

California Department of Transportation

AERONAUTICS PROGRAM
DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
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March 8, 2024

Nicole Steel, Project Manager
County of Santa Cruz, Department of Public Works
701 Ocean Street, Room 401
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Electronically Sent <Nicole.steel@santacruzcounty.us>

SCH 2024020617

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

March 08 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Dear Ms. Steel:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Aeronautics Program has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Buena Vista Landfill Redevelopment Project. One of the goals of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Aeronautics Program, is to assist cities, counties, and Airport Land Use Commissions (ALUC) or their equivalent, 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 Caltrans Aeronautics in the review of the NOP.

Please be aware that portions identified in the NOP and project sites may be located within an Airport Influence Area (AIA), or safety zones, as principally guided by the California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook (Handbook). 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.

Per the California Public Utilities Code Section 21001 et seq. relating to the State Aeronautics Act, Section 21676(b) prior to the amendment of a general plan, within the planning boundary established by the airport land use commission, or equivalent, pursuant to Section 21675, the local agency shall first refer the proposed action to the commission, or equivalent. If it is determined that the proposed action is inconsistent with the commission's plan, the referring agency shall be notified. Any proposed development in the defined safety zones, therefore, must adhere to the safety criteria and restrictions defined in the Handbook.

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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 Handbook.

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 Handbook compatibility guidelines and restrictions. 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 the County of Santa Cruz 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