

# Chapter News

## The San Diego Chapter of SAVE tour of the San Diego International Airport (SDIA)

By Nils Persson, Jr.

During January-through-May, 2007, the San Diego Chapter undertook a program “The Future of San Diego, Where Your Dollars Will be Spent”. It included a presentation by the Director of Facilities Development of the San Diego County Airport Authority. He covered how the Airports Council International (ACI) ranked San Diego-Lindbergh Field the #4 best airport in North America in 2007. ACI also ranked SDIA the #2 best airport with 15-25 million passengers in 2007. He also mentioned the support of the airport master plan program, which included the education of the public.

On March 28, 2008, the chapter took advantage of the airport facility tours being offered to show the public how the master plan is being developed. The San Diego Chapter members enjoyed the tour guide who was the director of the Airside Operations who conducted a walk through of the terminals where use of art and rocking chairs stood out. The members then took a bus ride around the air/landside facilities.

The members saw aspects of their security systems that included intrusion detection of their fences to “big eye” painted balloons that protected aircraft from migratory birds. The airport even had support facilities to handle aircraft at the U.S. Coast Guard station, which is across a busy roadway from the airport. There were areas under current remediation of land to the north end of the terminals



(estimated at \$67 Mil) to handle the expansion of terminal and aircraft parking.

The airport’s master plan was to address the constraints and opportunities present at SDIA: and included;

- Improve levels of service for airport customers and users
- Improve airport safety and security for airport customers and users
- Utilize property and facilities efficiently
- Maintain a balance of passenger volumes and operations among the airport’s facilities.
- Improve tenant facilities
- Enhance airport access as part of the region’s transportation system
- Prepare measured, incremental improvements that are cost effective and respond to the region’s forecast for air service for passengers and cargo

One of the planned facilities is a “Smart Curb” parking facility to handle check-in before entering the terminal. It is supposed to include a multilevel parking structure and allow access to the terminal on the second level as shown in the picture.

The tour was greatly facilitated by use of broadcast receivers carried by the tour members so they could hear the tour guide no matter where they were. It proved effective, especially in areas of loud noise.

The tour members all agreed that it was a very good program. We also learned of the airport’s flight status facility on their website. So if you want to know what the flight status boards read in the SDIA you can use the following website address: [http://www.san.org/airport/flights/flight\\_info.asp](http://www.san.org/airport/flights/flight_info.asp).