

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Aviation Administration

City of San Diego Airports Division

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
AND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**PROPOSED PROJECT AND LOCATION**

*Metropolitan Airpark Project, Brown Field Municipal Airport, San Diego, San Diego County, California.*

Pursuant to Title 49, United States Code, §47106(c)(1)(A), notice is hereby given that the City of San Diego, California, through its Airport Division (Sponsor), proposes to permit a private developer to implement the proposed Metropolitan Airpark Project (Proposed Action) at the Brown Field Municipal Airport (SDM). The Proposed Action includes the construction of a fixed-base operator (FBO) building, aircraft parking apron, aircraft hangar buildings, and a helicopter business center. The Proposed Action also includes site preparation and grading, utilities installation, road construction, and road widening. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to accommodate the unmet demand for additional corporate jet aviation facilities in south San Diego County. Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in new facilities at SDM that would be designed to meet applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airport design standards.

**ANTICIPATED IMPACTS**

The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) provides information on the proposed project and discusses the potential economic, social, and environmental impacts of the Proposed Action with consideration of its alternatives (including the No Action Alternative) and has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of Section 102(2)(c) of the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (NEPA), and Section 509(b)(5) of the *Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982*, as amended. The FAA is the lead federal agency and will ensure compliance with NEPA for airport development actions. The Draft EA has also been prepared in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures*, FAA Order 5050.4B, *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Instructions for Airport Actions*, the federal *Endangered Species Act*, *Clean Water Act*, *Clean Air Act*, and *National Historic Preservation Act*, and Executive Order 11990 on Protection of Wetlands. The Draft EA includes an analysis of prudent or feasible alternatives; potential economic, social and environmental effects; and mitigation measures, as appropriate.

Pursuant to the *Endangered Species Act*, 16 U.S.C. § 1536, the FAA gives notice that the FAA has determined the Proposed Action may affect, is likely to adversely affect, the following federally listed species: endangered San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), endangered San Diego button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*), and threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*). The FAA has determined the Proposed Action **will not affect** the federal endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*).

The Proposed Action would affect 1.01 acres of Waters of the U.S. (Waters) regulated under Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act. This includes 0.73 acre of non-wetland Waters and 0.28 acre of wetland Waters in the form of vernal pools.

FAA provides notice pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.8(c) that it is using the NEPA process to notify the public of FAA's finding that the proposed undertaking will not affect the Auxiliary Naval Air Station Brown Field Historic District or any properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **PUBLIC REVIEW**

By **September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020**, a copy of the Draft EA will be available at the City of San Diego Airports website: [www.sandiego.gov/airports](http://www.sandiego.gov/airports). A copy of the public hearing presentation and project fact sheet will be posted to the same website 10 days prior to the public hearing. Those who do not have Internet capability or ability to access online materials may request a hard or electronic copy of the Draft EA be sent to you. Requests can be made by calling (858) 573-1441 and leaving a voicemail with your name, phone number, preferred format of the Draft EA (CD or hard copy), and address.

### **\*COVID-19 NOTICE\***

**In 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic. Due to the public health and safety requirements concerning the coronavirus, the public review and comments regarding the Draft EA shall be conducted in accordance with the public health guidance provided by the State of California and the City of San Diego which are subject to change. The public hearing for the Draft EA will be held online and via telephone as further described below.**

### **Public Hearing:**

As a result of public health guidance regarding COVID-19 and under the direction of State of California and the City of San Diego, the public hearing will be held virtually. You are invited to attend a virtual public hearing scheduled for **Wednesday October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm** Pacific Time to learn more about the Proposed Action and Draft EA, ask questions, and provide formal comments. The public hearing will begin with a presentation by the project's proponents. After the presentation, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. Questions will be answered at the end of the presentation. All public comments will be recorded as part of the official public hearing transcript and will be made part of the public record.

During the public testimony portion of the public hearing, each speaker will be given 3 minutes for their testimony. If you have additional comments that you would like to submit beyond what you are able to address during your allotted time, please submit them in writing. Written comments are given the same attention as oral comments presented during the public hearing.

You may participate in the public hearing via computer by visiting <https://PublicInput.com/BrownFieldMAPNEPA> and/or via phone by calling **855-925-2801, code 8860**. During the public hearing, questions and comments may be submitted through several channels:

1. Submit via computer in the chat box next to the presentation livestream at <https://PublicInput.com/BrownFieldMAPNEPA>.
2. Submit via phone by calling 855-925-2801, code 8860 or texting M326 to 855-925-2801.

This platform will remain open for the duration of the public comment period. Written comments will be accepted via email at **BrownFieldMAPNEPA@PublicInput.com** prior to, or after, the public hearing.

*Special Accommodations:* Auxiliary aids and services may be provided upon request. Requests for these services can be made by calling (858) 573-1441 at least 5 days prior to the public hearing. Every reasonable effort to accommodate special needs will be made.

Persons who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak, or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the public hearing by calling (858) 573-1441 at least 5 days prior to the public hearing. Every reasonable effort to accommodate translation needs will be made.

**Aquellas personas no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la audiencia pública llamando al (858) 573-1441, al menos 5 días antes de la audiencia pública. Se harán todos los esfuerzos razonables para adaptarse a las necesidades especiales.**

**Written Public Comments:**

**Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.** Comments received on the Draft EA and the responses to those comments will be disclosed in the Final EA.

Written comments will be accepted via email at **BrownFieldMAPNEPA@PublicInput.com** prior to, or after, the public hearing. Written comments may also be mailed to:

Jorge E. Rubio, A.A.E.  
Airports Deputy Director  
City of San Diego - Airports  
3750 John J. Montgomery Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123

**Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** Please ensure adequate time for mailing. All comments must be **received by the deadline**, not simply postmarked by that date.