



Inyo County Department of Public Works
168 North Edwards Street
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Notice of Exemption - Inyo County

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of Inyo
P.O. Drawer F
Independence, CA 93526

From: Inyo County Department of Public Works
Post Office Drawer Q
Independence, CA 93526

Project Title: General Aviation Terminal Expansion Project

Project Applicant: Inyo County Department of Public Works

Applicant Mailing Address: Post Office Drawer Q, Independence, CA 93526

Applicant Phone Number: 760-878-0200

Project Location - Specific: The Bishop Airport is located approximately 2 miles east of the City of Bishop, at a latitude of 37° 22' 23" N and a longitude of 118° 21' 49" W.

Project Location - City: Near Bishop

Project Location - County: Inyo

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project would construct an approximately 3,000 square foot expansion to the existing airport terminal at the Bishop Airport. The expansion would consist of a tensioned fabric structure on the southeast side of the existing terminal on previously disturbed land, which is currently partially paved. The expansion would be connected to the existing terminal via a 20 foot corridor. The project would also include a 1,000 square yard paved parking area, located at the site of an existing compacted gravel parking area.

In the existing terminal, the public space for general aviation users is limited to a 400 square foot lobby and a 300 square foot pilot's lounge. With use by scheduled charter flights diverting from the Mammoth Yosemite Airport in inclement weather, private charter and business jet traffic on busy weekends, multi-week military training operations, the current terminal space is often inadequate. An expanded General Aviation terminal would allow the County to provide space to aeronautical businesses operating at the Airport – such as a training room for flight instruction.

Commercial service operations proposed to begin at the Airport in late 2021 would be temporarily accommodated in the expanded terminal space; however, the purpose of the General Aviation terminal expansion is to serve the needs of current Airport users. The project would occur regardless of the introduction of commercial service operations.

Staging will occur in dirt parking lot south of the project area. Construction will occur in summer or fall of 2021. The project was intended to begin in 2019, however funding and the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the timeline.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Inyo County Planning Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Inyo County Public Works

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- General Rule (Sec. 15061(b)(3));
- Categorical Exemption (Class 1, Section 15301);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Reasons why project is exempt: The Class 1 exemption includes additions to existing structures that will not result in an increase of more than 10,000 square feet, so long as all public services and facilities are available to allow for maximum development permissible in the General Plan and the project area is not environmentally sensitive. The expansion will be connected to existing water and wastewater facilities. Excavation would be limited to an approximately 100 foot, 16 inch deep trench to connect to an existing septic system, a 12 inch by 12 inch footing around the approximately 220 foot perimeter of the foundation, and a 15 foot trench to relocate a fire hydrant. Paving an existing gravel parking lot is a ministerial project and therefore not subject to CEQA review.

Lead Agency: Inyo County

Contact Person: Ashley Helms

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (760) 878-0200

Signature: 

Date: 5/12/2021

Michael Errante, Director of Public Works