

## Friends of Freight in Washington State -

Please check out the excellent report found at [http://cati.csufresno.edu/cab/PDF/Mason\\_Role-of-Air-Cargo.pdf](http://cati.csufresno.edu/cab/PDF/Mason_Role-of-Air-Cargo.pdf). Much of the information and the trend analysis apply to the entire West Coast freight system, although it's focused on California agriculture.

The report is balanced, readable, applies critical thinking to data, explains trends, it's very useful. **In fact, it's one of the best reports on freight transport I've read and I recommend it to you.**

There's lots of food for thought such as:

- "A substantial portion of the state's international air cargo capacity will necessarily migrate from LAX and SFO to airports further inland and, hence, nearer to California's agricultural heartland."
- "Waterborne shipments typically account for less than one fifth of the total value of California's merchandise exports. The state's huge maritime complexes are principally conduits for imported goods and for the export of bulky cargos or shipments with low value-to-weight ratios. That situation is markedly different, though, in the case of California's agricultural export trade. The vast bulk of the state's farm exports – whether calculated by weight or by value - continue to move either by sea or by overland routes to Mexico and to Canada."
- "There are two primary determinants of which airports will emerge as major air cargo facilities. The first involves what is effectively the overriding business imperative of the air cargo industry: finding the best way of serving the needs and interests of *importers*. The other determinant is demographic in nature. Very simply, air transport services are drawn to centers of population and industry."
- "...rates charged for cargo carried aboard passenger aircraft are typically lower than rates charged for cargo carried aboard airfreighters, where cargo is the sole source of revenue and must therefore pay its own way."

Please feel free to forward to others concerned about our freight system.

Best regards,  
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