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Public Affairs Highlights and Initiatives June 2017

Government Affairs:

1. Participated in the monthly citywide social media meeting, May 30

Community Outreach:

2. Attended First Fridays, June 2
3. Participated in the Long Beach Pride Parade, May 21
4. Attended Bike to Lunch Day, May 17
5. Displayed the CSULB Dirtbags banner throughout May
6. Historical Society Long Beach Remembers Pearl Harbor exhibit and Long Beach Airport's contribution continues
7. Volunteers led 11 group tours of the airport in May
8. Held interviews for prospective volunteers
9. Summer music in the concourse scheduled
10. Presentations:
 - Public Affairs employees, Cassie Chauvel and Juliette Mahoney, presented on airport careers at Franklin Middle School Career Day, June 8
 - Finance and Administration Bureau Manager, Claudia Lewis, presented on airport careers at Starr King Elementary School Career Day, June 2nd
 - Director, Jess Romo, participated in a panel discussion on capital project improvements at the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA), Southern California chapter, "Breakfast of Champions" event, May 31
 - Director, Jess Romo, presented updates about the airport at the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce retreat, May 19

Media:

1. Airport Passenger Numbers Expected to Set Records; *Long Beach Business Journal* 6/5/2017
2. Long Beach's Douglas Park redevelopment builds momentum; *Press-Telegram* 5/27/17
3. Hitting the road this Memorial Day weekend? You won't be lonely; *Press-Telegram* 5/25/17
4. Which Los Angeles-area airport should I fly into?; *CNN* 5/4/17
5. 5 things you need to know about Long Beach State's quest for national volleyball title; *Press-Telegram* 5/1/17

6. Social Media:

- Promoted on social media the Conde Nast 2017 Readers' Choice Awards
- Facebook is up to 15,404 likes and an average reach of 65,763
 - The best post in May was viewed 21,790 times with 984 reactions, comments, and shares.
- Notable events: AAAE Conference, Long Beach Airport recognized by CNN as one of the best LA-area airports, Long Beach Post emojis (including an LGB emoji), start of Condé Nast Traveler's 2017 Readers' Choice Awards, Long Beach Pride Parade, National Bike Month events, Dog is my Copilot flight from LGB to no-kill shelters
- Twitter is up to 10,542 followers
 - The best tweet in May generated 2,726 impressions, 3 retweets, and 14 likes
 - Tweets in May generated over 59,800 impressions
- Instagram is up to 3,288 followers
 - In May, photo posts averaged 100 likes and video posts averaged 77 likes each.
 - The most popular post earned 171 likes and 174 engagements.

Advertising/Marketing:

7. *Long Beach Business Journal*; quarter page, full color ad June 6-19 issue
8. *Long Beach Park & Rec Entertainment Guide 2017* full page, full color ad
9. *Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen 2017 program*; quarter page, full color ad, May 24, 2017
10. Economic Impact Report brochure, continued updating design
11. Continued design for TNC pilot program and cell phone lot signage
12. St. Anthony Chopper Dropper; began social media promotions for event
13. WeWatt Branding Complete in Concourse



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Airport Passenger Numbers Expected To Set Records

June 5, 2017 | Brandon Richardson, Senior Writer

In 2016, approximately 2.8 million passengers traveled through Long Beach Airport. Director Jess Romo and airport staff project 3.5 million passengers will pass through the airport's terminal this year, which will be the most annual passengers in the airport's 94-year history.

"We still have half of the year to go, so we have to wait and see how that might actually materialize," Romo said. "But based on our look-ahead schedule – we require all our carriers to supply their six-month schedule in advance – we see through November a continuation of full utilization of those slots."



Long Beach Airport Director Jess Romo said staff projects 3.5 million passengers will travel through the airport this year, a record for the 94-year-old facility. (Photograph by the Business Journal's Larry Duncan)

The slots referenced by Romo are, of course, those permitted by Long Beach's strict noise ordinance, which limits the number of flights and flight times to maintain the quality of life for surrounding residents. Under the ordinance, 50 commercial flights are permitted daily, flown by six operators. JetBlue Airways holds 35 slots, Delta five, and FedEx and UPS one each.

Until recently, American Airlines held four slots but in February announced that it was giving up two slots, which were then allocated to Southwest. When Southwest takes over the flight slots in August, it will operate six daily flights out of Long Beach, including two to Sacramento, its latest addition.

According to Romo, prior to Southwest beginning operations at Long Beach Airport early last year, carriers – JetBlue in particular, as the largest carrier in the city – had a tendency to not utilize flight slots fully. However, with a new competitor chomping at the bit to utilize as many slots as possible, Romo said slot utilization has been between 95% and 98%.

After the Long Beach City Council's January decision to not approve the addition of a federal inspection station at the airport to allow for international flights, some speculated a reduction in service from JetBlue, which initially requested the facility. Based on scheduling for the remainder of the year, this does not seem to be the case; however, Southwest has stated it would take over as many flight slots as it can at the airport.

"That helps us as the airport operator," Romo said. "If an airline decides to make some adjustments, perhaps pull down their schedule partly or sizably, it's good to know that there's at least one carrier that has expressed interest in growing here."

Romo noted that the airport respects the council's decision on international flights and will continue to work with carriers and other airport partners to grow business opportunities within current regulations and be proper stewards of the airport.

The airport and its tenants generate more than \$10 billion and 45,000 jobs in the Long Beach region, with an estimated \$1.1 billion in tax revenue at the federal, state and local levels. During the first quarter of this year, the airport itself generated \$11.3 million, a 35% increase

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compared to the first quarter of 2016. Last year, the airport generated \$38 million in operating revenue.

No General Fund monies go toward operating and maintaining the airport. Instead, operating revenue is put into the Airport Fund, which “remains in a strong financial position with no major concerns,” according to airport staff. “In fact, Moody’s Ratings Agency has expectations that Long Beach Airport ‘will produce financial metrics in-line or above current level’ and that ‘enplanements will continue to experience positive growth.’”



JetBlue is the largest commercial carrier to fly out of Long Beach Airport, with 35 flight slots out of the 50 daily flights allowed by the airport’s strict noise ordinance. JetBlue flies to Anchorage (seasonal), Austin, Boston, Ft. Lauderdale, Las Vegas, New York, Oakland, Portland, Reno, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, San Jose and Seattle. (Photograph by the Business Journal’s Larry Duncan)

In addition to paying for operations and general maintenance of the airport, the fund also pays for capital improvement projects, such as the \$13.5 million runway 25L improvements, set to begin in September and be completed in August 2018.

“[We’re] soliciting bids for that rehabilitation and reconstruction project, which must be received by early June,” Romo said. “Everything will be built to at least a 20-year life – that’s required of the FAA so we can be eligible for the grant money that has been set aside to do that project. That’s probably our single largest capital project that we have going on right now.”

Romo explained that the project requires rebuilding the foundation of the runway at either end, due to added stress of takeoffs and landings, as well as the repaving of the entire runway with special FAA approved asphalt. He said he expects to request city council approval for the project as early as July.

The airport is currently under construction on \$4 million in improvements to Lot A, a project that began in January and is scheduled to be completed by the end of October. This project includes new elevators and staircases, vehicle entry and exit point modifications, lighting and interior paint, and parking space restriping.

Bird mitigation to the tune of \$150,000 is another improvement being discussed for the concourse, which would include double doors, a glass wall at both restaurants and nets to keep birds from entering the open area.

“We’ve got this great indoor-outdoor feel, and I think people are really, really attracted to that. Because of our indoor-outdoor feel, it’s also an opportunity for birds to be attracted,” Romo said. “Our engineering group is currently looking at things we can do in the open ceiling area and also ways to make sure that they don’t get in in the first place. We want travelers in there, not birds.”

Other improvement projects include Keystone Building repositioning and entry beautification. Construction has already begun on the Keystone Building, located at 4401 Donald Douglas Dr., just before visitors reach the airport’s valet parking facility. Once renovations to the existing building are complete, at least 30 security, engineering and accounting staff members will be relocated to the central location, some currently working from trailers. The first floor will consist of office space and a conference room, while the second will have additional office space, men’s and women’s locker rooms, and a storage area.

The estimated \$570,000 entry beautification project includes an airport monument sign, which is currently in the design phase and could be completed as early as fall, and improved lighting. The project also includes entry wall improvements, which include replacing fencing with a 10-foot-tall concrete wall. Wall improvements are scheduled to begin in August and be completed in October.

An operational change coming to the airport is an update to the minimum standards for companies, which were last adopted in 2008. Romo explained that typically these guidelines are updated every five years and that open-house sessions will be held to get operator feedback. He said minimum standards are a way to address any imbalance or lack of a level playing field among the various companies operating at the airport.



Airport engineers are currently working on a project to keep the outdoor concourse area bird free, according to Airport Director Jess Romo. He said the team is considering glass walls and nets with the hopes of maintaining the attractive indoor-outdoor feel. (Photograph by the Business Journal's Larry Duncan)

Prior to becoming director of Long Beach Airport, Romo oversaw Ontario and Van Nuys airports and was interim deputy executive director for operations and emergency management at Los Angeles International Airport. Romo is now eight months into his leadership at Long Beach, having started the position last September.

"I'm hoping that what [staff] is seeing is that what I wanted to do, number one, was to make sure I was really sensitive to making myself available to learn everything I could about the airport, the staff and the airport's relationship to the city, the community and the leaders downtown," Romo said.

Romo explained that his vision for the airport is to build a team that is fully engaged and excited about what is being done at the airport. He said that, for him, an airport is the most fun place to work because of the variety, challenges to overcome and relationships to be made, especially with a staff as small as the one at Long Beach Airport.

Additionally, Romo said he hopes to continue to diversify revenue streams, thereby making the airport rely less on aeronautical revenue streams. He said staff is looking at all opportunities to maximize returns on assets.

"You want the investment portfolio to be as varied as you can so that when one part of the market is not performing as strong as another part, you've got some other aspects that will help shore up during times that might be a little difficult," Romo said.

One aspect of the job that Romo said was not completely unexpected – but he had to experience firsthand to fully appreciate – is how important an issue the airport is to the community. He said whether it's those on the side of supporting operations and growth or those making sure it stays within its prescribed limits, people care and voice their concerns often.

Romo explained that he has come to respect residents on both sides of the issue because he recognizes the airport's role as a member of the community. He said the airport exists to provide safe and efficient air travel, while supporting business and obeying regulations that have been set forth. This includes addressing the concerns of a large number of residents.

"The future of Long Beach Airport is good. I think folks want to have airports that are accessible, that are easy to get through, that are friendly – which we are," Romo said. "I think we are in that enviable position where we've got this great small hub airport but still provide really nice service, and you can get to a lot of places from Long Beach."



0 comments



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Long Beach's Douglas Park redevelopment builds momentum

By David Downey, The Press-Enterprise

Saturday, May 27, 2017



A year and a half after the 279th — and last — C-17 military cargo plane took off from Long Beach Airport, Douglas Park, the former home of Boeing and Douglas Aircraft, is undergoing a renaissance.

Once-bustling assembly lines for Boeing's C-17s and 717 commercial airliners and Douglas' DC-8 passenger jets — not to mention a long list of other famed aircraft — have disappeared into the horizon of history.

But the former aerospace manufacturing hub at Lakewood Boulevard and Carson Street is fast becoming a hotbed of commercial and

industrial activity.

“Douglas Park is an economic home run for Long Beach,” said Mayor Robert Garcia.

City officials said they originally thought the 238-acre site, so named to honor its lofty past, would be finished by 2020. Now it appears the ambitious undertaking next to Long Beach Airport will be completed next year.

Upon completion, Douglas Park will feature 4.1 million square feet of building space and offer 5,000 jobs, city officials said recently in a news release.

That sounds like a lot. And it is. But it's modest when stacked against the tens of thousands who gathered there for decades to assemble more than 15,000 passenger jets and warplanes.

Still, what was terrible news for the economy — the loss of numerous high-paying blue-collar jobs — has morphed into something positive for densely populated, built-out Long Beach.

“For a city that's constrained by its footprint, this is an opportunity for it to find more than a little bit of space to grow,” said Robert Kleinhenz, economist and executive director of research for Beacon Economics in Los Angeles.

“Now you've got some surplus space,” he said. “And it's actually in a pretty good location because it's close to the airport.”

And it's filling fast.

Flying high

Already, medical offices abound. Mercedes-Benz USA has its West Coast headquarters there, after taking over an abandoned million-square-foot plant in late 2015.

That same year, Shimadzu Precision Instruments, a maker of aircraft equipment, moved from Torrance to Douglas Park.

And while planes aren't being built anymore, rockets are.

Virgin Orbit, a spinoff company from Virgin Galactic, has begun building rockets designed to blast small satellites into outer space. The plan is to hook its rocket, LauncherOne, to a wing of a modified Boeing 747 dubbed Cosmic Girl, then fire it like a missile into space while the plane is cruising at 35,000 feet.

Several other firms are getting ready to put roots down where backhoes are busy digging and workers in hard hats are scurrying about, in a construction campaign that spans several blocks.

One of those is United Pacific, formerly United Oil, which owns 372 gas stations and convenience stores in California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Colorado.

Joe Juliano, president and chief executive officer, said United Pacific is bursting at the seams in its 17,000-square-foot Gardena facility.

So, said Juliano, the gas-station operator is moving its headquarters, and 125 employees, into a new 40,000-square-foot building at Douglas Park. The move-in date is Tuesday.

Millennial talent

He said the firm will use 90 percent of the building initially, leasing out 4,000 square feet. The extra space will provide room to grow.

"We're thrilled," Juliano said.

"We wanted our space to be ultramodern so that it will attract talent and, specifically, millennial talent," he said, crediting DRA Architects of Irvine for the progressive design. "We have a lot of amenities that are Google-like, if you will."

He said United's new digs will have a gym, game tables, large break room, indoor-outdoor terrace and lobby featuring a replica fuel pump.

Human Touch, which employs about 50 people, is also getting ready to move its headquarters to Douglas Park. In its case, though, it's just moving down the street.

By the end of June, Long Beach-based Human Touch expects to make its new home a 110,000-square-foot building in the Pacific Pointe East development, said Victoria Lladoc, marketing manager.

Size doesn't matter

Size doesn't matter so much to the designer of massage chairs and recliners. Lladoc said the Douglas Park facility is roughly as big as the company's existing headquarters.

But she said the layout is more to the company's liking.

"It's a brand-new facility and it's built to our specifications," Lladoc said. "And it's just a great location. It's in the middle of everything."

Lladoc said Human Touch designs chairs that are manufactured in China, then shipped to Long Beach for distribution.

"People who have bad backs definitely swear by our recliners," she said.

Their building is one of three totaling nearly 500,000 square feet at Pacific Pointe East, next to the Skylinks golf course.

Another is the 220,000-square-foot building that Simplehuman of Torrance has leased, according to the Sares-Regis Group of Irvine, Douglas Park's primary developer. That will be completed in September, said Larry Lukanish, Sares-Regis' senior vice president.

Mia Fields, a spokeswoman for Simplehuman, said her company has no specific plans.

"When the building is ready it will most likely be used as inventory storage," Fields said in an email.

"We currently have no plans to move our headquarters to Long Beach," she said, "but as the company grows, things could change."

Simplehuman designs products for use around the house.

Shopping, too

Douglas Park isn't just industry and offices. A five-story hotel is coming. So is a shopping center — one with an aviation theme.

Under construction southwest of Carson and Lakewood is 266,000 square feet of stores and restaurants, in what is to be marketed as Long Beach Exchange, or LBX.

Developed by Burnham Ward Properties of Newport Beach, a highlight of plans is an airplane-hangar-like structure that will have an open-air marketplace, according to reports.

Steve Thorp, Burnham Ward partner, said the center is on track to open in April 2018.

Already, big retail names have committed to locating there, including Nordstrom Rack, Petsmart, T.J. Maxx, Orchard Supply Hardware, Dunkin' Donuts and MOD Pizza, Thorp said. He said others will be announced shortly.

But it won't be just a shopping center.

"It will have ties to the aviation and aeronautical world," Thorp said.

Rich history

An open space feature will provide a place for people to gather, he said. There, he said, bronze sculptures of replica planes built earlier on the site will be displayed, with plaques detailing their history.

"It's meant to be interactive and engaging, and allow people to reflect on the significance of the site," Thorp said, "because it does have a very rich history."

If one wonders what the center might look like, here's another clue: Burnham Ward developed South Coast Collection, or SOCO, a high-end center in Costa Mesa.

A little ways down Lakewood Boulevard, at The Terminal, there are plans for four two-story office buildings that will provide 100,000 square feet of space.

Two are scheduled to be finished by September, with the others to open by March 2018, said Jeff Coburn, principal at Lee & Associates in Long Beach.

Almost all the office condominiums — or individual shared-wall offices — in the first two buildings have been purchased, Coburn said. Buyers include The Core Group, a Long Beach information technology company; CalCom Federal Credit Union; and Appraisal Pacific.

“We’re in negotiations for the last two buildings,” he said.

‘Hottest new thing’

Lee & Associates also is constructing a 32,000-square-foot building for MC2 of Torrance, which provides booths for automotive trade shows. That’s to be finished by November, he said.

All of Douglas Park should be finished sometime in 2018, said Lukanish of Sares-Regis Group.

For now, Douglas Park remains a beehive of activity.

Shaun R. McCullough, a principal at Lee & Associates, summed it up this way: “It’s the hottest new thing in town.”

URL: <http://www.presstelegram.com/government-and-politics/20170527/long-beachs-douglas-park-redevelopment-builds-momentum>

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Hitting the road this Memorial Day weekend? You won't be lonely

By Courtney Tompkins, Long Beach Press Telegram

Thursday, May 25, 2017



Gas prices are a little higher. Traffic will be worse. And it will be hot in most places.

But Southern Californians will be out in force this holiday weekend, taking trips expected to set post-recession records, travel officials say.

And it has everything to do with the economy.

“If the economic confidence is there, people will travel in increased numbers,” said Marie Montgomery, spokesperson for the Automobile

Club of Southern California. “It’s part of the overall feeling of well being. People are feeling a little better about spending the extra money.”

The Auto Club projects that travel will grow by 3.4 percent locally over last year, with 3.03 million people in the Southland taking a trip. It’s the sixth consecutive year that the number of Memorial Day travelers has grown compared to the previous year. It’s expected to be the highest since the all-time record of 3.2 million set in 2005.

Long Beach Airport is projecting a busy holiday weekend as the number of passengers could nearly double over this time last year, according to spokeswoman Stephanie Montuya-Morisky.

Executives anticipate approximately 50,000 passengers will pass through the airport between Friday and Monday, compared with the roughly 33,000 who traveled over Memorial Day weekend in 2016.

Those figures are based on the assumption that flights will be at about 90 percent capacity, the typical average for Long Beach.

The increase in passengers could be tied to a decision about 18 months ago to open up nine commercial flight slots, increasing the available daily slots from 41 to 50. That, coupled with high carrier utilization of existing slots, could be driving the uptick in passengers, she said.

The wheels go ‘round

Statewide, 4.89 million statewide could be making getaways, also the second highest since 2005’s 5.18 million. It’s a far cry from the 3.57 million that ventured out during the recession year of 2009.

Most of this year’s travelers will be going by car. Gas prices will be up about 20 to 25 cents from 2016, though they are hovering around the \$3 mark, similar to 2010.

Another 300,000 will go by air, a 6.2 percent jump from the previous year.

“One significant trend we are seeing this year is solid growth in the number of air travelers, which also tends to signify longer vacations that are a greater distance away from home,” Filomena Andre, the Auto Club’s vice

president for travel, said in a statement.

This weekend's top destinations are Las Vegas, San Diego and the Grand Canyon.

Nationally, 39.29 million people are expected to travel over the weekend, up 2.7 percent, with 34.6 million of them using cars, the Auto Club said.

"Be prepared for a lot of traffic out there, especially in the Inland Empire," said Montgomery. "That is a definite area that will be impacted by traffic."

Her advice?

"Pack their patience."

Need travel information for your getaway? Read on:

TRAINS

- Metrolink: The service will operate its normal schedule on Friday, May 26 through Sunday, May 28 on all lines. On Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, Metrolink will offer a Sunday schedule, including service on the Antelope Valley, San Bernardino, Orange County, 91/Perris Valley and Inland Empire-Orange County lines. Trains will not operate on the Ventura County Line nor the Riverside Line. Trains will also not travel to or from the four stations on the 91/Perris Valley Line extension. Regular Monday fares will apply. Regular schedule returns on Tuesday, May 30. Information: www.metrolinktrains.com.

- Amtrak: 800-872-7245 (800-USA-RAIL) or amtrak.com

PLANES

- LAX: 855-463-5252 or lawa.org
- Long Beach: (562) 570-2600 or lgb.org
- John Wayne Airport (Santa Ana): 949-252-5200 or ocair.com
- Flight time: Arrive at least two hours before departure.
- Screening: Be prepared to take laptops out of cases and remove coats, jackets, belts and shoes.
- Prohibited items: Visit tsa.gov.

AUTOMOBILES

- Gas: The average price for regular gas on Thursday in the Long Angeles-Long Beach is \$3.07 gallon. Statewide is \$3.09.
- Weather: Will vary greatly on Memorial Day, with partly sunny skies and highs near 70 along the coast to clear skies and temps over 90 in the Inland areas.

BUSES

- Greyhound: For terminals and prices, see greyhound.com

Liam M. Truchard contributed to this report.



BUSINESS TRAVELLER

Which Los Angeles-area airport should I fly into?

Beth Stebner, CNN • Updated 4th May 2017



(CNN) — Ah, Los Angeles! Land of fame, fortune and avocado toast. But, despite how easy the tanned, jet-setting celebrities make it look, you need a lot more than a dream and a cardigan to navigate this southern California city's many airports.

True, the addition of sunshine and balmy temperatures make any initial landing pleasant, but in terms of getting out to to the glamor of Rodeo Drive or the funky, free-spirited boardwalk of Venice Beach, you'll want to be strategic with which airport you fly into.

And while we wish there was some secret, celebrity-only airport that let you avoid the 405, the truth of the matter is your travel plans should budget a healthy amount of time for bumper-to-bumper traffic and angry Angelenos. The best you can do is plan ahead and pick an airport that's most convenient to your final destination.

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

Located in: Westchester, which is, helpfully, west of downtown Los Angeles.

Think again if: The idea of billion-dollar renovations, traffic jams and frantic sprinting to make a connection gives you hives.

Worst thing about airport: Despite its size -- or, actually, because of it -- LAX is consistently ranked one of the worst airports in the US because of long waits through security and immigration. Unsurprisingly, it's also one of the busiest, serving 40.5 million in 2016 alone.

Best thing about airport: If you're lucky enough to be flying through the Tom Bradley International Terminal, you can expect a luxury shopping and dining experience, with La La Land faves like Petrossian, Chaya, and ink.sack steps away. Also, a helpful (and sometimes adorable) Twitter feed keeps fliers informed and entertained through delays.

Not-to-be-missed avocado dish: Umami Burger's Ahi Tuna burger with crushed avocado and wasabi tartar.

Distance to Hollywood: You'll be around 25 miles away, which, in good traffic means about 40 minutes on the 405 and around \$35. But be warned -- L.A.'s traffic is notorious for a reason.

Celebrity sighting factor: LAX is pretty much ground zero for TMZ stringers and would-be celebrity chasers.

Ontario International Airport (ONT)

Located in: San Bernardino County, to the east of L.A.

Choose it if: Your itinerary is taking you to San Bernardino, its attendant National Forest, or you got a killer fare here.

Think again if: You're relying on anything but a car rental for transportation.

Worst thing about airport: It might cause turmoil for travelers hoping to go to Ontario, Canada, and not paying close enough attention.

Best thing about airport: With a smaller, #nofilter vibe, you get what you pay for.

Not-to-be-missed avocado dish: None to speak of; the airport's only food offerings include a Carl's Jr., vending machines, and a handful of restaurants that one Yelp reviewer lamented were "bad, even by airport standards."

Distance to Hollywood: 46 miles, an hour, and a hell of a time trying to find an Uber (you're better off with a good, old-fashioned yellow cab).

Celebrity sighting factor: Maybe a C-list reality star.

John Wayne Airport (SNA)

Located in: The O.C. (but nobody calls Orange County that).

Choose it if: You're headed to places like Costa Mesa, Irvine and Newport Beach, and are looking for an airport that won't overwhelm.

Think again if: You thrive off the chaos of LAX.

Worst thing about airport: It's in the O.C. Also, if you're looking to fly internationally, your options are pretty much limited to Mexico and Canada.

Best thing about airport: It's in the O.C.

Distance from Hollywood: 44 miles, an hour -- or more -- with traffic.

Celebrity sighting factor: You might see a few tertiary characters from "The Hills."

Hollywood Burbank Airport (Bob Hope Airport)

Located in: Burbank, close to many film and TV studio sets.

Choose it if: You're a film buff and enjoy well-placed Hollywood memorabilia while you're sprinting to your gate (fun fact: the last scene of "Casablanca" was filmed here!) or you can't deal with the swarming masses at LAX.

Think again if: Your final destination is Long Beach or Disneyland.

Worst thing about airport: The food situation is a bit grim, with only a few overpriced options; also, the branding on the airport (is it Bob Hope? Burbank? Make up your mind!).

Best thing about airport: Limited flights mean shorter and -- dare we say -- more pleasant encounters through security and less of a hustle to your gate.

Not-to-be-missed avocado dish: None to mention.

Distance to Hollywood: A mere 10 miles and about 20 minutes will take you south on the 101 towards the Walk of Fame.

Celebrity sighting factor: You might catch a glimpse of Tim Burton or a Jonas brother, if you're lucky.

Long Beach Airport (LGB)

Located in: Long Beach, California.

Choose it if: You want to experience flying in the golden age of short lines, cheerful staff, and edible, mostly affordable airport food. This is the way many Angelenos fly, if they can help it.

Think again if: You want to get out of the country -- LGB has only four carriers (American, Delta, Southwest, and JetBlue), and all of them domestic. Still, you can fly direct to anywhere from New York City to Anchorage, Alaska.

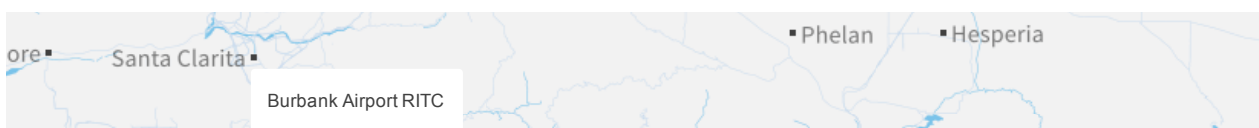
Worst thing about airport: Dare we say, it's too perfect, right down to its charmingly earnest Twitter feed?

Best thing about airport: Most fliers say you can arrive a mere hour before your flight and get through security with a smile still on your face.

Not-to-be-missed avocado dish: With some of the best airport fare to be found in the lower 48, you've got choices, but don't overthink it — a guac-topped burrito from Taco Beach Cantina does the trick.

Distance to Hollywood: Approximately 31 miles and a lot of traffic.

Celebrity sighting factor: In-the-know indie musicians.



Long Beach Press Telegram (<http://www.presstelegram.com>)

5 things you need to know about Long Beach State's quest for national volleyball title

By Mike Guardabascio, Press-Telegram

Monday, May 1, 2017



The Long Beach State men's volleyball departed the city Monday morning, bound for Columbus, Ohio and the NCAA Final Four.

And they just might return home as national champions.

The 49ers are ranked No. 1 in the nation and are proud flag-bearers for the city.

How proud?

"Let me put it like this," said 49ers coach Alan Knipe. "We could have gotten a direct flight from LAX or we could leave from the Long

Beach airport with a stop in Phoenix. We're leaving from the Long Beach airport."

• PHOTOS: [Long Beach State Volleyball Send-Off to NCAA Final Four](#)

Here are five things to know about the team's championship pursuit:

How many wins will it take?

It'll take two victories for the 49ers to take the title. They'll likely face BYU on Thursday and then Ohio State on Saturday.

A pair of wins would mean the team's second-ever NCAA title and first since 1991.

What's the biggest hurdle?

In the end, it just might be the building. Ohio State may be the toughest team Long Beach State will face — and they're also hosting the finals this year. So the 49ers can expect a room full of biased, boisterous Buckeyes if they land in the finals.

How long since last title?

It would be the school's first NCAA championship since the women's volleyball team won in 1998. That's why the athletic department threw the 49ers a party on the steps of the Pyramid Monday morning, with fellow student-athletes, administrators, boosters, coaches, and university president Jane Close Conoley on hand to wish them well and wave goodbye to the bus as it left.

Best team in school history?

The 49ers already stack up as one of the best teams in school history, with an overall record of 27-3 and several players who've won national awards. Outside hitter TJ DeFalco, setter Josh Tuaniga, libero Andrew Sato, and middle blocker Amir Lugo-Rodriguez were all announced as first-team All-Americans on Monday, and all four won a national award for being the best player at their position last week.

Kyle Ensing and Bryce Yould were named second team and honorable mention All-Americans, meaning six of the team's seven starters were All-Americans at one level or another, a school record.

Can you watch?

When the 49ers face the winner of BYU and Barton on Thursday in the Final Four, the match will be streamed live at NCAA.com beginning at 3 p.m. Legends in Belmont Shore will host the official watch party, starting at 2:45 p.m.

If Long Beach State advances the national championship would be Saturday at 4 p.m., televised on ESPN.

URL: <http://www.presstelegram.com/sports/20170501/5-things-you-need-to-know-about-long-beach-states-quest-for-national-volleyball-title>

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