

NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
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For more information, contact
David Wert, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-5412
dwert@sbcounty.gov

County's support for aviation wins praise from official

One of the nation's leading aviation officials had high praise for the County of San Bernardino's commitment to general aviation this week.

During an event Wednesday (March 17) at the Planes of Fame Museum at the county's Chino Airport, Craig Fuller, president and CEO of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, commended the county for understanding the role general aviation will play in the region's future.

"San Bernardino County's leaders are an extraordinary group," Fuller said. "Not only have they recognized that general aviation and GA airports serve everyone who lives here, whether they fly or not, they have also recognized that these airports will play a vital role in the future growth of this region. And, as they will be quick to tell you, this region is poised to grow."

Fuller joined San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary Ovitt, Director of Airports Mike N. Williams, and other county leaders to kick off "General Aviation Serves San Bernardino County."

"This new partnership with AOPA will enhance the use of regional airports and expand local economic development and opportunities in our region," Chairman Ovitt said. "It will also educate the public on the numerous positives that result from viable and dynamic local airports."

The San Bernardino County Department of Airports provides for the management, maintenance and operation of six county-owned airports. It also assists San Bernardino County private and municipal airport operators with planning, interpretation, and implementation of FAA general aviation requirements.

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Fuller, who served as chief of staff to Vice President George H.W. Bush, reminded the crowd of more than 100 pilots and aviation enthusiasts how rare it is to find community leaders with such a firm grasp of the value and benefit of general aviation. He urged them to support those leaders.

"The focused leadership here in San Bernardino County is anxious to ensure that the region's community airports are not only here to stay but thrive and prosper along with the county," Fuller said. "And I strongly encourage you to get involved with them as they look to the future of aviation in this area and the role that community airports can and must play in development."

"We can no longer take our freedom to fly for granted," Fuller concluded. "And in San Bernardino County we are fortunate to have leaders who recognize that. But they can't do it alone. We can support their efforts and ensure our future by showing our commitment to aviation and getting engaged."