



The City of



Airports Division

FACT SHEET

Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Public Hearing

Metropolitan Airpark Project, Brown Field Municipal Airport

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project at Brown Field Municipal Airport (SDM) in Otay Mesa, San Diego County, California. Information is available on the City Airports website at sandiego.gov/airports. This webpage will be updated throughout the duration of the NEPA process.

A virtual public hearing will be held **October 14th, 2020 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm PST** to provide information about the project and the FAA environmental review process, and to solicit input from the public on the Draft EA. To ensure consideration of public comments in the development of the Final EA, all comments must be received by **5:00 pm PST on October 24th, 2020**.

For more information regarding how to comment, please see the Notice of Availability posted on the City Airports Website at sandiego.gov/airports.

Who is involved in this project?

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the lead federal agency for the Proposed Project.

The City of San Diego (City) is the Project Applicant. The City owns and operates SDM.

Metropolitan Airpark, LLC is the proponent for the Proposed Project.

Proposed Action

The City proposes to permit a private developer to improve Brown Field Municipal Airport (SDM). These improvements include the ability to develop portions of SDM for aeronautical use on the south side of the airport, including a new Fixed Base Operator (FBO) terminal building, aircraft hangars, aircraft parking apron, and a helicopter business center. Related improvements on and adjacent to the airport include site preparation and grading, utilities installation, road construction, and road widening.

NEPA vs. CEQA

The National Environmental Policy Act requires certain agencies to review a project's potential environmental impacts with the intent is to discover any significant environmental and public health impacts prior to construction and to ensure that the public is informed through a transparent and open process. This NEPA review is required because the Proposed Action is located on an airport and certain aspects of the project must undergo FAA approval.

CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) is a state environmental law that similarly requires an analysis of a project's impact on the environment; however, it is an independent and separate process from NEPA. The entirety of this project completed the CEQA process in 2013.



What is the Purpose of this Public Hearing?

The purpose of this hearing is to review the Draft EA as required by NEPA. During this hearing, the public will be informed about aspects of the proposed project covered by the Draft EA, the NEPA review process, and the means in which the public can comment on the Draft EA.

What is contained in the Draft EA?

For the proposed project, the Draft EA describes:

- Why the action is being proposed (Purpose and Need)
- What is the action (Proposed Action)
- Other alternatives, including the No Action Alternative and alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed study
- A description of the existing conditions at the proposed site
- An evaluation of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative

The Draft EA considers the following resource areas that pertain to the proposed project:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources (including Wildlife and Plants)
- Climate Change
- Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f) Resources
- Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste, and Pollution Prevention
- Historical, Architectural, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Natural Resources and Energy Supply
- Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use
- Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, and Children's Environmental Health and Safety Risks
- Visual Resources (including Light Emissions)

NEPA Process Overview: Where we are, What's next



As shown in the diagram above, the NEPA process has multiple steps. Currently, we are transitioning from Step 3 "Draft EA Review" period to the Step 4 "Comment" period. At these stages, it is important that all interested parties share their comments, questions, and concerns pertaining to the project's Draft EA so that they can be considered for the Final EA. Several avenues are available to the public to make comments, the public may: share written or oral comments at the hearing, email comments, or send them through the U.S. Mail. All comments will be given equal consideration. See the official Project Notice of Availability (NOA) on the City Airports website (sandiego.gov/airports) for additional information regarding the public hearing and how to comment.

At the next step the public's comments will be processed and incorporated into the Final EA. After the Final EA is published, FAA may issue of a Finding of No Significant Impact or a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.