Some of the key initiatives within this dimension include the Airport's plans to report on sustainability in a Biennial Report and developing a real-time dashboard display to illustrate key sustainability metrics.

### **Climate Action**

Key initiatives in this dimension include pursuing Level 3 Airport Carbon Accreditation initially with the ultimate overarching goal to achieve Carbon Neutrality for Airport-owned and controlled facilities and equipment. In addition, the Airport will collaborate with other City

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Departments in target-setting for municipal operations and align with the Climate Smart San José Plan.

**Waste**

Waste diversion initiatives include achieving Zero Waste (In accordance with the Zero Waste International Alliance definition that Zero Waste is diverting 90% of all discarded materials) and achieving a 75% diversion rate of organic waste from landfills.

The Airport Sustainability Management Plan includes an Implementation Plan and will be supported by a monitoring and reporting framework that will enable us to be transparent in demonstrating progress over time. During the implementation process, we will continue to work with our tenants, community, and key stakeholders to maintain transparency and inclusion of the initiatives.

The Airport Sustainability Management Plan is attached. A presentation will be provided at the Committee meeting on the Airport Sustainability Plan with a more detailed discussion of its initiatives.

**COORDINATION**

This report and Sustainability Management Plan has been coordinated with City Attorney's Office.

/s/

JOHN AITKEN, A.A.E.

Director of Aviation

For questions, please contact Matthew Kazmierczak, Manager of Strategy and Policy, at 408-392-3640.

Attachment

Airport Sustainability Management Plan