



MEDIA ADVISORY



For Immediate Release – Sept. 15, 2016

Rancho High School Performers to Greet Passengers Arriving at McCarran for El Grito Weekend

McCarran International Airport will kick off the busy Mexican Independence Day holiday weekend by welcoming passengers to Las Vegas with a special performance by *Mariachi Oro Del Rancho*. Presented as part of the airport's *Voices of Vegas* music program, the 19-member student band from Rancho High School will greet passengers, many who will have just arrived directly from Mexico, in the Terminal 3 international arrivals lobby on Friday morning.

"Each September our team at McCarran looks forward to the Mexican Independence Day holiday and the additional passengers we see coming direct from Mexico," said Rosemary Vassiliadis, director of aviation for Clark County. "Even more so, we are excited to showcase the great talents of our local youth, and to take this unique opportunity to show international travelers another side of our community."

From Thursday through Sunday, a total of 41 commercial flights will fly directly from Mexico to McCarran International Airport, including ten charter flights added specifically for this holiday weekend. Mexican air carriers AeroMexico, Interjet, Magnicharters, and Volaris are expected to bring approximately 5,200 arriving passengers to McCarran over the course of the weekend.

While McCarran traditionally sees a spike in activity associated with Mexican Independence Day, also known as El Grito weekend, year-round interest in Las Vegas from Mexico has been on the rise for the past few years, and is expected to continue to be an area of growth in the years to come. Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority research indicates international travelers stay longer and spend an average of 80% more per trip, meaning these added flights will pump millions of dollars into the local economy.

"We are thrilled to once again welcome visitors to celebrate Mexican Independence Day, one of the most popular times of year for Hispanic and Latin American travelers to Las Vegas," said Cathy Tull, senior vice president of marketing for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. "This exciting celebration brings the top names in Latin music to the destination while contributing to growth in our second largest international market, which is Mexico."

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Editor's Note: *Mariachi Oro Del Rancho* will perform Friday, September 16 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Interested media may obtain video of the performance, as well as interviews with travelers at McCarran's Terminal 3 international arrivals lobby after those visitors have exited U.S. Customs. Airport representatives will also be available for interviews at this time. Please contact Christine Crews at (702) 767-8170 for access and parking arrangements.