

Regional Airport Authority

ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE SELECTION

Monday,
September 15, 2025



Essential Air Service Overview

Essential Air Service (EAS)

- ▶ What is EAS?
- ▶ Merced Airport's Use of EAS
- ▶ Request for Proposal
- ▶ Subcommittee Formation
- ▶ EAS Proposal Process



REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY & CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

Regional Airport Authority

- ▶ Provide a recommendation to the City

City Council

- ▶ Consider a recommendation to the US DOT

Department of Transportation

- ▶ Makes the FINAL Selection



City Council ... Today's Action

RECOMMENDATION TO THE U.S. DOT

- ▶ As Recommended by the Regional Airport Authority
- ▶ Provide a modified recommendation

1.Skywest Charter	2.Contour Airlines	3.Advanced Airlines
LAX/LAS	LAX/LAS	HHR/LAS



Air Carrier Selection Process

- ▶ (A) The demonstrated reliability of the applicant in providing scheduled air service.
- ▶ (B) The contractual, marketing, code-share, or interline arrangements the applicant has made with a larger air carrier serving the hub airport.
- ▶ (c) The total compensation proposed by the air carrier for providing scheduled air service under this section.

MCE ESA Presentation Score Sheet

- ▶ Please tell us how you have demonstrated reliability in providing scheduled air service.
- ▶ What contractual and marketing arrangements have you made with a large carrier to ensure service beyond the hub airport?
- ▶ What interline agreements have you made with larger carriers to allow passengers and cargo to be transported by the larger carrier(s) through one reservation, ticket, and baggage check in?
- ▶ What steps have you taken to understand the air service needs and expectation of our community?
- ▶ What is your plan to market your service to the community?

Proposed Service From MCE to:

Boutique Airlines	Skywest Airlines	Skywest Charter	Advanced Airlines	Contour Airlines
MCE-SFO	LAX	LAX	HHR/LAS	LAX
MCE-LAX	LAX/SFO	LAX/SFO	HHR/OAK	LAX/PHX
MCE-LAS	LAX/LAS	LAX/LAS	HHR/SFO	LAX/LAS

Types of planes and seating capacity:

Boutique Air	Skywest Airlines	Skywest Charter	Advanced Airlines	Contour Airlines
PC-12	CRJ200	CRJ200	B350/D328	ERJ135/145
8/9 seats	50 Seats	30 Seats	9 Seat/30 Seat	30 Seat

RAA RECOMMENDATION

1.Skywest Charter	2.Contour Airlines	3.Advanced Airlines
LAX/LAS	LAX/LAS	HHR/LAS

RAA Community Consideration: The RAA discussion also included the following:

- Merced is a growing community with unique needs.
- It is a goal that the selected carrier provide service that keeps residents flying from Merced instead of driving to larger airports, ensuring local economic benefit and increasing enplanements.
- The carrier develop a marketing strategy promoting their service from the Merced Yosemite Regional Airport.

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Thank You