



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Issued by the Department of Transportation  
on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 2005

**Served: August 18, 2005**

Essential Air Service at

**VISALIA, CALIFORNIA**

under 49 U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*

**DOCKET OST-2004-19916**

**ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION**

**Summary**

By this order, the Department of Transportation extends the service obligation of SkyWest Airlines, Inc. (SkyWest), at Visalia, California, for an additional 30 days, through September 14, 2005.

**Background**

On December 15, 2004, SkyWest filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend its unsubsidized service at Visalia, effective March 15, 2005. By Order 2004-12-23, December 30, 2004, the Department prohibited SkyWest from suspending service and requested proposals, with subsidy if necessary, from carriers interested in providing replacement service. As required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we have extended SkyWest's service obligation at Visalia for additional 30-day periods, the latest through August 15, 2005, by Order 2005-7-9.

By Order 2005-4-25, the Department selected Scenic Airlines to provide essential air service at Visalia for a three-year period. However, the carrier transition is scheduled for September 1, after the end of the current hold-in period. Therefore, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend SkyWest's service obligation at Visalia for an additional 30 days, or until Scenic's service actually begins, whichever occurs first.

This order is issued under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.56a(f).

**ACCORDINGLY,**

1. We require SkyWest Airlines, Inc., to maintain essential air service at Visalia, California, consisting of two daily Visalia-Fresno-Los Angeles round trips for an additional 30-day period through September 14, 2005, or until suitable replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first;<sup>1</sup>

2. We direct SkyWest to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documentation to support subsidy claims for payment, and to preserve and maintain such documentation in a manner that readily permits its audit and examination by representatives of the Department. Such documentation shall be retained for seven years or until the Department indicates that the records may be destroyed, whichever comes first. Copies of flight logs for aircraft sold or disposed of must be retained. The carrier may forfeit its compensation for any claim that is not supported under the terms of this order;

3. Docket OST-2004-19916, will remain open until further order of the Department; and

4. We will serve a copy of this order on the Mayor and Airport Manager of Visalia, the California Department of Transportation and SkyWest Airlines.

By:

**KARAN K. BHATIA**  
Assistant Secretary for Aviation  
and International Affairs

(SEAL)

*An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at  
<http://dms.dot.gov>*

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend SkyWest's service obligation for successive 30-day periods, as necessary, until Scenic actually begins service.