



October 15, 2024

Office of Technical Services  
Division of Aeronautics – Caltrans  
ATTN: Tarek Tabshouri  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Sent via email only to aeronautics@dot.ca.gov**

Re: Title 21. CA Department of Transportation Airport Grant Eligibility Regulation Update

Dear Tarek Tabshouri,

On behalf of Vertical Aviation International (VAI), I would like to thank the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed updates to Title 21, specifically regarding new categories of airport projects eligible for grant funding through the Caltrans Acquisition and Development (A&D) Program (referred to here as the "A&D Program Updates").

VAI is the global trade association for the civil vertical aviation industry, representing over 1,000 aviation businesses and 15,000 professionals in 75 countries. Our mission is to advance the vertical aviation industry by fostering connection, education, advocacy, and safety, benefiting communities worldwide. VAI is unique in representing all sectors of vertical aviation, including operators of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), next-generation vertical-takeoff-and-landing (VTOL) aircraft (commonly referred to as Advanced Air Mobility or AAM), conventional helicopters, and the various companies supporting the industry, from manufacturers to service providers.

As the leading association for vertical aviation, VAI appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the A&D Program Updates. We commend Caltrans for its work in supporting the state's climate, energy, and sustainability goals. We are particularly encouraged by the inclusion of funding for emerging technologies like AAM and UAS, fueling infrastructure to meet new aviation fuel regulations, helipads, airport improvements for emergency services, and educational facilities to address workforce shortages. This funding is critical for California's General Aviation (GA) airports and a significant step toward integrating new technologies while promoting environmental and workforce sustainability.

While the updated grant categories are a positive step, we also urge the State of California to increase funding for the Aeronautics Account in the State Transportation Fund to ensure GA airports can fully benefit from the A&D Program.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input. VAI remains committed to collaborating with government and industry to safely integrate new technologies into our airspace.

For any comments or questions, I can be reached at [amberh@verticalavi.org](mailto:amberh@verticalavi.org).

Thank you for your attention on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amber Harrison' in a cursive script.

Amber Harrison –VAI Director of Regulatory Affairs