

Help Reopen a California GA Airport and Support a Rural Community New Cuyama Airport (L88)

As opportunity has arisen for aviation enthusiasts to not only help reopen a California airport, but at the same time support a rural community. As a bonus, pilots also gain a new fly-in destination and your donation is tax-deductible!

Where is New Cuyama?

If you are flying north or south through southern and central California, you probably fly along the central valley or take a coastal route. But if you flew between the two, along the mountains ranges that separate the coast from the central valley, you would find a rural airport just 13 miles SE of the Fellows VOR, nestled in the Cuyama Valley. New Cuyama Airport (L88) remains on the Los Angeles Sectional but is currently "Indefinitely Closed" in the California AFD. It is a privately owned, public use airport established in the early 1950s by Atlantic Richfield Oil Company (ARCO) after oil was discovered in the Cuyama Valley.



Blue Sky Center

Over the years, the ownership of the airport has changed, but since 2014 it has been owned by [Blue Sky Center](#) (BSC), a community nonprofit whose mission is to "strengthen our Cuyama Valley communities by supporting entrepreneurs and building our creative and economic resources." They see the airport as critical to emergency support for Cuyama communities. But also, as a portal for flying visitors to experience all the Cuyama Valley has to offer.



The Current Problem with L88

However, decades of deferred maintenance and lack of funds caused CalTrans to close the airport a few years ago.

The last two years, a few pilots have teamed with Blue Sky Center to perform some maintenance, but the airfield surface itself is beyond any simple patching and sealing. So, we began researching renewing the airfield.



The Opportunity

Through an extremely generous grant from The San Simeon Fund, we have the funds available to perform the fundamental, but costly surface repairs the airport needs to reopen. However, some additional funds are needed to cover some other costs associated with the effort.



“While the San Simeon Fund Grant is sufficient to complete the resurfacing work, we have related projects and materials that are needed to fully reopen the airport,” says Em Johnson, Airport Manager and BSC Executive Director. “We are looking for aviation community support to help us execute our full scope of work to officially reopen our community’s airstrip.”

We hope to raise \$50,000 through tax-deductible contributions from the aviation community to complete the entire scope of work to reopen the airstrip fully (see details below). The plan is to reopen the airport in Fall 2022.

Cuyama Valley as a Fly-in Destination

Central Valley pilots have long regarded L88 as a ‘safe haven’ as they traverse the numerous mountain ranges to the central coast. But in the last few years through the efforts of local entrepreneurs, Cuyama Valley has become a destination for those looking for an adventure or escape. The town has a newly restored and reimagined [Cuyama Buckhorn](#) Resort that has a Restaurant, bar and lodging with many amenities.



The valley, nestled between the Carrizo Plain National Monument and the Los Padres National Forest, has an interesting variety of activities available. These include wine tasting, farm tours, a condor sanctuary, horseback and hiking opportunities, and more. [Things to do in Cuyama Valley](#)

How your support benefits a rural California community and aviation:

- Maintains the Cuyama Valley’s access for county emergency services such as medical evacuation helicopters
- Ensures CalFire’s aircraft have an airbase for local wildfires
- Supporting the local economy:
 - Example: L88 use for Crop dusting operations for local farmers
 - Increased local visitors arriving at L88 supports the valley’s businesses and services
- Reopens a remote area to aviation enthusiasts such as GA, gliders and ballooning
- Provides you and other pilots a fly-in destination only 100 miles from Los Angeles and within easy reach from coastal and central valley airports.



Please consider making a tax-deductible donation and then... Come Visit L88 in Fall 2022!

To make a donation, visit: [Support L88 and Fly Cuyama!](#)

Blue Sky Center is a tax-exempt public charity (federal tax ID #46-1239650). All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

For more information or to provide in-kind services or materials contact: ssapping@aol.com or em@blueskycenter.org

Follow our [L88 Facebook Page](#) for news about New Cuyama Airport

Remaining Project Tasks to fully reopen New Cuyama Airstrip:

- Painting the airstrip stripes, hold lines and numbers
- Remove /Replace Airstrip Signage and Register
- Tiedown cables and attachments
- Required temporary Xs at each end of closed runway
- Physical barriers on airstrip for preventing landings on closed runway
- New windsock
- Reserves for variable costs in contract
- Expanding parking area from 5 to 10 planes (Optional)
- 4' Fence for parking area (*Optional*)
- Funding airport maintenance for one year