



The City of



Airports

FAQs

# Montgomery-Gibbs Executive and Brown Field Municipal Airports Master Plans

## Environmental Overview

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### 1. What is the Environmental Overview?

The environmental overview task of the airport master plan is an evaluation of the existing conditions of the airport property and surrounding community with the purpose of determining what, if any, potential impacts to environmental resources may arise as a result of proposed development. The environmental overview focuses on the specific environmental resources and impact categories that are outlined under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This includes air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise and other resources that may be impacted by proposed airport development.

#### 2. What sources of information do you use to prepare the Environmental Overview?

As part of the environmental overview, previously prepared environmental reports and regulatory agency published information are reviewed. The overview also included on-site surveys to determine the presence of threatened and endangered species as well as critical habitats. Information on the number of aircraft operations and fleet mix developed under Working Paper 2 – *Forecast of Aviation Demand* were used in the preparation of noise and air quality modeling.

#### 3. Does the FAA have any oversight of the Environmental Overview?

The FAA recommends that the environmental overview be prepared to educate the study team on potential development constraints and the needs of subsequent environmental review processes. Although the FAA does not require environmental approval of the Airport Master Plan itself, once projects under the plan are proposed for funding or development a subsequent environmental review under NEPA is required. The overview should include thoroughly supported project justifications and documentation of alternatives that meet planning needs and are reasonable and feasible (environmentally as well as technically); and should note any effects airport development alternatives may potentially have on sensitive environmental resources.

#### 4. How will the Environmental Overview be used?

The purpose of considering environmental factors in the Airport Master Plan is to help the City thoroughly evaluate airport development alternatives, minimize unavoidable impacts, and provide information that will help expedite subsequent environmental processing. Information provided by the environmental overview will also provide the necessary baseline information that will be used in the preparation of documentation to meet CEQA requirements, allowing for City adoption of the Airport Master Plan.



## Commonly used Terms and Acronyms

**AEDT** – The FAA, Office of Environment and Energy (AEE-100) has developed the Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT) for evaluating aircraft noise and air quality impacts in the vicinity of airports

**ALUCP** – Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan

**CDFW** – California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**CEQA** – California Environmental Quality Act

**CNEL** –Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is the metric used to measure noise in California. CNEL is the 24-hour average sound level with a 5 dB penalty for noise events during the evening time period from 7 pm to 10 pm and a 10 dB penalty for the nighttime period from 10 pm to 7 am

**Criteria Pollutants** – An air pollutant for which acceptable levels of exposure can be determined and for which an ambient air quality standard has been set

**Critical Habitat** – A specific geographic area(s) that contains features essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection

**Cumulative Impact** – an impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions

**GHG** – Greenhouse Gas

**Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands** – waters regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

**NEPA** – National Environmental Policy Act

**Noise Contour** – A Noise Contour is a line on a map that represents equal levels of noise exposure

**SHPO** – State Historical Preservation Office

**USEPA** – United States Environmental Protection Agency

**Vernal Pool** – temporary pools of water that provide habitat for distinctive plants and animals

**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](mailto:WReiter@sandiego.gov).**