California Department of Transportation

AERONAUTICS PROGRAM
DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

January 12 2024

January 12, 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Karen Calderon Electronically Sent <ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov>
Senior Regional Planner
Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: SCH #2022100337- 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Program Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Calderon:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Aeronautics Program has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Program. One of the goals of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Aeronautics Program, is to assist cities, counties, and Airport Land Use Commissions or their equivalent (ALUC), to understand and comply with the State Aeronautics Act pursuant to the California Public Utilities Code (PUC), Section 21001 et seq. Caltrans encourages collaboration with our partners in the planning process and thanks you for including the Aeronautics Program in the review of the Draft EIR.

The six-county Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region contains eight commercial airports, seven government/military airfields, and over 30 reliever and general aviation airports.

Portions identified in the RTP, and project sites may be located within an Airport Influence Area (AIA), or safety zone of an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) formed by the ALUC pursuant to the PUC, Section 21674. Density and Intensity compatibility around airports should also be considered as a potential impact given the long-range nature of the plan. Given the anticipated amount of development and increased pressures of housing in the state approaching to 2050, increased density surrounding airports can lead to adverse impacts on communities and should be reviewed for potential consequences to health and safety. Sensitive land uses such as residential areas, schools, hospitals, senior homes, etc. should also be reviewed for airport land use compatibility. Proposed projects may also be subject to 14 CFR Part 77 Conical Surface standards and CNEL contours noise compatibility of an airport, which may require noise reduction measures. Please be aware, Public Utilities Code, Section

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21659, "Hazards Near Airports Prohibited" prohibits structural hazards near airports. To ensure compliance with Federal Aviation Regulation, Part 77, "Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace," submission of a Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration (Form 7460-1) to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) may be required. In addition, any proposed projects identified as hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, compatibility restrictions should be reviewed per the ALUCP of an airport.

While given the regional scale of the environmental impact analysis it may be difficult to ensure impacts to airport-related noise and safety hazards to be fully mitigated, therefore project-level agencies should consider project-level mitigation measures and adherence to the local ALUCP of an airport for compatibility guidelines and restrictions.

An ALUCP is crucial in minimizing noise nuisance and safety hazards around airports while promoting the orderly development of airports, as declared by the California Legislature. A responsibility of the ALUC is to assess potential risk to aircraft and persons in airspace and people occupying areas within the vicinity of the airport.

The Aeronautics Program commends SCAG and encourages the continued collaboration with aviation stakeholders on regional aviation planning issues, such as its partnership with the Aviation Technical advisory committee (ATAC). The Aeronautics Program also commends SCAG for highlighting electrification measures, active transportation and connections to airports, and land use planning for climate-related hazards that may affect airports and regional air transportation.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: tiffany.martinez@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Martinez

Tiffany Martinez

Transportation Planner, Aeronautics Program

c: State Clearinghouse