

## Las Vegas • McCarran International Airport P.O. Box 11005 • Las Vegas, NV 89111-1005 Clark County Department of Aviation – Rosemary A. Vassiliadis, Director



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## McCarran to Begin Phase II of Runway Renovation

Project will close Las Vegas airport's longest runway for six months

LAS VEGAS – Clark County Department of Aviation will begin the second phase of its \$65 million runway renovation project on Wednesday. Runway 7L/25R will close to air traffic in the early morning hours of October 28 in order to replace the runway's existing asphalt with more durable concrete. At a length of more than 14,500 feet, Runway 7L/25R is McCarran's longest runway and typically handles one-third of the airport's annual traffic.

"McCarran is one of the most important economic assets in Southern Nevada and an essential part of our hospitality and tourism industry. We take that responsibility very seriously, and have worked with the FAA to minimize any flight delays that may result from this project," said Rosemary A. Vassiliadis, Clark County Director of Aviation. "Additionally, we anticipate an increase in aircraft noise in some parts of the valley during this work period. We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we work to improve our airport and maintain our ability to welcome millions of passengers to Las Vegas every year."

The resurfacing project was planned in two, six-month phases that begin in the fall and conclude in the spring, allowing for the runway to be operational during the peak summer travel season in Las Vegas. Winter wind patterns also make this an ideal time for the project, as winds have historically pushed air traffic to the north/south runways, thus lessening the need for Runway 25R/7L in these cooler months. The resurfacing of the eastern half of the runway during Phase I was completed ahead of schedule and with minimal impact to airline operations, while Phase II will focus on the resurfacing of the western half of the runway and continue through late April 2016/early May 2016.

The project is financed through a combination of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grants and airport-generated funds, not local tax dollars. Over the course of its two phases, this project will support approximately 250 full-time equivalent construction jobs, including surveyors, contractors, fabricators, engineers and other service providers.

Running parallel to Sunset Road, Runway 7L/25R is located adjacent to another operational runway, as well as several taxiways on which aircraft will continue to travel when making their way to and from McCarran's terminals. This makes for a complex project given the need to move workers, materials and equipment between the construction zone and active airfield, but the Department of Aviation has developed a plan that will allow for the contractor to efficiently accomplish this important work while maintaining safety and security.

