

SAN BERNARDINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
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SAN BERNARDINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
RECEIVES MILITARY AIRPORTS PROGRAM (MAP) DESIGNATION

San Bernardino International Airport (SBD) received approval that it has been accepted into the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Military Airports Program (MAP) for a four-year period. The Washington D.C. office of the FAA has determined, after evaluating a number of applications for this special status that SBD Airport is eligible for the MAP status and additional funding on requested improvements to the Airport. This program is especially designed to assist former military airports in their conversion to commercial aviation operations.

Mr. Chuck McCormick, Program Manager at the FAA Los Angeles Airports District Office, stated that "The San Bernardino International Airport, as a previous MAP location, has been re-designated for four years to complete work started during the airport's previous MAP designation".

U.S. Congressman Jerry Lewis noted that "This is an important decision which will move the Airport's conversion process forward towards commercial use." Congressman Lewis further indicated the importance of the MAP designation in that it will allow "vertical" (including some buildings) improvements whereas most FAA grants generally are limited to runway and taxiway improvements. He anticipates further grant funding to occur in 2006 and 2007 as a result of this MAP designation.

Mayor Patrick Morris, President of the Airport Authority Commission, stated that "This is a major event and will greatly enhance our Airport's ability to compete for commercial air operations. It means we are eligible for grants for which other Airports may not be eligible, including the construction of a fuel farm."

San Bernardino County 3rd District Supervisor and Airport Authority Commissioner, Dennis Hansberger, noted that "the MAP designation will also expand the types of uses for funds which are anticipated to be received upon the closure and sale of land from the Rialto Municipal Airport. This is important because 45% of the Rialto land sale proceeds are allocated by Congress to improve SBD Airport but are limited to improvements otherwise eligible under FAA rules."

The MAP designation allows an expanded definition of improvements. Congress earlier enacted special legislation to enable the City of Rialto to close the Rialto Municipal Airport and use the land for commercial development. With the military release of the former Norton AFB, the Rialto airport was determined to be redundant since it is located only 8 miles west of the SBD Airport facilities. The final amount of funds which will be available is still not known, pending an appraisal of the land in Rialto.