



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PR 09-08**

### **FAA AWARDS MORE THAN \$1.6 MILLION TO LEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY**

FORT MYERS, Fla. (March 24, 2009) – The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) awarded a grant totaling more than \$1.6 million to the Lee County Port Authority for the design of a new Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) facility at Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW).

Airports rely on grant dollars, which are awarded through a nationwide priority system, to provide needed infrastructure and improvements. The competition for these limited dollars is intense, with priority given to projects that enhance safety and increase airport capacity on a national level.

“We appreciate the FAA’s recognition of RSW as an essential part of the air transportation infrastructure for Southwest Florida,” said Robert M. Ball, A.A.E., executive director of the Lee County Port Authority. “These funds, which are vital to the planned improvements at Southwest Florida International Airport, will permit us to meet the needs of commercial aviation well into the future.”

Southwest Florida International Airport served more than 7.6 million passengers in 2008 and is one of the top 50 busiest U.S. airports for passenger traffic. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for airport operation or construction. For more information, log onto [www.flylcpa.com](http://www.flylcpa.com).