



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Monica Newhouse
(916) 874-0704

United Parcel Service Testing Continuous Descent Approach at Mather Airport

The Sacramento County Airport System announces that United Parcel Service (UPS) will begin testing a continuous descent approach (CDA) at Mather Airport during the month of May. The Mather Airport Aircraft Overflight Noise Working Group recommended CDA as a possible alternative approach to reduce noise impacts in communities beneath the approach to Mather Airport. The Sacramento County Airport System agreed and began talks with UPS about potential CDA testing at Mather.

"As part of our Airport System's ongoing efforts to minimize noise impacts on neighbors of Mather Airport, I have been anxious to move forward on this test," said Roger Niello, 4th District Supervisor for Sacramento County. "I appreciate UPS getting in front of this issue by developing the CDA approach and the good work of our Airport System's staff in moving the request so promptly."

The CDA procedure combines the benefits of a continuous descent with optimized flap and landing gear management to create the lowest noise producing approach for the affected communities. Use of the CDA is expected to reduce noise on a single event and cumulative basis.

UPS initially tested the CDA approach in Louisville, KY last year. The test indicated that the areas that benefited most from the procedure were found between 7 and 15 nautical miles away from the airport. Folsom, El Dorado Hills, and areas to the east of El Dorado Hills are

similarly located between 7 and 15 nautical miles from Mather Airport. CDA is expected to be beneficial for those areas as well.

“Over-flight noise from cargo aircraft arrivals into Mather Airport has been an escalating problem for residents of Folsom and eastern El Dorado County in recent years,” began Andy Morin, Folsom City Council Member. “I commend this voluntary action by UPS to help our impacted neighborhoods assess the potential benefits of this quieter approach. Methods, and consequently noise levels, of approaching aircraft vary greatly and I am hopeful that this produces a very real reduction of disruptive noise events over our city, and that other carriers will follow suit.”

UPS requested designation of Mather as the low density test site for the CDA from the FAA in order to secure research funding. Earlier this month, Sacramento County Airport System and local elected officials lobbied on behalf of the test along with other aviation issues during the recent Cap to Cap event in Washington, D.C.

A decision has yet to be reached regarding FAA test site designation and related funding. UPS has decided to step forward and initially fund this project to be able to begin testing CDA almost immediately. Such action is not common among corporate entities and demonstrates UPS responsiveness to community concerns and commitment to being a good corporate neighbor.

Mather CDA testing will impact arrivals between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., when the traffic control permits the approach to be used. The CDA test completion date has yet to be determined.

Sacramento County Airport System is responsible for planning, developing, operating and maintaining the county’s four airports: Sacramento International, Executive Airport, Mather Airport and Franklin Field. For more information on the system, visit www.sacairports.org.

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