

# SAN DIEGO COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY



PUBLIC & COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Airport Authority offers Memorial Day weekend travel tips

**SAN DIEGO – May 21, 2009** It's Memorial Day weekend and with that the busy summer travel season begins. The Airport Authority is reminding passengers to keep in mind several useful tips to help make travel to and from San Diego International Airport (SDIA) more convenient:

### Plan Ahead

Arrive at least two hours before departure for domestic flights and three hours for international flights. Flight status can be checked at [www.san.org/flights](http://www.san.org/flights). A Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Web site provides up-to-date, estimated wait times for security checkpoints at SDIA and other U.S. airports: <http://waittime.tsa.dhs.gov>. Travel tips for parents, persons with special needs and the general public, lists of prohibited items and more is at the TSA Web site, [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov). The TSA reminds passengers of the following items to make it easier to proceed through security:

- **Follow 3-1-1 for liquids in carry-ons:**
  - 3-ounce bottles or less for all liquids, gels and aerosols placed in
  - 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag
  - 1 bag per passenger, placed separately in a security bin for X-ray screening

The liquid restriction applies only to carry-on bags. Passengers can pack larger quantities of liquids and gels in checked baggage. At SDIA, passengers who forget to bring a 1-quart plastic zip-top bag can receive one at the checkpoint, courtesy of the Airport Authority.
- **Be prepared for screening.** Removing footwear for X-ray screening is required. Footwear that can be easily removed helps speed the process. At SDIA, passengers may request foot protectors to wear while their shoes are off, courtesy of the Airport Authority.

### Traffic and Drop-Off

- **Curbside Parking.** Curbside parking restrictions are strictly enforced. Vehicles left unattended at the curb are subject to immediate ticketing and towing.

**Verify correct terminal.** Passengers are asked to check with their airline or travel agent to confirm departure terminal in advance. Frequently, commuter flight airline tickets do not specify the departure terminal.

### Volunteer Airport Ambassadors

- Dressed in their distinctive green polo shirts, Volunteer Airport Ambassadors (VAAs) provide way-finding and other forms of assistance to passengers and meeters and greeters from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. VAAs are based at the information desks in the baggage claim areas of Terminal 1 and Terminal 2. They also roam the airport and operate a courtesy shuttle in Terminal 2 West to assist guests with mobility impairments.
- With some 300 VAAs, this is one of the largest active volunteer airport programs in the country.



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## Checkpoint Assistance Program

- As part of the TSA's "Summer Partnership Program," the Airport Authority has hired some 20 workers to assist passengers during the busy summer travel season. The summer workers help travelers with their personal belongings and manage queuing of lines. The program will be in place through Labor Day.
- The program at San Diego International Airport is unique among the nation's airports, providing this assistance to streamline the screening process and decrease wait time at security checkpoints.

## Parking

- **Short- and Long-Term Parking.** The parking options available at SDIA include color-coded short- and long-term SAN Park lots:
  - **Orange** is for SAN Park NTC, located west of the airport
  - **Green** is for SAN Park Harbor Drive, located east of the airport
  - **Blue** is for SAN Park Pacific Highway, located north of the airportFree shuttle buses from long-term lots to all airport terminals are also color-coded and sport scenes of popular San Diego County destinations.
- **Cell Phone Lot.** Located at 2701 North Harbor Drive. Motorists can wait in this parking lot for up to 60 minutes free of charge. Once cell phone contact is made between the driver and incoming passenger, the motorist can drive over to the terminal for quick, convenient traveler pick-up.
- **Valet Parking.** The Valet Service was created to aid travelers in situations where time, convenience and parking availability are a concern. When coming to the airport, drive into the designated Valet areas marked by cones in front of Terminal 1 and Terminal 2. When coming back to San Diego, pick up luggage first on the way to the Valet cashier. The cost of the service is \$30 per 24-hour period. Take the receipt to curbside Valet to pick up vehicle.

*The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority was established by state law in 2003 to operate San Diego International Airport and to address the region's long-term air transportation needs. The Airport Authority is governed by a twelve-member appointed Board representing all areas of the County. San Diego International Airport — funded through user fees and not local taxes — served some 18.1 million passengers in 2008.*

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