



## ***Airport Role***

The Watsonville Municipal Airport, which is located on the northwest side of the City of Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California, is a general aviation airport. Based on the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Reference Code (ARC) system Runway 2-20 is classified as B II and Runway 9-27 is classified as B I. The airport is located within the city limits of the City of Watsonville. The airport serves the general aviation requirements of the air trade area, which generally consists of the City of Watsonville, all of Santa Cruz County, and a portion of Northern Monterey County and Southern Santa Clara County. The airport is owned and operated by the City of Watsonville.

KWVI is the only airport within Santa Cruz County. There are four airports that serve the major recreation and business area of the Monterey Bay, namely Watsonville Municipal Airport, Hollister Municipal Airport, Salinas Municipal Airport, and Monterey Peninsula Airport. Of the four airports, KWVI supports 34 percent of all based aircraft and 25 percent of all annual operations of general aviation aircraft per the 2003 Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments "Airport Economic Impacts Study for Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties".

The Watsonville and Salinas Valley areas support a major agri-business operation including the production and distribution of fruits, berries, and vegetables. Watsonville Municipal Airport serves as the airport base for several growers and a major general contractor.

KWVI does not serve any airline, air cargo, or air taxi operations at this time. Short-haul commuter, air taxi, and small air cargo operations are feasible uses in the future at the KWVI.

KWVI principally serves the general aviation fleet ranging from jet aircraft and turboprop aircraft to twin-engine and single-engine non-jet aircraft varying in size from the Cessna Citation 560 and Falcon 900 class aircraft to the small single engine aircraft. There is a significant helicopter operation at the airport driven by the helicopter flight school and sightseeing charter flights.

There are Coast Guard helicopter operations and military helicopter operations throughout the year, but the major user of the helicopter facilities is the flight school and sightseeing operations.

There is a substantial skydiving operation based out of KWVI with approximately 3,000 aircraft operations per year.