



News Release

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Airline Pilots Name Mineta San Jose International “Airport of the Year”

San José, CA – The Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA), has selected Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC) as its “Airport of the Year” for 2008. Pilots praised SJC’s efforts to address pilot concerns throughout its ongoing multiyear, \$1.3 billion airport modernization program

Capt. John Prater, ALPA’s president, presented the pilot-friendly “Airport of the Year” Award to SJC during ALPA’s Air Safety Forum held this week in Washington, D.C.

“Pilots appreciate the airport’s openness and cooperation in including them in the planning process,” said Capt. Rory Kay, ALPA’s Executive Air Safety Chairman. “As a downtown airport with limited space to expand, San Jose is taking the appropriate steps to ensure safe operations in the airspace beyond the airport boundaries.”

San Jose airport officials extended an open invitation to airline pilots to attend meetings on the extensive terminal improvements that include the current construction of Terminal B, as well as regarding airport operations and safety and on its long-term planning related to corporate/general aviation.

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ALPA also cited the airport for its efforts to include the perspective of airline pilots in its ongoing review of the issues associated with the potential effects of high rise development in downtown San Jose on the future operations of the airport. ALPA’s Engineering and Air Safety Department provided input to the airport regarding potential safety hazards.

“Our strong partnership with pilots and carriers is essential to meeting our top priority commitment to safety of our passengers, aircraft, and community,” said Bill Sherry, San Jose airport director. “As we build our new airport for Silicon Valley, the active engagement of airline pilots has been especially valuable to help us plan and protect our investment for the future.”

ALPA’s Airport Ground Environment (AGE) group selects the Airport of the Year from nominations made by ALPA’s Regional Safety Chairmen and Airport Liaison Representatives (ALRs) who represent pilots’ interests at more than 200 commercial airports in the U.S. and Canada. Nominations range from small regional airports to some of the busiest airports in the world, but all nominees share a common commitment to the highest safety standards.

San Jose was nominated by Hawaiian Airlines Capt. Reno Morella, who serves as the ALPA ALR for the airport.

“We were impressed that the airport sought our input and solicited comments from all the air carriers operating out of San Jose,” said Capt. Robert Perkins, chairman of ALPA’s AGE group. “This spirit of teamwork and collaboration encourages us to feel that airline pilots can pick up the phone and call them with any concerns—safety or otherwise—and receive a prompt and thoughtful response.”

Founded in 1931, ALPA is the world’s largest pilots union, representing nearly 54,000 pilots at 36 airlines in the United States and Canada.

Mineta San José International Airport is a self-supporting enterprise owned and operated by the City of San José. SJC served 9.7 million passengers in 2008 and currently has approximately 145 daily flights on 13 domestic and international carriers to 27 nonstop destinations. The airport is located in San José, the Capital of Silicon Valley, California’s third largest city and the nation’s tenth largest city (population 1,007,000). For more airport information, visit www.flysanjose.com.

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