

# INTRODUCTION



The Camarillo Airport (CMA) Master Plan Study Update has been undertaken to evaluate the airport's capabilities and role, to forecast future aviation demand, and to plan for the timely development of new or expanded facilities that may be required to meet that demand. The ultimate goal of the Master Plan is to provide systematic guidelines for the airport's overall maintenance, development, and operation.

The Master Plan is intended to be a proactive document which identifies and then plans for future facility needs well in advance of the actual need for the facilities. This is done to ensure that the Ventura County Department of Airports can coordinate project approvals, design, financing, and construction to avoid experiencing detrimental effects due to inadequate facilities.

Camarillo Airport serves as a vital economic asset for Ventura County and the region. As such, it should be carefully and thoughtfully planned and subsequently developed in a manner which matches the developmental goals of the community. An important result of this master planning effort will be a comprehensive development plan tailored to meet future facility needs. A comprehensive and proactive development plan protects development areas and ensures they will be readily available when required to meet future needs.

The preparation of this Master Plan is evidence that Ventura County recognizes the importance of air transportation to the community, as well as the unique challenges operating an airport presents. The investment in an air-



port yields many benefits to the community and the region. With a sound and realistic Master Plan, Camarillo Airport will remain an important link to the national air transportation system for the community and maintain the existing public and private investments in its facilities.

Ventura County initiated this Master Plan to re-evaluate and adjust, as necessary, the future development plan for Camarillo Airport. The last Master Plan for the airport was completed in October 1996. The County has owned and operated the airport since 1976, and is responsible for funding all capital improvements at the airport and obtaining Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) development grants. This Master Plan is intended to provide guidance through an updated capital improvement program to demonstrate the future investments required by Ventura County at Camarillo Airport. Many national, regional, and local aviation factors have changed significantly since the completion of the previous Master Plan. The County has undertaken this Master Plan to ensure that those changes can be reflected in future planning and development of the airport.

On a national level, the events of September 11, 2001, and the repercussions to the national aviation system have affected general aviation. One of the most significant effects is the shift of traditional airline passengers to the corporate aircraft market. Inconveniences and time lost due to security and large airport congestion have made corporate aircraft use more affordable and attractive. For this reason, general aviation airports in large

demand centers, such as Ventura County and the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area as a whole, need to be readied to meet the growing demand.

More recently, the introduction of a new class of business jets, the very light jets (VLJs), may also have a significant impact on general aviation airports across the country. VLJs are currently being introduced to the national fleet and many orders for the aircraft are by companies wishing to provide on-demand air-taxi service. Part of the appeal of these air-taxi companies is the ability to utilize the national network of small general aviation airports and, thus, further save the consumer time.

On a regional level, the Los Angeles metropolitan area is one of the largest and still growing areas in the United States. This growth in population and employment needs to be considered in the Master Plan update.

On a local level, Ventura County supports a diverse and strong economic base. This Master Plan will consider not only the facility needs to meet demand, but also methods to ensure that the airport projects a first class image for the County.

## ***MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES***

The primary objective of the Master Plan is to provide the community and its leadership with guidance for operating the airport in a safe and efficient manner while planning for future demand levels. Accomplishing this ob-

jective requires a comprehensive evaluation of the existing airport and a determination of what actions should be taken to maintain a safe and reliable airport facility while meeting the aviation needs of the region.

A Master Plan must be developed according to FAA requirements. However, the study can also be developed in a manner which makes it useful as a strategic business plan for the airport. FAA requires specific components within a Master Plan. These components, detailed below, are guidelines which allow for a systematic and technical approach to reach the final development plan.

While the Master Plan is technical in nature, it can also be used by airport administration and County leaders as a tool to actively promote the airport. In a sense, this Airport Master Plan is very similar to a business plan. A business plan is often necessary in order to obtain investor or bank funds for planned capital growth. So too is a Master Plan, which ultimately will enable the County and airport to compete for federal grant funds.

This Master Plan will provide a vision for the airport covering the next 20 years and, in some cases, beyond. With this vision, Ventura County will have advance notice of potential future airport funding needs so that appropriate steps can be taken to ensure that adequate funds are budgeted and planned.

Specific objectives of the Camarillo Airport Master Plan Update are:

- To preserve and protect public and private investments in existing airport facilities;
- To be reflective of community and regional goals, needs, and plans;
- To establish a schedule of development priorities designed to meet forecast aviation demand;
- To develop an orderly and comprehensive plan that is responsible to air transportation demands of the City, County, and region as a whole;
- To enhance the safety of aircraft operations;
- To meet FAA airport design standards;
- To ensure that future development is environmentally compatible;
- To coordinate this Master Plan with local, regional, state, and federal agencies, and;
- To develop active and productive public involvement throughout the planning process.

The Master Plan will accomplish these objectives by carrying out the following:

- Determining projected needs of airport users through the year 2028;
- Analyzing socioeconomic factors likely to affect air transportation

demand in Ventura County, including regional factors;

- Identifying potential existing and future land acquisition needs;
- Evaluating future airport facility development alternatives which will optimize undeveloped airport property to promote capacity and aircraft safety;
- Developing a realistic, common-sense plan for the use and expansion of the airport;
- Presenting environmental consideration associated with any recommended development alternatives, and;
- Producing current and accurate airport base maps and Airport Layout Plan (ALP) drawings.

## **BASELINE ASSUMPTIONS**

While the ultimate recommendations of this Master Plan have yet to be determined, a study such as this typically requires several baseline assumptions that will be used throughout this analysis. The baseline assumptions for this study are as follows:

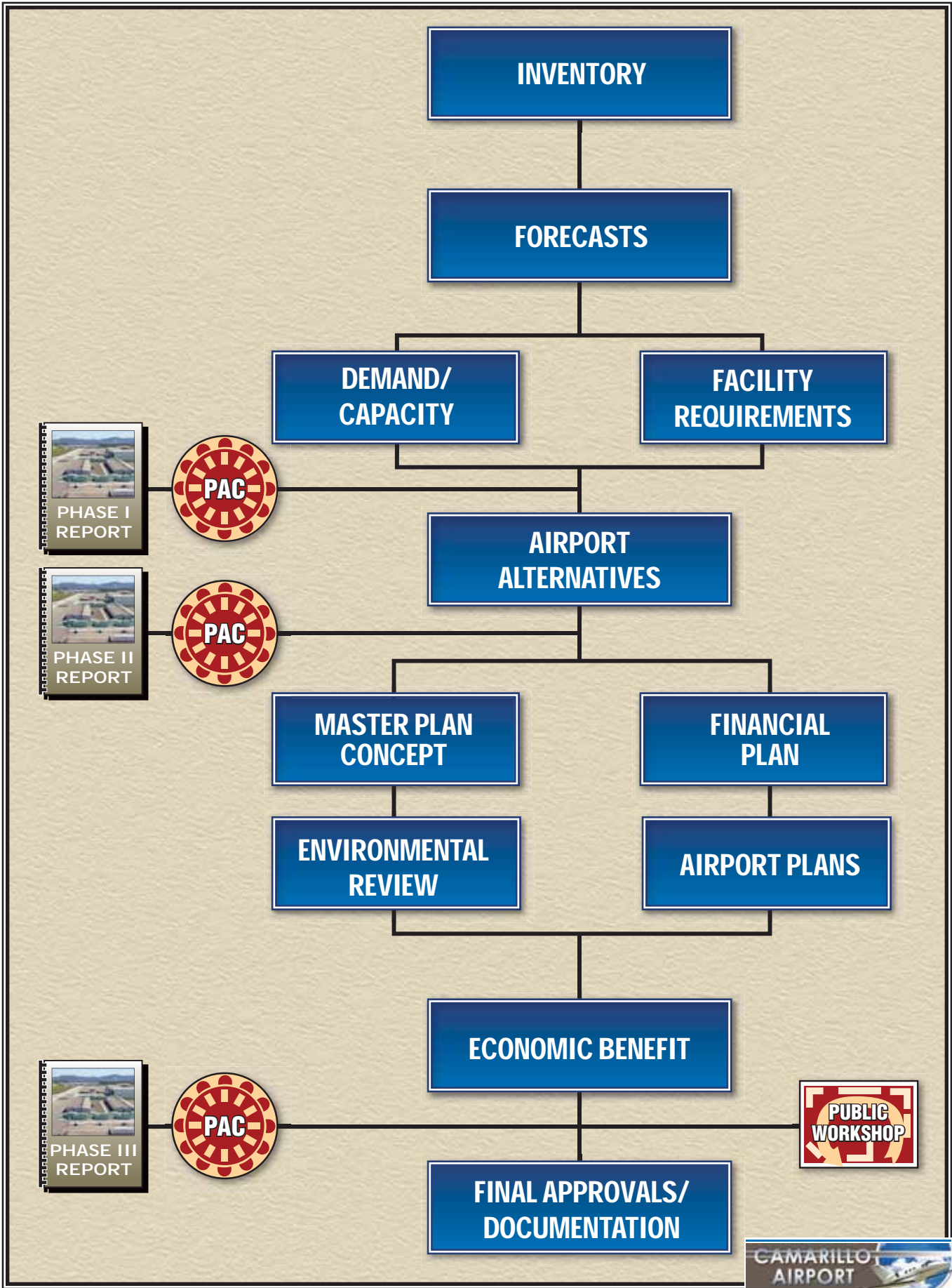
- Camarillo Airport will continue to operate as a publicly owned general aviation reliever airport through the planning period.
- The other regional general aviation airports in Ventura County will remain open for the foreseeable future.

- Camarillo Airport will continue to seek general aviation and corporate business aviation based tenants and transient operations.
- The general aviation industry will continue to grow positively through the planning period. Specifics of projected growth in the national general aviation industry are contained in Chapter Two, Aviation Demand Forecasts.
- Population and employment will continue to grow positively through the planning period as forecast by the state.
- A federal funding program will be in place through the planning period to assist in funding future capital development needs.

## ***MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS AND PROCESS***

The Camarillo Airport Master Plan Update is being prepared in a systematic fashion following FAA guidelines and industry-accepted principles and practices, as shown in **Exhibit IA**. The Master Plan has six chapters that are intended to assist in the discovery of future facility needs and provide the supporting rationale for their implementation.

**Chapter One – Inventory** summarizes the inventory efforts. The inventory efforts are focused on collecting and assembling relevant data pertaining to the airport and the area it serves. Information is collected on existing airport facilities and operations.



Local economic and demographic data is collected to define the local growth trends. Planning studies which may have relevance to the Master Plan are also collected.

**Chapter Two – Forecasts** examines the potential aviation demand at the airport. The analysis utilizes local socioeconomic information, as well as national air transportation trends, to quantify the levels of aviation activity which can reasonably be expected to occur at Camarillo Airport through the year 2028. The results of this effort are used to determine the types and sizes of facilities which will be required to meet the projected aviation demand at the airport through the planning period.

**Chapter Three – Facility Requirements** comprises the demand capacity and facility requirements analyses. The intent of this analysis is to compare the existing facility capacities to forecast aviation demand and determine where deficiencies in capacities (as well as excess capacities) may exist. Where deficiencies are identified, the size and type of new facilities to accommodate the demand are identified. The airfield analysis focuses on improvements needed to safely serve the type of aircraft expected to operate at the airport in the future, as well as navigational aids to increase the safety and efficiency of operations. This element also examines the general aviation terminal, hangar, apron, and support needs.

**Chapter Four – Alternatives** considers a variety of solutions to accommodate the projected facility needs.

This element proposes various facility and site plan configurations which can meet the projected facility needs. An analysis is completed to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each proposed development alternative, with the intention of determining a single direction for development.

**Chapter Five – Airport Plans** provides both a graphic and narrative description of the recommended plan for the use, development, and operation of the airport. An environmental overview is also provided. The Master Plan also includes the official Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and detailed technical drawings depicting related airspace, land use, and property data. These drawings are used by the FAA in determining grant eligibility and funding.

**Chapter Six – Financial Plan** focuses on the capital needs program which defines the schedules, costs, and funding sources for the recommended development projects.

**Economic Benefit Study** – A thorough analysis of the airport’s economic value will be provided. This analysis will utilize actual data obtained from County records and a survey of airport users. This analysis will conclude by providing the airport’s direct, indirect, and total economic impact on the community including value and jobs.

## ***COORDINATION***

The Camarillo Airport Master Plan Update is of interest to many within the local community. This includes

local citizens, community organizations, airport users, airport tenants, area-wide planning agencies, and aviation organizations. As an important component of the regional, state, and national aviation systems, Camarillo Airport is of importance to both state and federal agencies responsible for overseeing air transportation.

To assist in the development of the Master Plan update, the County has identified a group of community members and aviation interest groups to act in an advisory role in the development of the Master Plan. Members of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) will review phase reports and provide comments throughout the study to help ensure that a realistic, viable plan is developed.

To assist in the review process, draft phase reports will be prepared at various milestones in the planning process. The phase report process allows for timely input and review during each step within the Master Plan to ensure that all Master Plan issues are fully addressed as the recommended program develops.

Near the completion of the study, the information completed to date will be presented to the public via an open-house workshop. The public workshop will give the public an opportunity to view the working materials, ask questions, and provide feedback with the consultant, airport administration, and County officials. Notices of the meeting time and location will be advertised. The draft phase reports will also be made available to the public on the Coffman Associates' website ([www.coffmanassociates.com](http://www.coffmanassociates.com)).