

Plugging Into Electric Airplanes

SCE helps Clay Lacy Aviation at John Wayne Airport prepare for a future that includes aircraft powered by electricity.

Clay Lacy Aviation will break ground this summer on a new terminal and hangar facility at Orange County's John Wayne Airport with an eye toward an electrified future.

The state-of-art facility will be the first in the world to be certified to the **Institute for Sustainable Architecture (ISI) Envision Gold Standard** for sustainable infrastructure. It will include all the traditional needs for the fixed-base operator to provide maintenance, fueling, charters, flight training, hangar space and tie-downs for private aircraft.

But the company is also moving forward with plans to meet the future mobility needs of its customers. The facility will include infrastructure for 48 electric vehicles and the next generation of aviation – electric aircraft.

This isn't just a wild idea out of "The Jetsons." Electric aircraft have been in development and testing for some time. The industry is expecting the first electric passenger aircraft to start being certified to fly as soon as next year.

A Potential Orange County Electric Aircraft Service Hub

To prepare, Clay Lacy's plans include infrastructure, providing six charging stations for electric aircraft. It already has a partnership to provide charging to Washington-based Eviation's nine-passenger Alice electric plane when the aircraft gets certified for flight.

As the industry grows, Clay Lacy hopes to make John Wayne Airport a hub for electric aircraft service.

"When the planes are certified, we want them to be able to come to Orange County," said Scott Cutshall, Clay Lacy's senior vice president of development and sustainability.

While electric aircraft may be a thing of the future, electric vehicles are part of the here and now as California moves toward its 2035 goal of requiring all new cars and light trucks to be electric.



Artist's rendering: Clay Lacy Aviation at John Wayne Airport will provide recharging to Eviation's Alice electric plane. Credit: courtesy of Clay Lacy Aviation

Charging Infrastructure Assistance from SCE

Clay Lacy is taking advantage of **SCE's Charge Ready Program** to help build the EV charging stations at its new facility.

Charge Ready is one of a variety of programs we support as part of our **Pathway 2045** to advance electrification to meet the state's goals for carbon neutrality.

Under the Charge Ready Program, we cover the basic infrastructure for the EV charging stations – installation of transformers and the lines that power chargers. Clay Lacy will be responsible for putting in the actual chargers, but that equipment may qualify for a separate SCE rebate.

“Charge Ready is one of our best programs for businesses because we provide the backbone,” said Steven Tilk, an SCE senior advisor who works with governments and institutions. “We are seeing great adoption of Charge Ready.”

Once operational, Clay Lacy can also take advantage of our special EV rates for charging stations.

While SCE programs for EVs are currently available, charging electric aircraft is still too new. Like the early days of EVs, the industry has yet to standardize the plug-ins for electric planes.

But as it turns out, a stationary charging station for aircraft may only be one charging method. There are already discussions of a mobile solution that would allow electric trucks to drive to an aircraft to charge it on the tarmac. The truck also would have the advantage of providing emergency backup power to facilities.

“That’s my dream,” Cutshall said.

To learn more about SCE’s clean energy initiatives, visit [edison.com/cleanenergy](https://www.edison.com/cleanenergy).

Join Us for Hispanic Heritage Month and Multicultural Celebration Events

Registration is open for SCE’s 13th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) event (virtual) and 2nd Annual Multicultural Celebration (in person) to recognize organizations and companies that advance the efforts and contributions of our diverse communities.

Both events will feature business and civic leaders, cultural icons and SCE executives, as well as energy education and entertainment.

In addition, we will proudly honor organizations in the categories of Community Partnership, Clean Energy Champion and Gwen Moore Diversity. The details for both events are:

- **HHM (virtual):** Friday, Sept. 22, 2023, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- **Multicultural Celebration (in person):** Friday, Oct. 6, 2023, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., SCE Energy Education Center, 4175 S. Laspina St., Tulare, CA 93274

To register for either or both events, and for information on exhibiting and other details, visit [sceheritageevents.com](https://www.sceheritageevents.com).

Honorees from SCE’s AAPI Heritage Month Event

At our 17th Annual Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month celebration held earlier this year, we recognized the following honorees:

- **Community Impact Award:** Brandon Tsay, Founder, Brandon Tsay Hero Fund
- **Clean Energy Champion Award:** GreenWealth Energy
- **Gwen Moore Diversity Award:** Asian Business Association
- **Community Partnership Award:** Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF) and Asian American Professional Association (AAPA)

Read more about these outstanding awardees on our [AAPI honoree page](#).