

Airport Drive Rehabilitation at Ontario International Airport (ONT)

Explanation of Project's Categorical Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Under CEQA Guideline Sections 15301, 15302, and 15303

Introduction

The Ontario International Airport Authority (OIAA), owner and operator of the Ontario International Airport (ONT or Airport), is proposing the Airport Drive Rehabilitation Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project would encompass pavement rehabilitation within the Airport Drive roadway, from the Cucamonga Flood Control Channel (Cucamonga Channel) to Haven Avenue, and the installation of a reclaimed water pipeline connection, between East Guasti Road to East Airport Drive along Archibald Avenue from, to existing City of Ontario (City) reclaimed water infrastructure. The Proposed Project would address deteriorating pavement and extend reclaimed water infrastructure to Airport property for future landscape irrigation needs. This Notice of Exemption (NOE) outlines the categorical exemption from further California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, for the Proposed Project. Specifically, this project, as described below, is exempt from CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Statute and Guidelines¹ Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), Section 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction), and Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures).

Existing Conditions

Airport Drive - Airport Drive is a paved public access roadway that serves as a key arterial roadway, facilitating access between ONT and the local surface transportation network. The segment of Airport Drive proposed for improvement is within Airport property and Southern Pacific Railroad² property and extends from the Cucamonga Channel, approximately 120 feet west of East Terminal Way, to Haven Avenue, approximately 7,640 feet east. The existing Airport Drive pavement is distressed, showing cracks, surface wear, and structural degradation, which necessitate rehabilitation to ensure continued safe and efficient transportation access.

Reclaimed Water Infrastructure - The City currently uses reclaimed water to irrigate areas of City property to reduce demand on local potable water supplies; however, the City's reclaimed water infrastructure does not extend to Airport property. The area proposed for reclaimed water pipeline infrastructure improvements comprises right-of-way within Archibald Avenue, from East Guasti Road to East Airport Drive, owned and maintained by the City.³

Proposed Project

The Proposed Project would rehabilitate Airport Drive in-kind, to improve the safety and functionality of the existing roadway within the Airport premises. Additionally, the Proposed Project would extend the existing City recycled water infrastructure to serve landscaping in areas of the Airport. An exhibit of the

¹ California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 Sections 15000 – 15387.

² The Ontario International Airport Authority has an easement from the Southern Pacific Railroad Company to access and maintain portions of the Airport Drive right-of-way in perpetuity.

³ The Ontario International Airport Authority will enter into a construction and maintenance agreement with the City of Ontario prior to completion of the infrastructure improvements within the Archibald Avenue right-of-way.

proposed project is provided in **Attachment 1**. The Proposed Project would involve essential roadway maintenance, replacement, reconstruction, and repair activities, as well as reclaimed water infrastructure improvements, including:

1. **Pavement Rehabilitation:** The rehabilitation of Airport Drive, involving crack repair, seal coat, application of pavement markings, removal, and replacement of traffic loop detectors, milling and overlay, and, where required, full pavement replacement.
 - **Crack Repair:** Identification and repair of cracks in the existing pavement to prevent further deterioration.
 - **Seal Coat:** Application of a seal coat to protect the pavement from weathering and to enhance its durability.
 - **Application of Pavement Markings:** New pavement markings such as lane lines, crosswalks, and other necessary road signage will be applied to ensure safe and organized traffic flow.
 - **Removal and Replacement of Traffic Loop Detectors:** Removal and replacement of traffic loop detectors embedded in the road surface for traffic signal and vehicle detection purposes.
 - **Mill and Overlay:** Milling of the existing pavement surface followed by asphalt overlay to provide a safer driving surface.
 - **Full Pavement Replacement:** In areas where the existing pavement is beyond repair, full pavement replacement would be completed. The need for full pavement replacement would be determined by visual site inspection, the severity of the pavement cracks, and a geotechnical report.

2. **Reclaimed Water System Extension:** The installation of a reclaimed water line along Archibald Avenue, from East Guasti Road to East Airport Drive, connecting to the City's existing reclaimed water infrastructure at the intersection of East Guasti Road and Archibald Avenue. This extension would be approximately 1,350 feet in length and would avail the Airport to City reclaimed water sources for future Airport landscape irrigation. The Proposed Project would include trenching and pipeline installation activities including the following:
 - **Trenching:** Trenching up to 10 feet in depth, and 6 feet in width along within the Archibald Avenue corridor.
 - **Pipeline Construction:** Installation of 12-inch Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) C900 reclaimed water main along Archibald Avenue, as well as appurtenances (air vacuum release valves, sectional gate valves, blow-off assemblies, tees, blind flanges, and thrust blocks).
 - **Surface Improvements:** Hardscape removal and replacement in kind and application of new pavement markings

Although no known archeological resources or hazardous materials are located within or near the Proposed Project area based on previous studies and surveys, the required excavation may extend beyond the previously disturbed depth. A field survey would be conducted to confirm the potential for archaeological resources within the area of disturbance and a tribal resource monitor from, or approved by, the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation, would be present during all ground-disturbing activities expected to reach depths surpassing previous development. Additionally, excavated soil would be tested for the presence of hazardous materials and potential for use as backfill.

The Proposed Project area is within the 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Area, which is categorized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a Moderate to Low Risk Area; the proposed improvements would not result in changes to the existing floodplain.^{4,5}

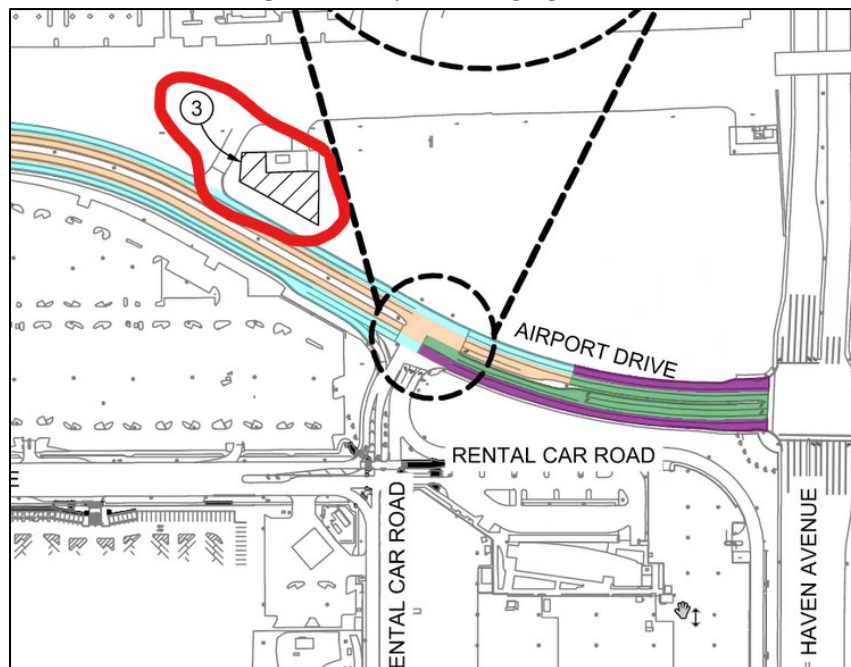
Construction

Construction of the Proposed Project would require the use of the following equipment:

- Front-end Loader
- Excavator
- Asphalt Paving Machine
- Asphalt Grinder
- Cold Milling Machine
- Backhoe
- Pavement Rollers (double drum, vibratory, and pneumatic)
- Light-Duty Trucks

The staging area for the Proposed Project would be located in a vacant, paved lot located north of Airport Drive, approximately 950 feet west of Haven Avenue (see **Figure 1**).

Figure 1. Proposed Staging Area.



⁴ Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Insurance Rate Map No. 060718837J, September 2, 2016.

⁵ California Department of Water Resources, Best Available Map, accessed September 13, 2022. (Available at: <https://gis.bam.water.ca.gov/bam/>)

Schedule

Construction would occur over a period of approximately 120 days, comprising 30 days of mobilization, 60 days for Airport Drive rehabilitation work, and 30 days for the installation of recycled water infrastructure within Archibald Avenue.

Project Need

The Proposed Project is needed to address the deteriorating condition of the Airport Drive pavement, which poses safety hazards to users and impedes efficient access to the Airport. Additionally, the extension of the City's reclaimed water system would support sustainability goals by reducing potable water use for Airport landscape irrigation.

Categorical Exemption(s) Under CEQA

The Proposed Project meets criteria for categorical exemptions defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(Existing Facilities), Section 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction), and Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures).

Relevant parts of exempt actions under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 – Existing Facilities

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301:

Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The types of "existing facilities" itemized below are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use.

Applicable examples, as provided by CEQA include the following:

(c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety), and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes.

(d) Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood.

Relevant parts of exempt actions in accordance with California Code of Regulations Section 15302 – Replacement or Reconstruction.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15302:

Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, including but not limited to:

Applicable examples, as provided by CEQA include the following:

(b) Replacement of a commercial structure with a new structure of substantially the same size, purpose, and capacity.

(c) Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

Relevant parts of exempt actions under CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15303:

Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. The numbers of structures described in this section are the maximum allowable on any legal parcel.

Applicable examples, as provided by CEQA include the following:

(d) Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

The exemptions above are applicable to the Airport Drive Rehabilitation Project as it meets specific criteria, including:

Applicability of Proposed Project

CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, 15302, and 15303 apply to the pavement rehabilitation component of the Proposed Project comprises the repair, maintenance, replacement, reconstruction, restoration, and minor alteration of existing facilities (Airport Drive) to restore the roadway to a safe and efficient condition. As a continuation of an existing use, construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not result in any significant effects on traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality, or other resource categories identified in Appendix G of the CEQA Statute and Guidelines.

The extension of the reclaimed water system at Archibald Avenue would be a minor alteration, of reasonable length, to existing facilities, with negligible expansion of the existing use. It would improve the sustainability of landscape irrigation at the Airport without altering existing land uses or operational activity at the Airport. As a minor expansion of an existing use, construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, water quality, or other resource categories identified in Appendix G of the CEQA Statute and Guidelines.

The Proposed Project would not result in additional passenger demand at ONT or change the type or number of aircraft operations.

Conclusion

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities and Section), Section 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction), and Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small

Structures), the Airport Drive Rehabilitation Project qualifies for a categorical exemption from CEQA requirements. The Proposed Project would rehabilitate existing pavement and enable the Airport to use reclaimed water in the future, both of which align with the Airport's operational goals and safety standards, while having negligible expansion of the existing use.

The Proposed Project would comply with applicable federal, state, and local regulations; thus, the Proposed Project would not have any adverse effects on the environment, and none of the exceptions in Public Resources Code Section 21084(c), (d), and (e) and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 are applicable to the proposed project. The Proposed Project meets the criteria cited under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction), and 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures). Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt from further CEQA review.

This Notice of Exemption signifies that the Proposed Project is exempt from the environmental review process under CEQA, as it falls within the criteria for categorical exemption.