

New Service to Ontario, Palmdale

■ Two City airports see enhanced service partially to relieve pressures at LAX.

AIRPORTS — New service is coming to the City's inland airports to better serve residents in those areas, and to relieve congestion at LAX.

On Feb. 5, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced the largest expansion of air service in the 84-year history of LA/Ontario International Airport (ONT) and the re-opening of LA/Palmdale Regional Airport (PMD) to commercial airline jet service this summer.

Houston-based ExpressJet, the nation's largest regional airline, and one of *Fortune* magazine's most admired airlines, has selected LA Ontario as the focus city for a new airline it is launching this spring. ExpressJet will inaugurate 29 daily flights at Ontario between April 2 and May 14, which will serve 14 new nonstop destinations.

The new service represents a 25 per-

cent increase in daily departures at LA Ontario and a 63 percent increase in the number of non-stop destinations available from Ontario. ExpressJet will become the 14th airline to serve the airport, which was named "Best Alternate Airport" in Southern California by Forbes.com. The facility served seven million passengers in 2006 and is forecast to serve 30 million by 2025.

"I am elated that ExpressJet chose LA/Ontario International as the hub for its West Coast flight operations," Villaraigosa said. "This action is the latest tangible evidence that the refocused aviation priorities and air service marketing efforts of my administration are working."

The ExpressJet Ontario operation is expected to create more than 600 direct jobs for the Southern California economy, including pilots, flight attendants, aircraft mechanics, ramp workers and passenger service personnel based at Ontario.

Villaraigosa also announced that LA Palmdale will re-open with the start of new service by United Airlines June 7. United will provide regional jet service to San Francisco International Airport (SFO). The effort to initiate commercial service received a boost from a \$900,000 small community air service grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, enabling the City of Palmdale to provide incentives for scheduled service at LA Palmdale. Under the small community program, Airports was also allowed to contribute an additional \$1 million to help support the start up period for United's service.

"Until now, LA Palmdale had been the Antelope Valley's field of dreams, but today's historic development means that jet service is about

to become reality at Palmdale," Villaraigosa said.

"We are at long last achieving our goal to have dependable service by a well-known carrier that will attract large numbers of travelers to this high-potential airport and effectively serve the community's air travel needs," he added.

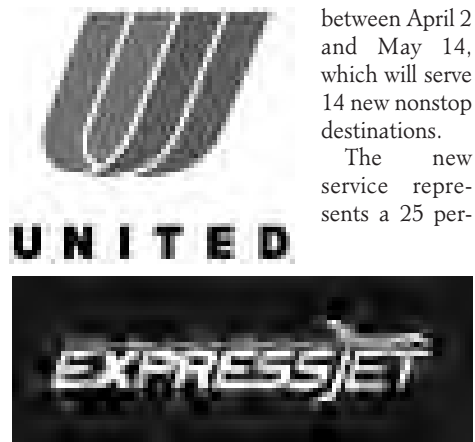
LA Ontario and LA Palmdale are owned and operated by Los Angeles World Airports, which also operates Los Angeles International (LAX) and Van Nuys (VNY) airports.

"The twin actions will jumpstart our aggressive growth plans for LA's regional airports and ensure that LAX will no longer have to carry the burden of meeting a greater-than-necessary share of region's demand for air service," Villaraigosa said.

"This is a great step in the right direction," said Councilman Bill Rosendahl, whose district includes LAX. "If we are to meet Southern



California's air travel needs, we must expand service within airports that are located throughout the region. These airports have the potential to serve as major hubs for our traveling public."





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