

**Atascadero, CA** – Today, Congressman Kevin McCarthy announced that the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport was awarded a competitive Federal grant from the Department of Transportation. The airport will receive the full amount it requested - \$500,000 - to help expand needed carrier service in our area.

*“The San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport is vital to the economic improvement of our ever growing community and the region, and I applaud this funding,”* said McCarthy. *“As our local communities continue to address high unemployment, this funding will help make San Luis Obispo County more attractive for more small businesses to grow and relocate to provide needed jobs locally.”* □ □

In October 2009, Congressman McCarthy wrote Transportation Secretary LaHood in support of a Small Community Air Service Development Grant for the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport. The San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport serves several important facilities located in San Luis Obispo County including Cal Poly State University, Cuesta College, the California Men’s Colony Detention Facility, the Atascadero State Hospital, Camp San Luis Obispo, and the Caltrans District Office. In addition, there are many businesses that have co-located facilities in one or more of the following cities; Sacramento, Seattle, Denver, Salt Lake City, and Portland. Additional one-stop service is needed for the San Luis Obispo community as direct service to Sacramento was discontinued in 1998 and there is a demonstrated need for its reinstatement.