









# Chico Municipal Airport Industry Overview and Catchment Area Discussion

- Regional industry discussion
- > Chico performance review
- Chico catchment area study results
- Summary / conclusions / next steps



# Airline consolidation has transformed the U.S. industry ...





The four largest U.S. airlines operate 81% of domestic seats

Combined Alaska + Virgin America operate another 6%

In 2000, the four largest U.S. airlines operated 51% of total domestic seats













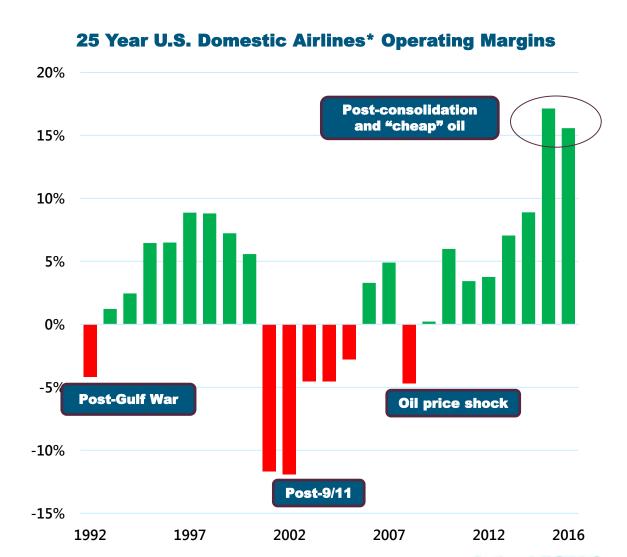




# ... driving healthier airline economic performance

# "The industry has finally gotten to a rational model"

Doug Parker
American Airlines CEO



a company of Royal HaskoningDHV

<sup>\*</sup> Basket of largest carriers/predecessors and selected other previous carriers

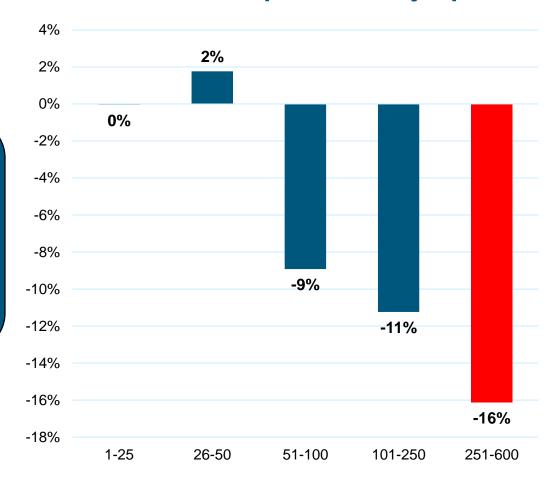
Source: Bloomberg.com article from June 20, 2017; US DOT Form 41 data via Diio online portal

# However, challenges remain for smaller airport communities ...

#### 2017 Five Year Domestic Departure Trends by Airport Rank/Size\*

Seat declines across smaller airports have not been as severe

Trends had begun to moderate but have recently regained momentum





# ... driven by a range of industry factors

Reduction of turbo-prop aircraft marketed by major airlines

Fewer small regional jet aircraft marketed by major airlines

Shortage of regional airline pilots

Large carrier service consolidation around major markets

# Why Small Airports Are in Big Trouble

Wall St. Journal, April 7, 2014

Pilot shortage a blow to regional airports

Travel Weekly, January 12, 2016



# However, tools remain for small airport communities

- Small Community Air Service Development program (SCASD)
- Essential Air Service program (EAS)
- Non-traditional airlines / airline business models
- Revenue guarantees / community incentive programs

#### Sample November 2017 Week: Small California Airport\* Schedule Profile

City	Weekly trips	Airline	Comments
Merced/MCE	31	Boutique	9 seat aircraft (EAS grant)
Eureka/Arcata/ACV	28	United**	4x daily to SFO
El Centro/Imperial/IPL	24	Mokulele	8 seat aircraft (EAS grant)
Redding/RDD	20	United**	3x daily to SFO
Santa Maria/SMX	17	Allegiant / Mokulele	ULCC and regional operations
Crescent City/CEC	14	Penair	30 seat aircraft (EAS grant)
Stockton/SCK	14	Allegiant	All ULCC leisure
Inyokern/IYK	12	Boutique	ENDING SOON
Mammoth Lakes/MMH	7	Alaska**	1x daily to LAX



<sup>\*</sup> California airports with <5 schedule daily departures

<sup>\*\*</sup> Operated by regional partner carrier Source: Innovata schedule data via Diio online portal

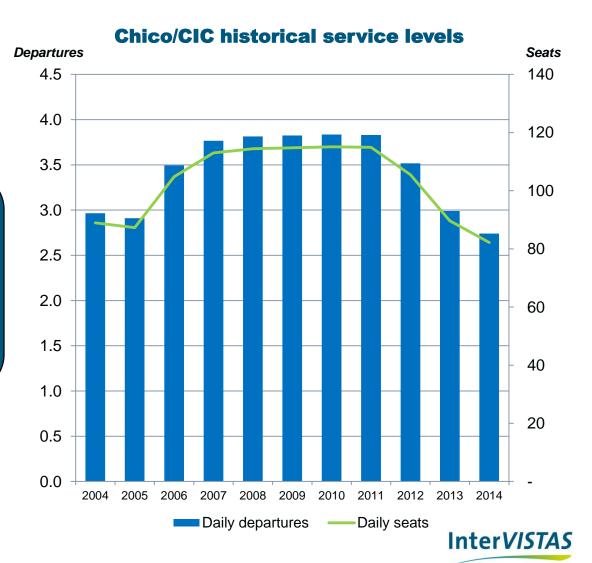
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### Scheduled service from Chico ceased in 2014

All recent service was branded as United with 30 seat EMB120 aircraft

Service levels had been reduced prior to the 4Q14 cessation of service

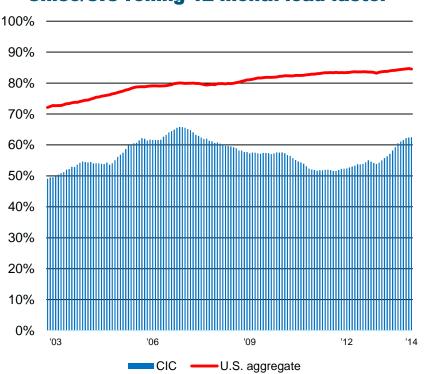


a company of Royal HaskoningDHV

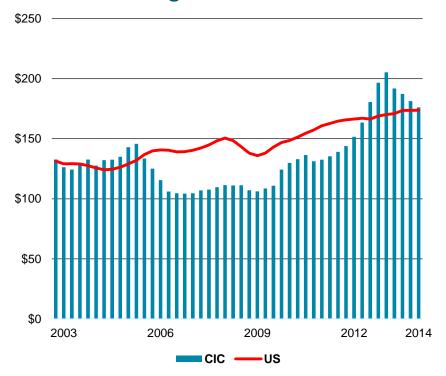
# Recent Chico service trailed typical domestic revenue performance

- Revenue performance trailed domestic averages through the final years of service
- Performance did improve slightly following the decline in capacity

#### Chico/CIC rolling 12 month load factor



#### Chico/CIC rolling 12 month domestic fare





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# What is a "catchment area analysis"?

#### For airports with existing service

- Process begins with <u>DOT-reported data</u> measuring airport-specific traffic
- Data is then sourced sampling <u>airline ticket data</u> from local region
- Adjustments are made to account for data irregularities / sync with airport data
- ➤ <u>"Leakage" and "true demand"</u> are then calculated across multiple levels

#### For airports without existing service (Chico)

- No "actual" airport performance data exists
- Analytical <u>benchmarking exercise</u> projects macro-level traffic data
- Passenger <u>ticket data is sourced</u> to identify specific airport and airline usage
- Primary objective is to quantify market-specific traffic potential and airport usage



# Why commission a catchment area analysis?

#### **Airport marketing and strategic efforts**

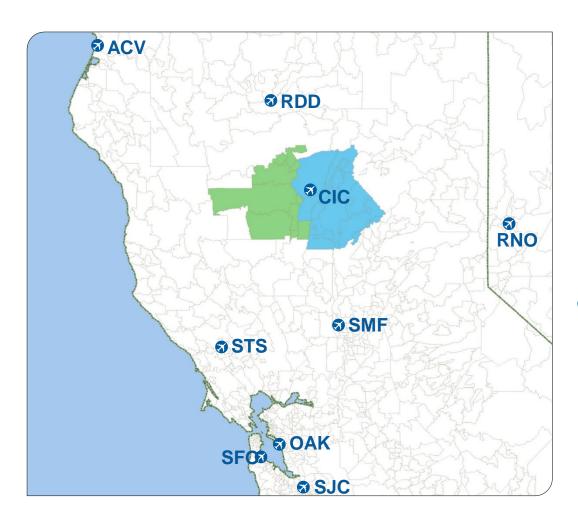
- Understanding of true market demand for facilities and planning purposes
- Understanding of airport usage patterns provides competitive/marketing intelligence
- Full portfolio of data can guide airline / air service development efforts

#### **Airline business cases**

- Provides airline planning groups with more accurate market profile than available through traditional data sources
- Allows airports to more interactively participate in airline planning process
- Allows airlines to proactively manage conversations and analysis regarding their future service patterns



# The Chico/CIC catchment area



Blue = Chico metropolitan statistical area Green = expanded catchment area region

Note that the entire shaded region is considered the CIC catchment area for the purpose of our analysis

Inter VISTAS developed a zip code level drive time analysis as the foundation for this catchment area definition



# **Summary of results**

- We project a total of 682 passengers per day each way (PDEW) on an annual basis
- ➤ Note this does not represent our projection of CIC traffic this is the projection of total traffic from the catchment area
- Of these passengers, we project airport usage as follows:

Airport	Domestic	International	Total
Sacramento/SMF	80%	38%	75%
San Francisco/SFO	13%	58%	19%
Reno/RNO	2%	n/a	2%
Oakland/OAK	1%	2%	1%
San Jose/SJC	1%	1%	1%
Other	3%	1%	2%



# **Summary of results**

Top Chico markets by PDEW – and airport usage – are projected as follows:

Airport	Share
SMF	76%
SFO	16%
RNO	3%
OAK	1%
SJC	1%
Other	3%

Top 10 markets (PDEW): Chico area passengers





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#### What does this mean for Chico?

#### What are implications of 682 PDEW?

How does this figure translate into a viable Chico airline business plan?

An 20% capture rate could support a twice daily 70-seat service pattern\*

This assumes fares consistent with current regional airport levels

#### **CIC PDEW** at various traffic capture rates 400 341 350 307 300 273 239 250 204 200 170 150 136 102 100 68 50 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 50%



#### What does this mean for Chico?

#### What are the logical service options?

## **Los Angeles / LAX**

# American Airlines

- > 176 daily departures to 66 non-stop destinations
- ➤ 10 destinations in CA/WA/OR
- ➤ 19 peak-day departures with regional equipment

# UNITED

- ➤ 126 daily departures to 50 non-stop destinations
- > 8 destinations in California
- ➤ 30 peak-day departures with regional equipment

# United plans more feeder flights at Los Angeles

04 OCTOBER, 2017 | SOURCE: FLIGHT DASHBOARD | BY: EDWARD RUSSELL | WASHINGTON DC

Flight Global. October 4, 2017

#### San Francisco/SFO



- > 270 daily departures to 88 non-stop destinations
- > 15 destinations in California; 8 more in OR/WA
- ➤ 53 peak-day departures with regional equipment



#### What does this mean for Chico?

### **Strengths**

- ➤ Newly quantified market size
- ➤ Distance from alternate airports
- ➤ Coordinated community effort
- ➤ Growth/competitive environment at LAX

#### **Opportunities**

- ➤ Revenue guarantee framework
- ➤ SCASD opportunity
- ➤ Alternative regional business models

#### Weaknesses

- ➤ Substandard prior commercial performance
- > Lack of recent service

#### **Threats**

- ➤ General regional industry trends
- Reduction of major carrier turbo-prop service
- ➤ Regional pilot shortage
- ➤ High hurdle rate for new service

