



The City of



Airports

FAQs

Montgomery-Gibbs Executive and Brown Field Municipal Airports Master Plans

1. What is an Airport Master Plan?

An Airport Master Plan establishes the long-term development plan for the airport by determining the extent, type and schedule of development needed. It becomes a dynamic decision-making tool and complements other local and regional plans. An Airport Master Plan includes a documentation of existing conditions of the airport, a forecast of activity, facility requirements (the airport's needs based on the forecast and compliance with Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] Design Standards for airports), development and evaluation of alternatives to meet those needs, and a funding plan for that development. An Airport Master Plan also includes an Airport Layout Plan (ALP) (see item 3).

The City of San Diego (City) is currently in the process of preparing separate Airport Master Plans for both City of San Diego owned and operated facilities; Brown Field Municipal Airport and Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport. The Airport Master Plans will be prepared concurrently.

2. Why are these Airport Master Plans being developed?

In order for an airport to be eligible for federal grant funding, the FAA requires an updated and approved ALP. In the years since the previous ALPs and Airport Master Plans for Brown Field Municipal Airport and Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport were prepared, there have been several changes that prompt an update. These include updated FAA standards for airport design, transformational changes in aviation, and shifts in the types and levels of activity at each airport.

In addition, in 2015 the City conducted a performance audit of the Real Estate Assets Department Airports Division. The primary objective of the audit was to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the City's Airport Program. The audit concluded that "the Airports Division had not developed a centralized planning document that articulates a high-level strategy for achieving goals that are consistent with the division's mission." These Airport Master Plans will help the Airports Division develop a clear and effective strategy.

3. What is an Airport Layout Plan and why does each airport need one?

An Airport Layout Plan (ALP) is a graphic depiction of the airport layout that includes all planned development within a 20-year planning period as determined in the Airport Master Plan. ALP drawings for both airports must be approved by the FAA before an airport is eligible to receive federal funding for airport improvements and maintenance under the FAA's Airport Improvement Program.

4. What is the approval process for the Airport Master Plans?

The Airport Master Plans are being developed by a consultant team and will be presented to City Council for adoption. Adoption can only occur after compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Once the City Council has adopted the Airport Master Plans, they will be used as policy documents for possible future airport development.



5. How often are Airport Master Plans undertaken?

FAA guidance recommends that airport master plans be completed every five to ten years based on the development needs of the airport.

6. How much input will the community have in the planning process?

The City of San Diego welcomes community input at all stages of the Airport Master Plans process. The City developed a Public Involvement Plan to establish a comprehensive communications program for engaging the community, stakeholders and the general public in the preparation of the Airport Master Plans. For each airport, the public involvement program includes public workshops and a Planning Advisory Committee. Notices for these outreach events, project updates, and related materials for review will be posted on the project website (SDAirportPlans.com). To receive project notifications via email, sign up for project alerts directly on the website or contact Wayne Reiter, Airports Program Manager for the City of San Diego, at (858) 573-1436 or at wreiter@sandiego.gov.

7. Will the Airport Master Plans be available to the public?

Each Airport Master Plan report will be divided into separate working papers. Once complete, the reports and ALP drawings will be finalized. All draft working papers and the final submission will be posted on the project website for public review (SDAirportPlans.com). To receive notification of when documents will be made available for review sign-up for project alerts on the website or contact Wayne Reiter, Airports Program Manager for the City of San Diego, at (858) 573-1436 or at wreiter@sandiego.gov.

8. What level of environmental analysis will be conducted as part of the Airport Master Plan for each airport?

The Airport Master Plans will include an environmental overview outlining the environmental resources surrounding its respective airport. A separate environmental analysis to address state CEQA and local requirements will be prepared for each Airport Master Plan once the Airport Master Plan development process has progressed to a point where in-depth environmental analysis can be prepared. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance will be secured for specific projects during implementation of the Airport Master Plans.

9. Will there be a noise study as part of the Airport Master Plans?

The Airport Master Plans' reports will include a figure that graphically depicts the existing noise footprint generated from aircraft flights. Separate noise analyses will be prepared as part of the follow-on CEQA review process for each plan. The analyses will evaluate the potential changes to noise generated from aircraft operations at each airport under the future conditions. This will include any changes to aircraft operations that would occur based on the approved FAA forecast and as a result of development proposed under the Airport Master Plan preferred alternative.

10. Will the Airport Master Plans address sustainability?

In accordance with the City of San Diego's Sustainable Community Program and the City's Climate Action Plan, the Airport Master Plan development process will identify existing sustainability measures and make recommendations for improvements. The Airport Master Plans will address sustainability according to the EONS model, which is defined by the Airports Council International-North America as "A holistic approach to managing an airport so as to ensure the integrity of the Economic viability, Operational efficiency, Natural resource conservation, and Social Responsibility (EONS) of the airport." In evaluating development alternatives, the EONS framework will be used to ensure a holistic assessment. In addition, the Airport Master Plans will include a Solid Waste and Recycling Plan that will help contribute to City goals for diversion of materials from landfills.

As noted, the City of San Diego welcomes community input at all stages of the Airport Master Plan process. Feedback can be provided to Wayne Reiter, Airports Program Manager for the City of San Diego, at (858) 573-1436 or at WReiter@sandiego.gov.