

California Department of Transportation

AERONAUTICS PROGRAM
DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
P.O. BOX 942873, MS-40 | SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001
(916) 654-4959
www.dot.ca.gov



March 1, 2024

Heather Adamson
Director of Planning
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
24580 Silver Cloud Court
Monterey, CA 93940
Electronically Sent <hadamson@ambag.org>

SCH # 2024010524

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mar 01 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Dear Ms. Adamson:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Aeronautics Program has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) and 2050 Regional Transportation Plans (RTP) for San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties. One of the goals of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Aeronautics Program, is to assist cities, counties, planning agencies and organizations, 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 NOP.

The three-county Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) region contains fourteen public use airports, two government/military airfields, and corporations who are developing innovative aviation technology in the region.

Please be aware that portions identified in the MTP/SCS 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, and other facilities should also be reviewed for airport land use compatibility.

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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 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.

Please consider the regional scale of the environmental impact analysis and ensure impacts to airport-related noise and safety hazards are 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. Additional detail and background can be found in the California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/aeronautics/airport-land-use-planning>.

The Aeronautics Program commends AMBAG and encourages the continued collaboration with aviation stakeholders on regional aviation planning issues.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by email at ingrid.mcroberts@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Ingrid McRoberts
Aviation Planner
Caltrans Aeronautics Program

c: State Clearinghouse