



San Joaquin County invites applications for
Airport Director

Stockton Metropolitan Airport (SCK)
Stockton, California

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH



The Airport

Stockton Metropolitan Airport (SCK) is a commercial service airport owned and operated by San Joaquin County. Located in the heart of California's Central Valley with convenient access to Highway 99 and Interstate 5, SCK supports passenger, air cargo, general aviation, and public safety operations and is a growing engine for regional economic development.

SCK is responsible for the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, and development of the airport. SCK holds a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 139 Airport Operating Certificate and operates under Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security regulations. The San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office and the Montezuma Fire Protection District support safe airport operations, and FAA air traffic controllers guide more than 55,000 flight operations each year.

Governance

SCK is a department of San Joaquin County, which is governed by a five-member elected Board of Supervisors. The airport operates as an enterprise fund with a 2026–2027 adopted budget of approximately \$12.5 million and an allocated staff of 16 across the administration, operations, finance, and maintenance divisions.

Airline Service

SCK is a non-hub primary commercial service airport that serves approximately 130,000 airline passengers annually. Allegiant Air is currently the sole commercial air service provider at SCK and provides weekly Airbus jet service to Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. The primary catchment area population, within a 40-minute radius of the airport, is approximately one million people, and when the secondary catchment area, within a 55-minute radius, is included, that population grows to 1.5 million. Current SCK air service serves 4% of the airport's primary catchment population.

Air Cargo & Logistics

SCK is an active air cargo airport. ABX Air operates Boeing 767 widebody jet aircraft multiple times per day for Amazon Prime, and more than 800 million pounds of packages were flown from the airport in 2025. The airport's proximity to the Port of Stockton, rail service, Interstate 5, and Highway 99 positions SCK to support the region's robust intermodal freight and logistics industry.



The Airport *(continued)*

Airfield & General Aviation

The airport's primary runway, Runway 11L-29R, is 10,650 feet long and 150 feet wide, designed to serve commercial aircraft, including Boeing 767 cargo aircraft and Airbus passenger jets. SCK is home to approximately 150 based aircraft, flight training, two area law enforcement organizations, and a medical evacuation helicopter operator that provide 24/7 support services from their airport bases.

SCK 2027 Airport Transformation

In 2024, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors approved a \$26.2 million investment to revitalize key facilities, increase capacity for commercial airline service, and advance economic development at SCK. Planned improvements include an expanded four-gate, at-grade holdroom designed for 400 peak-hour passengers; updates to the baggage claim; improved TSA security check points; and upgraded ticketing areas. Other development projects underway include a recently acquired, 40,000-square-foot commercial hangar that is being marketed to potential new commercial tenants, a new airport master plan underway as of early 2026, and a siting study guiding plans for a new FAA air traffic control tower to replace the airport's 70-year-old structure.

Capital Program

SCK's FAA Airport Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2027-2032 totals approximately \$44.3 million and includes perimeter security fencing, a new Taxiway D connector, an airport master plan, the new air traffic control tower, and pavement rehabilitation. Current projects include rehabilitation of Runway 11L-29R and the decommissioning of Taxiways M and L to meet FAA standards.





The Community

One of the largest cities in California and the largest city in San Joaquin County, Stockton is the county seat and home to approximately 325,000 residents in a county of more than 810,000. Located in the heart of California's Central Valley at the southern edge of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, Stockton offers the amenities of a large city and a diverse, welcoming community. Stockton is centrally located within easy reach of Sacramento, the Bay Area, the Sierra Nevada, and West Coast markets. San Joaquin County is also home to a number of smaller communities, including the cities of Tracy, Manteca, Lathrop, Ripon, Escalon, and Mountain House, the newest incorporated city in the state.

Ripon offers a blend of small-town charm, strong community ties, excellent schools, and a low crime rate, all within easy reach of Stockton and the Central Valley's amenities. Known as the "Almond Capital of the World," Ripon is celebrated for its orchard-lined streets, the annual Almond Blossom Festival, and local attractions such as Mistlin Sports Park.

Economy

San Joaquin County's economy is anchored by transportation and logistics, health care, agriculture, manufacturing, and technology. The county ranks second in the nation for its concentration of transportation and warehousing employment, and major employers include Amazon, FedEx, Tesla, Medline, and Thermo Fisher Scientific. Agriculture remains a cornerstone of the region. San Joaquin County is a leading California wine grape producer, and its crops, including walnuts, almonds, cherries, and more, reach markets in 99 countries. The Port of Stockton, a major deepwater inland port, connects the region to global trade.



The Community (*continued*)

Education

Stockton is home to the University of the Pacific, founded in 1851, whose 175-acre Stockton campus anchors a university that also includes the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento and the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in San Francisco. Stockton is also home to San Joaquin Delta College, a public community college offering programs and workforce training close to home, and to the Stanislaus State Stockton campus, which offers upper-division coursework in select bachelor's, master's, and credential programs.

Arts & Culture

Downtown Stockton's historic Bob Hope Theatre, the former Fox Theatre, hosts concerts, comedy, and live entertainment. The Haggin Museum showcases art and regional history, while the World of Wonders Science Museum and the Great Valley Museum and Planetarium connect families with science. Families also enjoy the Children's Museum of Stockton, and Pixie Woods, a charming "enchanted forest" and a longtime favorite children's park. Stockton's dining scene reflects the city's diversity, from food trucks and family-owned restaurants to breweries, taprooms, and wine-tasting venues, and Stockton Restaurant Week celebrates it each year.

Sports & Entertainment

The downtown waterfront is home to Adventist Health Arena, a 10,000-seat venue that hosts the Stockton Kings, the NBA G League team of the Sacramento Kings, and the Stockton Thunder of the Federal Prospects Hockey League (FPHL), along with concerts and special events. The adjacent Stockton Ballpark is home to the Stockton Ports minor league baseball team, and nearby Weber Point hosts outdoor, waterfront concerts and festivals throughout the year.





The Community (*continued*)

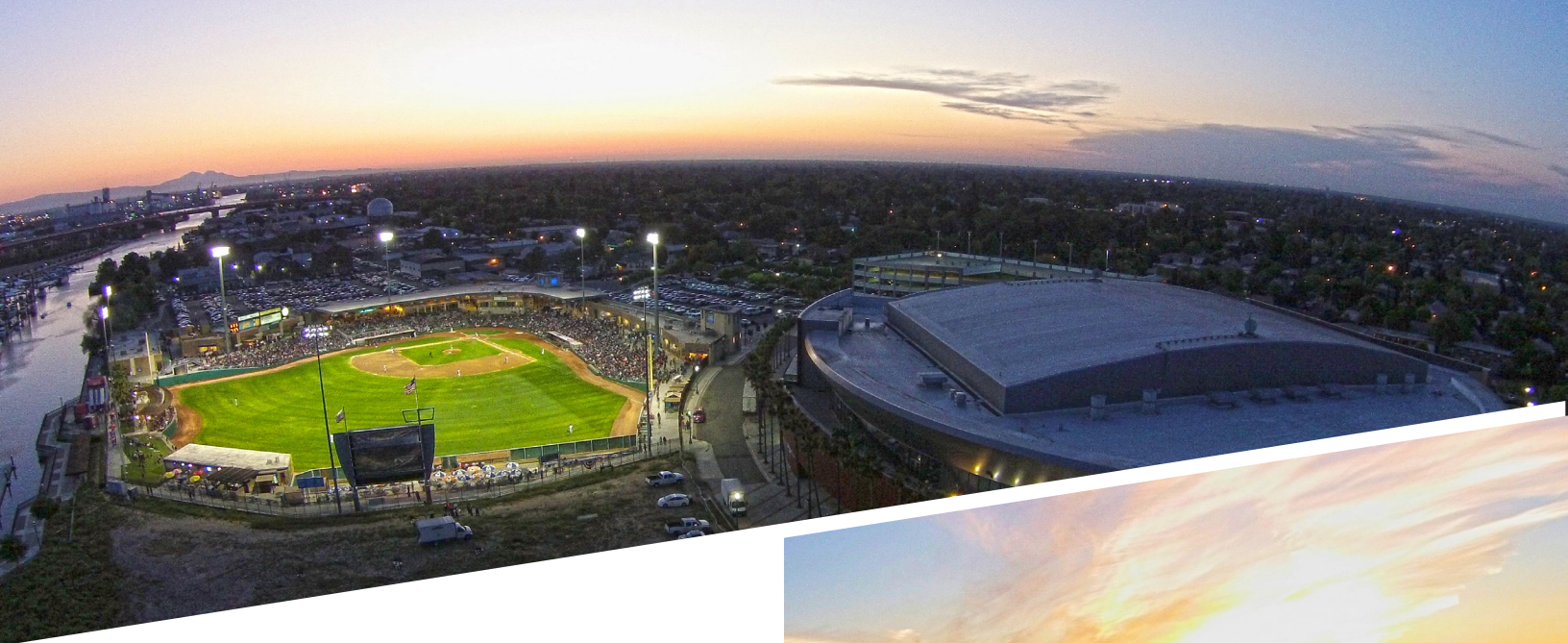
The Delta & Outdoor Recreation

Stockton sits at the southern edge of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast of the United States, with more than 1,200 miles of waterways. Residents enjoy boating, fishing, paddleboarding, and water sports from marinas including the Downtown Stockton Marina and Village West Marina, while Shumway Oak Grove Regional Park & Nature Center and neighborhood parks offer trails and green space.

Getting Around

Stockton is well connected for commuters and travelers. The Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) provides weekday round-trip rail service between Stockton and San Jose, and Amtrak San Joaquin's trains serve Stockton. The Regional Transportation District (RTD) provides service throughout the County and connects to ACE as well as the nearby Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), connecting residents easily to the Bay Area. Interstate 5 and Highway 99 offer direct access throughout California, and Stockton Metropolitan Airport provides nonstop flights close to home.





The Community (*continued*)

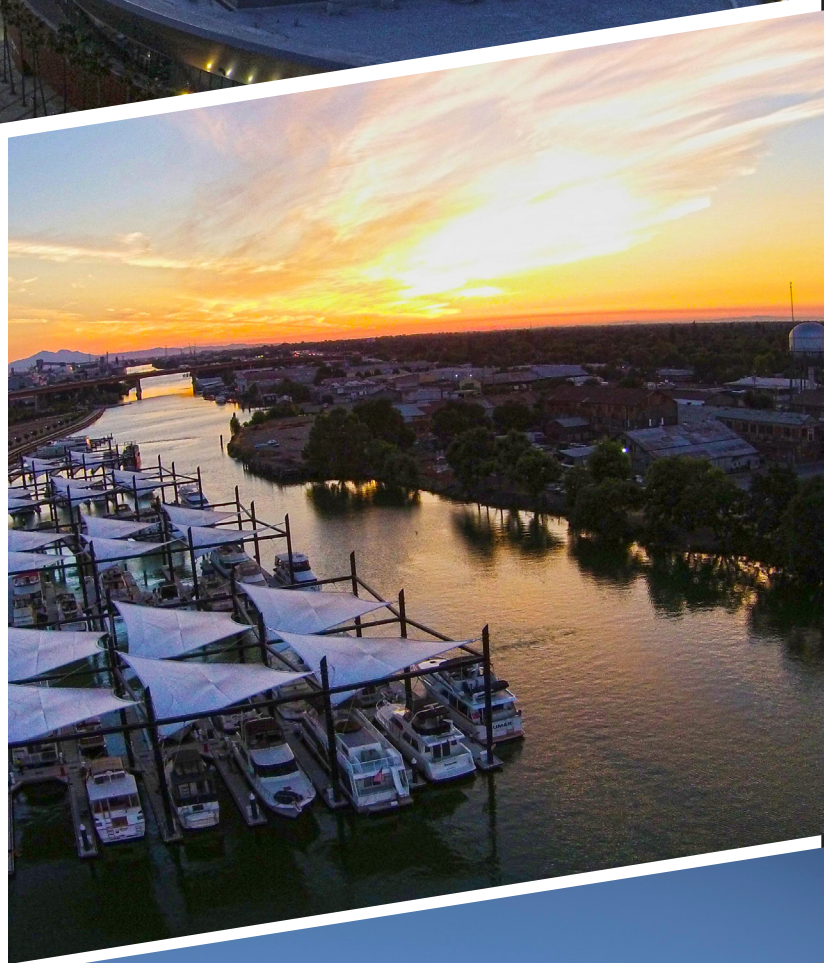
Wine Country & Beyond

Just north of Stockton, the Lodi wine region is the Old Vine Zinfandel capital of the world. Lodi is home to more than 85 wineries and over 135 varietals, with tasting rooms in relaxed, countryside settings, and it hosts the annual Lodi Grape Festival. Lodi Lake Park, along the Mokelumne River, offers kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing, seasonal swimming, picnics, and a one-mile nature trail. Lodi was crowned the national winner of America's Favorite Small Town 2026 by Parade. Other popular destinations in the County include the California Delta, Great Wolf Lodge in Manteca, and the Sandhill Crane Festival. Stockton's central location also makes it easy to explore Sacramento, the Bay Area, ocean towns along the northern coast, nearby forests, and state and national parks, as well as the Sierra Nevada, placing mountain, coastal, and urban destinations within a comfortable drive.

A Place to Grow

With a diverse population, an expanding economy, relatively affordable housing, and a central Northern California location, Stockton and San Joaquin County offer an appealing setting for professionals and families alike. The County's motto says it well: greatness grows here. While many California coastal communities are seeing population decline, the Central Valley, including Stockton and San Joaquin County, is growing, driven by affordability, and the State expects that trend to continue through the next decade. Since the pandemic, population has grown 6% and overall GDP has grown 39% in the SCK catchment area.

Community Information: visitstockton.org, visitolodi.com





Position Overview

The Airport Director leads the planning, management, and daily operation of SCK and its related facilities for San Joaquin County. The Director oversees airport operations, facility management and development, finance, and administration and leads the SCK team. Working with the Board of Supervisors, County leadership, federal and state agencies, airline and cargo partners, and tenants, the Airport Director will guide SCK through a period of significant investment in terminal improvements, air service development, and economic development that positions the airport for long-term growth.

About the Role

This at-will executive position carries broad responsibility for the County's airport. The Airport Director will build a cohesive, high-performing team through cross-training, professional development, and clear communication while strengthening partnerships with airline, cargo, and aviation tenants, regional logistics partners, and the community. Priorities include expanding commercial air service, growing airport revenue, attracting new tenants and development, delivering the capital program while maintaining operations during terminal improvements, and advancing airport planning in a strong regulatory environment.





Key Responsibilities

- Plan, organize, and direct all phases of airport operations, facility management and development, and overall airport activities.
- Ensure compliance with local, state, and federal aviation requirements, including FAA and TSA regulations, and recommend policies and legislative positions affecting the airport.
- Develop long-range plans for air transportation in the County and evaluate facility expansion and new aviation-related industry.
- Oversee the airport budget, develop new revenue sources, and direct federal and state grant programs.
- Direct the negotiation and enforcement of leases and contracts and actively attract and develop new airport tenants.
- Collaborate with the Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator, advisory boards, and federal and state agencies on airport development, operating programs, and organizational effectiveness.
- Develop strategies for noise abatement and land use compatibility.
- Select, train, supervise, and evaluate staff.

Leadership Qualities and Style

The ideal candidate is a proven, people-focused leader who builds trust, respect, and collaboration and develops staff to their full potential. They communicate clearly and concisely, exercise sound, independent judgment, and are comfortable in a public setting. An entrepreneurial, relationship-driven executive, the Airport Director cultivates strong partnerships with airlines, cargo operators, tenants, public agencies, and community stakeholders; creates and adapts innovative programs to meet changing needs; and focuses on execution on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.



Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in airport management, business administration, or public administration.
- Five years of increasingly responsible airport management experience at a small hub or larger airport, including working with tenants on lease negotiation.
- A master's degree in airport administration, business administration, or public administration may substitute for one year of the required experience.
- Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) certificate from the American Association of Airport Executives is desired.
- Possession of a valid California driver's license.

For the full job description, [click here](#).

Salary and Benefits

Salary is dependent on qualifications and will be based upon the knowledge and experience of the individual selected. The annual salary range for this position is \$199,254.54 - \$242,195.15 and is accompanied by a competitive benefits package.

How To Apply

To apply online, [click here](#).

Deadline for applications: October 25, 2026

The contacts for this search are:

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Photo credit: Stockton Metropolitan Airport exterior by Kevin Richtik.

