

Contacts:

SJC - Rosemary Barnes 408-392-1199 / <u>rbarnes@sic.org</u>

Alaska Airlines – Media Relations 206-392-5101 / newsroom@alaskaair.com

February 17, 2016

NEWS RELEASE

Alaska Airlines to Launch Nonstop Flights to Orange County and San Diego from Silicon Valley's Airport

-- Southern California Cities Highly Requested by Business and Leisure Travelers; Three-Times Daily Service Begins June 8 --

San José, Calif. – Alaska Airlines today announced plans to begin nonstop service between Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) and both Orange County/Santa Ana and San Diego, beginning June 8, 2016. The new service marks Alaska Airlines' first-ever service from SJC to these Southern California cities highly requested by business and leisure travelers. Tickets are available for purchase at www.alaskaair.com.

"I'd like to thank Alaska Airlines for choosing to expand service in Silicon Valley," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "Alaska's new flights speak to the strength of our local economy and will provide another convenient option for the many Silicon Valley residents who travel to Southern California for business and leisure. We look forward to helping facilitate Alaska's continued growth at SJC in the years ahead."

Alaska will operate to both Orange County and San Diego three-times daily using modern Embraer 175 jets. The aircraft features 76 comfortable, wide seats; with no middle seats, every passenger has either a window or aisle seat. Travelers have three seating classes to choose from – First, Preferred and Coach.

"These new routes will bring low fares and an elevated inflight experience to our California customers, offering convenient connections to popular leisure destinations in Mexico and Hawaii served by Alaska as well as to Beijing and London, served by our partner carriers Hainan Airlines and British Airways," said Andrew Harrison, Alaska Airlines' Chief Commercial Officer.

"New service on Alaska Airlines to Southern California's business and beach destinations of Orange County and San Diego will be warmly welcomed by SJC passengers," said Director of Aviation Kim Becker. "Alaska is a favorite airline of Silicon Valley travelers due to the fourteen destinations it offers nonstop from SJC and the high-tech and high-touch services offered to elevate the customer experience."

Alaska, SJC's second largest carrier, also operates nonstop flights between SJC and Boise, Cabo San Lucas, Eugene, Guadalajara, the Hawaiian Islands (Honolulu, Kahului, Kona and Lihue), Portland, Reno, Salt Lake City and Seattle.

The new Alaska service marks six new flights to launch from SJC in 2016. The four additional airlines and nonstop destinations are: <u>British Airways</u> to London/Heathrow on May 4; <u>Air Canada</u> to Vancouver on May 9; <u>American Airlines</u> to Charlotte on June 2; and <u>Lufthansa</u> to Frankfurt on July 1.

Flights to Orange County and San Diego from SJC are also offered by <u>Southwest Airlines</u> with eight daily flights and nine daily flights respectively.

About Alaska Airlines

Alaska Airlines, a subsidiary of Alaska Air Group (NYSE: ALK), together with its partner regional airlines, serves more than 100 cities through an expansive network in the United States, Canada, Costa Rica and Mexico. Alaska Airlines ranked "Highest in Customer Satisfaction Among Traditional Carriers in North America" in the J.D. Power North American Airline Satisfaction Study for eight consecutive years from 2008 to 2015. Alaska Airlines' Mileage Plan also ranked "Highest in Customer Satisfaction with Airline Loyalty Rewards Programs" in the J.D. Power 2014 and 2015 Airline Loyalty/Rewards Program Satisfaction Report. For reservations, visit www.alaskaair.com/newsroom. For more news and information, visit Alaska Airlines' newsroom at www.alaskaair.com/newsroom.

About Mineta San José International Airport

Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) is Silicon Valley's airport, a self-supporting enterprise owned and operated by the City of San José. SJC served 9.8 million passengers in Calendar Year 2015, a 4.4 percent increase year-over-year. SJC offers approximately 150 peak daily departures on 13 domestic and international carriers to 36 nonstop destinations.

SJC's five-star customer service experience sets it apart from other Bay Area and US airports. Airlines and passengers respond positively to SJC's customer amenities, including modern terminal buildings, free and fast WiFi, comfortable seating with built-in power outlets, a luxurious, award-winning lounge open to all travelers, a duty free store offering the ultimate experience in luxury shopping, a rental car center conveniently located across from the terminals and Global Entry kiosks to expedite arriving international passengers. Silicon Valley's airport is located in San José, California's third largest city and the nation's tenth largest city. SJC facts can be found here. For more airport information, visit www.flysanjose.com.