

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 25 – 27, 2023**

**ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ONT)
U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICES EQUITY**

ISSUE: The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) continues to create an economic development disadvantage to the Inland Empire through their allocation of resources and service location decisions.

ACTION: The Monday Morning Group urges federal elected leaders and officials to advocate for Ontario International Airport to receive equitable CBP services to meet the needs of increasing international passenger arrivals and cargo operations.

BACKGROUND: Ontario International has seen passenger volumes grow by more than one-third since its return to local ownership and will surpass six million passengers in 2023. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) projects ONT's capacity at 30 million passengers. Ontario International is one of the Top 10 cargo airports in North America, handling around 900,000 tons of cargo each year. UPS, FedEx, and Amazon all have hub operations at ONT, and will soon be joined by other major entities.

No other airport in Southern California has this kind of passenger and cargo growth.

International passenger traffic on the rise: ONT's 2022 total international passenger volume was 194,915 – a 58% increase versus 2021. 2023 international passenger volumes are trending well-above 2022 levels, with January and February being the largest and third-largest months, respectively, for international traffic since the pandemic. On March 26, 2023, China Airlines (CI) increased service between ONT and Taipei (TPE) from 4-times weekly to daily, using a larger 358-seat B777-300ER, which adds 52 seats to each arrival and departure. On April 2, 2023, Volaris (Y4) increased the size of the aircraft on its service between ONT and Guadalajara (GDL) to a 236-seat A321, adding 50 seats per each arrival and departure. In addition, ONT is in discussions with other airlines about additional international service.

Cargo volumes remain steady with inevitable growth: ONT continues to see strong demand for freight and cargo, driven by its favorable location in the center of Southern California and access to the major logistics infrastructure of the region. However, the cargo volumes at ONT are almost entirely domestic, as the airport does not have onsite customs facilities to clear international inbound cargo – with the addition of the Container Freight Station (CFS) facility, we expect to see growth in demand for international cargo.

A new study by Oxford Economics puts ONT at the center of our region's global supply chain network. According to the study, logistics operations in the eight zip codes surrounding ONT generate nearly \$18 billion in economic activity and support more than 122,000 jobs. At the airport alone, more than 1,200 people are employed in the logistics industry.