

# Merced Yosemite Regional Airport New Terminal Project





# Overview of EAS

Created after the **Airline Deregulation Act of 1978**

Guarantees a minimum level of scheduled air service to eligible communities

Managed by the **U.S.**

**Department of Transportation (DOT)**





- **Community Eligibility**

Must be **more than 70 miles** from a large or medium hub airport

Must maintain **10+ enplanements per service day**

Subsidy per passenger must be **below \$650** (or \$850 starting in 2026)





## Types of Service

Scheduled flights to major hubs

Operated by regional carriers like **Contour Airlines**, **SkyWest**, or **Advanced Air**

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## Impact and Controversies

- Supports **economic development** and **tourism**
- Criticized for **high costs** and **low passenger numbers** in some areas
- Annual subsidies exceed **\$394 million** as of 2023





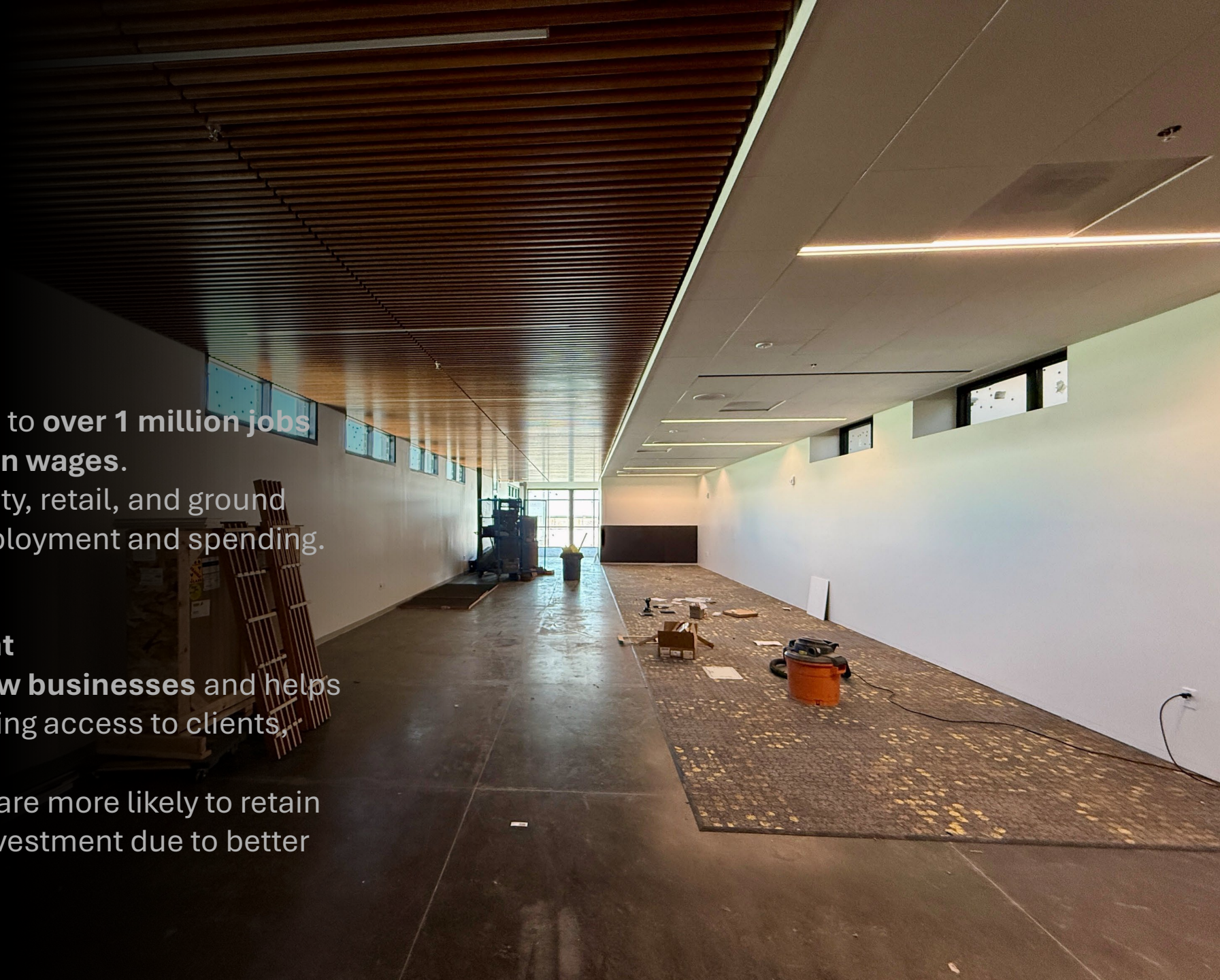
What is the economic impact of EAS routes on local communities?

### Job Creation & Local Spending

- EAS-supported airports contribute to **over 1 million jobs** nationwide, generating **\$36 billion in wages**.
- These jobs span aviation, hospitality, retail, and ground transportation—boosting local employment and spending.

### Business Growth & Investment

- Reliable air service attracts **new businesses** and helps existing ones expand by improving access to clients, suppliers, and markets.
- Communities with EAS routes are more likely to retain corporate offices and attract investment due to better connectivity.





What is the economic impact of EAS routes on local communities?

### Quality of Life & Retention

- Residents benefit from easier access to medical care, family visits, and cultural opportunities.
- Air service helps **retain population** in rural areas by reducing isolation and improving mobility.

### Economic Output

- The total economic activity generated by small community airports is estimated at **\$134 billion annually**.
- And that figure may **understate the true impact**, as it doesn't fully account for long-term development gains.

