

- » [It's Official: Mexicana Airlines to Become SMF's First International Carrier](#)
- » [Aloha! Hawaiian Airlines Arrives June 7](#)
- » [Clean-Air Equipment at SMF](#)
- » [Airport System Gets New Assistant Director](#)
- » [Parking Rates Adjusted at SMF--First 30 Minutes Free](#)
- » [On the Fly](#)
- » [Monthly Traffic Report](#)

It's Official: Mexicana Airlines to Become SMF's First International Carrier

Driving to the Bay Area for a nonstop flight to Mexico will soon be a thing of the past. Mexicana Airlines announced April 10 that it will launch the first-ever nonstop service from Sacramento International to Guadalajara with four flights a week beginning July 1.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Mexicana flight 964 will depart Sacramento at 8:15 a.m. Mexicana flight 965 will depart on Sundays at 11:40 p.m.

The new flights will continue on to Mexico City, providing convenient one-stop service to Mexico's capital. Mexicana will be utilizing Airbus A319 and A320 aircraft for the Sacramento-Guadalajara flights.

"A new era is beginning for the Sacramento region's travelers with the arrival of Mexicana," said Hardy Acree, director of airports for the Sacramento County Airport System. "We are now an 'international' airport in every sense of the word."

Mexicana passengers will process through the new Interim International Arrivals Building (IIAB), now under construction at the airport. A jet loading bridge will provide a comfortable connection between arriving aircraft and the building.

The IIAB will be staffed by federal customs, immigration and agriculture agencies. Aberdeen Burris is the contractor for the \$3 million construction project, which is adding about 2,000 square feet of space to what was formerly the airport's commuter building.

Northern California is a core market for Mexicana, which will be the 12th carrier at Sacramento International.

"Mexicana is delighted to add Sacramento as our fifth California gateway and our 16th gateway in North America," said Fernando Flores, CEO and chairman of Mexicana Airlines. "We recognize the importance of the state capital as a key destination due to the continuous development of trade, economic and cultural links between California and Mexico."

"This is a win-win situation for California and Mexico," said Michael Flores, secretary of foreign affairs for Governor Gray Davis.

It is expected that the demand for new Mexicana service will be strong, due partly to the regional Hispanic presence. Hispanics represent 15.8 percent of the 1.9 million people living in the Sacramento region in 2000, according to the California Department of Finance.

Travelers can connect through Mexico City on Mexicana to over 40 Latin American destinations, including the Mexican cities of Cancun, Durango, Ixtapa, Los Cabos, Monterrey, Oaxaca, Puerto Vallarta, Santo Domingo and Veracruz, along with cities in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Guadalajara will be the 24th city served nonstop from Sacramento. Based on traveler demand, Mexicana could upgrade to daily service by sometime this fall.

###

 [Return to Top](#)

Aloha! Hawaiian Airlines Arrives June 7

Hawaiian Airlines will launch daily nonstop service to Honolulu beginning June 7 at Sacramento International—the first-ever scheduled nonstop trans-Pacific flights at the airport.

The new flight will depart Sacramento at 11:00 a.m. and arrive at 1:30 p.m. at Honolulu International Airport, with the return flights departing Honolulu at 2:55 p.m. and arriving in Sacramento at 11:20 p.m.

Hawaiian will utilize Boeing 767-300 aircraft—featuring 18 first-class seats and 234 coach-class seats—for the new service.

“Hawaiian Airlines’ arrival will continue the trend of giving our customers additional travel options,” said Cheryl Demetriff, deputy director of marketing and public relations for the Sacramento County Airport System. “The new service, coupled with the July arrival of Mexicana Airlines, will also boost local economic activity.”

Hawaiian will operate from the Delta Air Lines Terminal A ticket counter and will contract with Delta for ground handling services.

 [Return to Top](#)

Clean-Air Equipment at SMF

Electric-powered airfield equipment now being used by Southwest Airlines was featured during a news conference and demonstration on April 11 at Sacramento International.

For this clean-air project, the Sacramento County Airport System and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District received a government grant from the California Air Resources Board and the federal Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The clean-air equipment developed as part of this project includes two aircraft push-backs, 14 electric-powered baggage tugs (which cut diesel vehicular emissions while transporting luggage between Terminal A and aircraft) and a state-of-the-art “fast” battery charger.

Southwest is also now using an internet-based information management system for vehicle inventory control and operation.

 [Return to Top](#)

Airport System Gets New Assistant Director

Frances Sherertz is the new Assistant Director of Operations and Maintenance for the Sacramento County Airport System.

In addition to overseeing operations and maintenance with a special focus on new security regulations at International, Mather and Executive airports and Franklin Field, she will provide operational oversight for McClellan Airport.

Sherertz has an extensive aviation background . She was recently a deputy director of weather for the Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic Services.

What motivated Sherertz to move from the nation's capital to California's capital? She says it was the leadership and vision of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and Director of Airports Hardy Acree.

And she knows that these qualities are essential to the efficient operation of today's airports.

"With Sacramento's economy growing and FAA passenger and airfield security expanding, it is important for us to get out in front of these changes to keep the Airport System user-friendly," she said.

To this end, Sherertz is busy visiting people in the community. That desire to go new places to learn first drew her to aviation.

"In grade school I saw a photo of a Pan Am jet with a flight attendant in 'American Girl' magazine" Sherertz said. "I decided then that I wanted to be a pilot."

Later, she began taking flying lessons at the University of Montana, and continued to build her skill level. Sherertz went on to become a licensed airline transport pilot and flight instructor, eventually working as an aviation accident investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board.

She also has a Ph.D. in criminal justice and is a graduate of the FBI's Command College. And, she has been an athlete all her adult life.

Sherertz is a marathon runner who trains in the morning. "I run for an hour on the weekdays and for two hours or whatever feels comfortable on the weekends," she said.

###

 [Return to Top](#)

Parking Rates Adjusted at SMF--First 30 Minutes Free

Parking rates have been adjusted as of May 1 at Sacramento International, and a new "economy lot" has been created.

The new rates include 30 minutes of free parking in the hourly lots—perfect for a quick drop-off or pick-up of travelers. The second 30 minutes costs \$1.00, one to five hours is \$2.00 per hour, and five to 24 hours is \$24.00.

In the daily lots, up to five hours costs \$2.00 per hour, and five to 24 hours is \$10.00. The new economy lot (formerly called "remote") costs \$1.00 per hour up to five hours, and \$7.00 for five to 24 hours.

The new rates apply to everyone entering the public parking lots at the airport, including those with disabled parking authorization.

 [Return to Top](#)

On the Fly

Airport Terminal Services, Inc. is now providing ground handling services (passenger baggage, aircraft interior cleaning and aircraft push-backs) for the twice-daily flights to Denver operated by Frontier Airlines from Terminal B2 at Sacramento International. ATS has a staff of 11 employees at the airport.

The Sacramento County Board Of Supervisors has approved the construction of Sacramento Jet Center's new 14,000-square-foot building with hangar and office space at Executive Airport. The project is slated for completion by late summer.

###

 [Return to Top](#)

Monthly Traffic Report

Passenger traffic at International declined 0.2 percent in March 2002 versus March 2001. Air freight tonnage at Mather decreased 51.2 percent, and aircraft operations dropped 23 percent at Executive.

		Last 12 Months	Prior 12 Months
<u>Mar 2002</u>	<u>Mar 2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>

**International
Airport**

Passengers	678,790	679,816	7,991,982	8,026,433
Air Freight (tons)	6,661	5,800	69,565	66,773
Aircraft Operations	12,716	13,340	151,705	150,880

Executive Airport

Aircraft Operations	9,026	11,716	116,751	122,346
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Mather Airport

Air Freight (tons)	5,539	11,359	99,724	180,851
Aircraft Operations	7,907	7,471	120,585	

 [Return to Top](#)

 [Return to The Airport Beacon Home Page](#)