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## **New Indy Nonstop Flight Opens Another Gate to West Coast** *New flight gives access to top unserved travel destination*

INDIANAPOLIS (Jan. 5, 2017) – Southwest Airlines’ announcement today of a new seasonal nonstop flight to San Diego is big news for Indy business and leisure travelers -- and a big addition to the Indianapolis International Airport’s access to the West Coast.

“Southwest has taken the lead in flight capacity in Indianapolis,” said Mario Rodriguez, executive director of the Indianapolis Airport Authority. “They’ve been investing heavily in the Indy market, and have had their ears open to the customer. When they saw this opportunity to add San Diego, they made it happen.”

Southwest Airlines’ investment in the Indianapolis market is evident by the fact it offered 70 percent more seats flying out of the Indy airport in 2016 than in 2014.

Rodriguez said San Diego is the Indy airport’s top unserved market. “San Diego is heavy with business opportunity, particularly in the tech sector, and it’s a favorite conference destination and a strong leisure hold in southern California,” said Rodriguez who previously served as the executive director of the Long Beach International Airport.

While today’s announcement is for seasonal daily nonstop Southwest flights to San Diego from June through August, the IAA sees it as an important addition in covering massive ground on the West Coast. Last fall, the IAA and Alaska Airlines announced a new nonstop flight out of Indy to Seattle-Tacoma will begin in May 2017. United Airlines already offers a nonstop flight from Indy to San Francisco. Before the Southwest announcement today, the only existing flight out of the Indy airport to southern California is via Los Angeles International Airport.

The new seasonal service to San Diego brings the total number of nonstop flights to 44 leaving out of Indy.

IAA Board President Kelly Flynn said today’s announcement is a great tee-up for what could be ahead. “Southwest has provided a significant opportunity for fulfilling our goals expanding reach into the West Coast, but the IAA has real opportunity ahead to connect Indy travelers and industries via nonstop domestic flights to the broader Western United States.”

Rodriguez said news to that effect could be just days away.

[Click here](#) for details about Southwest Airlines’ new nonstop flight to San Diego.

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### **About the Indianapolis Airport Authority**

The Indianapolis Airport Authority owns and operates Indiana’s largest airport system. In addition to the Indianapolis International Airport, its facilities include the Downtown Heliport, Eagle Creek Airpark, Hendricks County Airport, Indianapolis Regional Airport and Metropolitan Airport. IND has received numerous prestigious awards recognizing it as a leader within its

class, including best airport in North America in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 in Airports Council International's annual Airport Service Quality awards. It has also been inducted into the ACI Director General's Roll of Excellence, one of the few U.S. airports to be included in this elite group of worldwide airports. Condé Nast Traveler readers named IND the best airport in America in 2014, 2015 and 2016. IND is the first airport in the U.S. to win LEED® certification for an entire terminal campus. LEED is a green- building award for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. IND has won additional recognition for excellent customer service, concessions programs, and art and architecture.

IND generates an annual economic impact in Central Indiana of more than \$4.5 billion without relying on state or local taxes to fund its operations. About 10,000 people work at the airport each day. IND serves more than 8 million business and leisure travelers each year and averages 143 daily flights, seasonally and year-round, to 44 nonstop destinations. Home of the world's second-largest FedEx Express operation and the nation's eighth- largest cargo facility, IND is committed to becoming the airport system of choice for both passenger and cargo service. For more information, visit IND's Facebook page at [Indianapolis International Airport](#) and Twitter page at [@INDairport](#).