

PUBLIC, COMMUNITY, & CUSTOMER RELATIONS
P. O. BOX 82776, SAN DIEGO, CA 92138-2776
619.400.2880

Contact: Katie Jones 619.400.2884/kjones@san.org
Steve Shultz 619.400.2881/sshultz@san.org

San Diego County Regional Airport Authority Receives Sixth Recycler of the Year Award from the City of San Diego

SAN DIEGO – April 22, 2010 – For the fourth consecutive year and for the sixth time, the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority has been selected by the City of San Diego’s Environmental Services Department as a 2010 Recycler of the Year. The annual awards program honors the most innovative and improved recycling programs in the City of San Diego.

“We are proud to be recognized for the airport’s efforts in preserving natural resources,” said Thella F. Bowens, President/CEO of the Airport Authority, which owns and operates San Diego International Airport. “Our employees initiated several new environmental programs this year, and we appreciate the recognition for their hard work.”

The Airport Authority also received the Recycler of the Year award in 2009, 2008, 2007, 2004 and 2003. Among the airport’s most recent environmental accomplishments:

- A solid waste reduction plan, which led to a highly successful coffee composting program
- Development of an Alternative Fuel Vehicle Program for commercial vehicles that utilize the airport, including converting the airport’s own shuttles to Compressed Natural Gas vehicles
- Going green in the office with Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP): converting to kitchen utensils made from recycled products and discontinuing purchase of single-use water bottles
- Testing of a Solar-Powered Trash and Recycling Compactor, which has five times more capacity than a standard trash container and reduces the number of collections trips by 80 percent
- Responsible landscaping through use of native, water-resistant plants
- Use of energy-saving light-emitting diode (LED) airfield signage, runway and taxiway lights

The Airport Authority was presented the award on April 21, at an event hosted by the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department.

In 2009, passengers rated San Diego International Airport 88% in overall passenger satisfaction, the highest in six years of surveying.

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