

REACH

Ideas + Action for a Thriving Central Coast

December 28, 2021

Mayor Steve Martin
City of Paso Robles
1000 Spring Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Subject: Paso Robles Spaceport Application

Dear Mayor Martin,

We write to offer our enthusiastic support for the City of Paso Robles' application to the FAA for the Paso Robles Airport to become a licensed Spaceport. The airport is well positioned for business development with its close proximity to major highways, uncongested air space, abundance of surrounding land, long runway, and the proposed Tech Corridor redevelopment project, The Landing. These features combine to make the Paso Robles Airport a prime asset in the Central Coast region with great potential for expansion.

As you are aware, REACH is an economic impact organization with a mission to increase economic prosperity on the Central Coast through big thinking, bold action and regional collaboration. The north star of our work is collaboration with business, education, government and nonprofit partners to create 15,000 good paying jobs in the region by 2030. The Space and Aeronautics industry is a cornerstone of our focus to diversify our regional economy and provide opportunities for many more people to raise their standard of living and thrive on the Central Coast.

The Space and Aeronautics industry is a key target for growth because it has long had a presence on the Central Coast, anchored by the nation's sole West Coast space launch facility at Vandenberg Space Force Base and supported by five highly ranked state universities with premier engineering and aerospace programs. With today's rapid pace of innovation, the global space and aeronautics industry is offering unprecedented opportunities for our region to capture inclusive growth with entry-, middle- and high-level jobs in skilled labor, engineering, software, advanced manufacturing, and other STEM fields by leveraging our assets, talent, and industry stronghold.

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A recent study conducted by REACH found that Vandenberg's \$4.5 billion economic impact and 16,000 jobs in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties could grow to \$6 billion over the next decade, with 2,000 additional jobs annually sprinkled across the entire two county region. That reflects growth in the space industry, predicted to soar to \$1 trillion by 2030. A master plan for the growth of the commercial space ecosystem on the Central Coast was released in June by an MOU partnership that includes the County of Santa Barbara, Space Launch Delta 30, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), REACH, Cal Poly and Deloitte, that provides a roadmap to cultivate commercial space region-wide. Further, REACH recently forged a six-county coalition called Uplift to advance space and aeronautics from Santa Cruz to Ventura.

In closing, the Paso Robles Spaceport plan aligns with the aims of REACH 2030, and enhances the efforts to create conditions for commercial space activity to advance on the Central Coast. We commend your efforts in working with the City Council, the Airport Commission, Cal Poly and industry to create a world-class innovation hub in the heart of the Central Coast six county space and aeronautics corridor. Your vision for a Spaceport demonstrates leadership, innovation, and foresight in planning for the future of our region's economy for the benefit of our residents. We offer our full support of this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Melissa James
President/CEO
REACH

