

California Department of Transportation

DIVISION OF AERONAUTICS - M.S. #40
1120 N STREET
P. O. BOX 942874
SACRAMENTO, CA 94274-0001
PHONE (916) 654-4959
FAX (916) 653-9531
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



September 5, 2024

Keith Gronendyke
Planner
Mendocino County
860 N. Bush St.
Ukiah, CA 95482

Electronically Sent <gronendykek@mendocinocounty.gov>

Re: SCH # 2024070695 - U_2019-0006 (RCWC)

Dear Mr. Gronendyke,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Division of Aeronautics (Division), has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the U_2019-0006 (RCWC) project (Project). The Division of Aeronautics collaborates with cities, counties, and Airport Land Use Commissions (ALUC) to ensure compliance with the State Aeronautics Act (California Public Utilities Code Section 21001 et seq.). We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the MND review process.

The project proposes constructing an open pavilion with a commercial kitchen, storage facilities, restrooms, a septic system, concrete walkways, an accessible parking space, an improved gravel driveway and parking area, a pump house with a well, two 5,000-gallon water storage tanks, an electrical pole, and underground utilities. The Ocean Ridge Airport is located approximately ¼ mile northeast of the project site.

The project site lies within Safety Zone D of the Ocean Ridge Airport. Therefore, it must adhere to the safety criteria and restrictions outlined in the 1993 Mendocino County Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (ALUCP), adopted by the ALUC pursuant to the PUC, Section 21674. The ALUCP is crucial for minimizing noise nuisance and safety hazards around airports while promoting orderly development. The ALUC is responsible for assessing potential risks to aircraft, airspace users, and people on the ground near the airport.

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California Public Utilities Code Section 21659 prohibits structures that could become hazards near airports. Project structures should not penetrate designated airport imaginary surfaces. In accordance with Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 77 "Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace," a Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration (Form 7460-1) may be required by the FAA. Please refer to the FAA website (<https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/portal.jsp>) for further information or a copy of the form.

We recommend further review of potential compatibility concerns related to airport obstructions and hazards to flight, such as:

- **Wildlife attractants:** Project elements (e.g., open waste disposal areas) that could attract wildlife, posing a hazard to aircraft.
- **Lighting:** Improper lighting design or excessive light intensity could interfere with night-time airport operations and can cause safety hazards to pilots.
- **Glare:** Reflective surfaces (e.g., extensive use of solar panels) could create glare that disrupts pilots' visibility.

Caltrans Division of Aeronautics recommends contacting us for further guidance on ensuring compliance with the current Mendocino County ALUCP and FAR Part 77 requirements. We are eager to collaborate with you throughout the project review process.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions, please contact me by email at tiffany.martinez@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Martinez
Associate Transportation Planner
Division of Aeronautics

c: State Clearing House <state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov>,
Matthew Friedman, Chief Office of Aviation Planning, <matthew.friedman@dot.ca.gov>,
Nirupama Stalin, Senior Transportation Planner <nirupama.stalin@dot.ca.gov>