



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**UKIAH REGIONAL AIRPORT CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF PHASE ONE AND PHASE TWO RUNWAY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

**Ukiah, CA. November 17, 2024.** – The Ukiah Regional Airport is proud to announce the successful completion of the Phase One and Phase Two runway reconstruction projects, a critical investment in the infrastructure of our local airport, which serves as the CalFire Air Attack Base and provides local service for Reach medivac apparatus, Fed Ex, UPS, and more.

Phase One of this extensive project began in 2020, addressing the urgent need for runway rehabilitation. The previous runway was in very poor condition and required replacement to ensure the safety and efficiency of airport operations. This phase involved the repaving of the 75-foot center section of the previously 150-foot wide runway, along with the addition of a new taxiway. The project, which took almost 2 months to complete, was funded through a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant totaling nearly \$4 million.

Phase Two commenced in October 2023 and focused on enhancing the airport's lighting systems. This phase also narrowed the runway to 75 feet and introduced essential safety features, including an edge line, edge lights, and new LED runway lights. Additionally, new runway end identification lights and a Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) were installed, significantly improving visibility and safety for pilots.

The cost of the Phase Two project was approximately \$2 million, also funded by the FAA. These improvements are vital to ensuring the long-term usability of the airport and minimizing potential closures due to maintenance or lighting failures. The functionality of the runway is particularly crucial for Cal Fire operations, as Ukiah Airport operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

"We are thrilled to have completed these pivotal projects that enhance the safety and functionality of the Ukiah Regional Airport," said Greg Owen, Airport Manager. "The improvements not only benefit our local community but also support vital emergency services, ensuring that we are prepared for any situation."

The City of Ukiah owns and operates the Ukiah Regional Airport and has owned the facility since the 1930s. The airport is comprised of one 4,400 ft. runway and taxiway, 160 acres in size, and has 87 aircraft based on site.

Shannon Riley, Deputy City Manager

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