

# WEEKLY FLASH

## Virgin America Arrival Signals Big Changes at Local Airports

Thanking the Bay Area Council for its help both bringing Virgin America to the Bay Area and helping the new business secure its license, [Virgin America asked the Council's CEO](#), Jim Wunderman, to ride on the inaugural flight from Los Angeles to San Francisco. While there was a lot of [excitement about the airline](#), which will be based in Burlingame, Jim became an in-flight addict to the entertainment centers attached to each seat featuring music, videos and games, plus the ability to "chat" with any other passengers on the plane. Our thanks go to all of the members who participated in our lobbying and letter writing campaign with the U.S. Dept. of Transportation to allow Virgin America to fly. As SFO Airport Director John Martin noted, Virgin America's arrival is another signal that "2007 has been our year." In May, JetBlue began flying from SFO, Virgin America has finally taken off and on Aug. 26, Southwest Airlines will return to SFO with 18 daily flights. In addition, United Airlines has been adding new international routes at a fast clip. The new activity is spurring the Bay Area Council to take a new look at SFO and the region's airports to ensure that we have enough future capacity.



## Council CEO Testifies at Hearing On Water Transit

"The biggest danger [facing the Bay Area economy] is a catastrophic natural or man-made disaster, and the most likely such disaster is, of course, an earthquake. While housing costs and traffic congestion are a drag on the economy..., a catastrophic earthquake will, overnight, totally devastate the economy.... We need to move like our lives depend on it, because they do." So testified Jim Wunderman today in front of a Senate Select Committee on Bay Area disaster readiness. Besides Jim, the Committee heard about: what happened in New Orleans; what the earthquake risks are; how first responders need help; lessons provided by the Maze Meltdown; and how a robust emergency water transit system could help. Numerous members of the media, public officials and interested parties attended the hearing, which is part of a Council-driven [education campaign](#) supporting emergency water transit.



## Article of the Week

The L.A. Times covered [a new initiative](#) that would either reward or penalize utilities like PG&E up to \$500 million based on how much energy their programs saved over a three-year period.

## Quote of the Week

*"It brings to mind the old saying about the most dangerous person being the one without anything to lose."* – California's pre-eminent columnist, Dan Walters, [about state Republicans in the budget battle](#) that could shut down other critical legislative issues such as health care reform.

---

<i>Thanks to our Flash sponsors:</i>		Deloitte	Legacy Partners	O'Brien Homes	San Francisco Chronicle
Aon	Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream	M Squared Consulting	Pacific Gas and Electric	San Francisco International Airport	
AT&T	Hewlett Packard	Marsh Risk & Insurance Services	The PMI Group	Shapell Homes	
Chevron	KaiserAir	McKinsey & Company	Ponderosa Homes	Sunset Development Company	
City National Bank	KB Home South Bay	The Mechanics Bank	Robert Half International		