



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

**Date:** Monday, June 8, 2009

**Contacts:** Marc Mortensen, Assistant to the City Manager, (435) 703-0953  
Larry Bulloch, Public Works Director, (435) 703-0968

### **REPLACEMENT AIRPORT PROVIDES NEW BOOST TO ECONOMY**

Despite declining local sales tax revenues and depreciating property values, the City of St. George has discovered the silver lining in this period of economic downturn with construction material and labor costs on the replacement airport project coming in much lower than original estimates. This summer seven projects will be under construction at the airport site. On average, these projects are coming in 45% below 2007 estimates which means significant savings on construction costs as a whole.

In the grading and drainage project just completed in May, 4 million cubic yards of earth were moved at a cost of \$11.6 million.

The magnitude of the effort to re-contour the 1,200 acre site is difficult to imagine without seeing it first-hand. The City recently added directional signage and created a visitor's observation site at the crest of the west access road from Little Valley for interested on lookers. For those who would rather observe the progress from the convenience of their own homes or offices, the City has provided an up-to-date photo gallery of the construction at [www.squconstruction.org](http://www.squconstruction.org).

The pace of construction is picking up dramatically. A \$4.1 million finish grading contract with Quality Excavation is currently underway along with a \$1.3 million contract with Desert Hills Construction for an onsite waterline. Construction of the terminal is poised to begin in July under a \$6.2 million contract with Westland Construction.

Financially, the City continues to find success in securing grant funding. An additional \$5.7 million in economic stimulus funding was recently appropriated by the Federal Aviation Administration for the terminal building, bringing total federal funding for the replacement airport to \$126 million! This lowers the local portion to \$34 million which will be funded by the sale of the existing airport property and transient room tax.

All of this brings new hope to local job seekers. The airport program is estimated to provide job opportunities for as many as 100 different companies. The terminal construction alone will employ nearly 300 people; most of whom are local residents.

The Replacement Airport is on schedule for an early 2011 opening date.

####