

Replacement Air Traffic Control Tower

Board Strategic Priority:

Economic Development

Issue:

The current air traffic control tower structure at the Stockton Metropolitan Airport is 65 years old with life safety, operational, and aviation safety shortcomings.

Legislative Platform:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budgetary appropriations to construct a new, state of the art air traffic control tower at the Stockton Metropolitan Airport.

Background:

San Joaquin County operates the Stockton Metropolitan Airport, a public use commercial service airport. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) staffs an air traffic control function at the airport. Besides air traffic management, the FAA hosts support facilities and personnel at the airport to maintain and service critical, regional aviation navigational/communication infrastructure. The current air traffic control tower structure has the following life safety, operational, and aviation safety shortcomings:

- The tower's height creates airfield visual blind spots;
- The tower elevator and HVAC system is in frequent need of maintenance with required parts difficult to source due to age;
- The tower cab is seasonally infested with yellow jackets which are able to find small gaps in the building façade to enter the structure; and
- There is loud outside engine noise, which can interfere with tower radio communications due to poor acoustics in the building design.

In September 2023, the tower cab was further damaged by a fire, which required an evacuation and temporary mobile operation. Cost benefit analysis suggests that the tower cannot be feasibly modified or retrofitted to overcome all of its deficiencies.

Appropriation Request: \$350,000 (Phase I) **Total Project Cost:** \$25 million

(Project Literature Available)