

**TO:** AIRPORT COMMISSION

**FROM:** Matthew Kazmierczak  
Manager of Strategy and Policy

**SUBJECT:** LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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## FEDERAL

After the longest shutdown in history at 35 days, a continuing resolution was passed on January 25, 2019 to fund the Federal government for 3-weeks, until February 15, 2019. Capitol Hill leaders are using this time to try to reach a compromise on funding for border security.

As of the writing of this memo, TSA agents have received a partial payment for some of their back pay. However, it is being reported that payment for overtime and other components will be made whole in their upcoming regular paycheck.

Federal workers at Mineta San José International Airport have been very grateful to the community for all their support during this shutdown. Many businesses, individuals, and nonprofits stepped up to offer support to the federal workers who went over a month without being paid. Breakfasts and lunches were regularly donated. The Second Harvest Food Bank came to the Airport and distributed food to over 150 people and additional food was distributed to the breakrooms of the FAA, CBP, and TSA. Airport staff even took some of the donations over to Reid-Hillview for their Air Traffic Controllers.

The City of San José worked with Technology Credit Union on a framework for a zero-interest loan program. The shutdown was ended before the loan program could be launched. All these efforts and the professionalism of the federal workers helped keep absentee rates at SJC to below the national average.

Unfortunately, the impact of the shutdown is not over. The uncertainty of the short-term continuing resolution continues to weigh on the agencies. Select meetings are not getting scheduled as the federal workers are hesitant given the February 15, 2019 deadline. Similarly, federal workers themselves are concerned about another interruption in their paycheck.

Long-term, the shutdown has hindered the critical need to recruit more TSA and CBP workers. Workers have raised questions about the security of having a federal job. It is still unknown how many TSA and other federal workers permanently resigned to take other jobs.

### U.S. House of Representatives

On January 3, 2019, the 116<sup>th</sup> term of the United States Congress convened. Because of the November elections, the U.S. House of Representative is now controlled by the Democratic Party with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA-12) presiding. The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee is now led by Chairman Peter DeFazio (OR-4) with the Sam Graves (MO-6) as the ranking member. In the past Congressman DeFazio has offered legislation to increase the cap on the PFC.

### Infrastructure

On Thursday, February 7, 2019, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold its first hearing of the year, on federal investment in infrastructure. The title of the hearing is, "The Cost of Doing Nothing: Why Investing in Our Nation's Infrastructure Can't Wait." Although the committee has yet to publicly release the witness list, airports will play a key role in the infrastructure hearing.

### **STATE**

The November election also meant changes in the California State Government. Governor Gavin Newsom replaced Governor Jerry Brown. The Democrats now hold super majorities in both the California State Senate and the California Assembly. The Assembly Speaker continues to be Anthony Rendon (Lakewood), and the new President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate is Toni Atkins (San Diego). Senate President pro Tempore Aktins was former the Assembly Speaker from May 2014 to March 2016.