

California Department of Transportation

DIVISION OF AERONAUTICS - M.S. #40
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November 4, 2024

Ditas Esperanza
Capital Projects Engineer
City of El Paso de Robles
1000 Spring Street.
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Re: SCH # 2024100208 - Propeller Drive Extension Project (DPW 18-20)

Dear Mr. Esperanza,

The Caltrans Division of Aeronautics has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Propeller Drive Extension Project (DPW 18-20) adjacent to Paso Robles Municipal Airport. Below are our comments to ensure compliance with the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) and state aviation standards:

The MND should discuss the project's alignment with the California Aviation System Plan (CASP), which outlines the statewide needs for aviation facilities. Clarifying how this project aligns with the CASP's goals for Paso Robles Municipal Airport would be valuable in understanding its broader impact on California's aviation infrastructure.

To fully address airport compatibility, we recommend that the MND evaluate potential impacts on airport operations, such as:

- Traffic pattern adjustments for taxiways or runways,
- Potential airspace impacts from construction or operations, and
- Any necessary modifications to air traffic control procedures during construction phases.

As the FAA regulates safety and operations for federally funded airports, the MND should document coordination efforts with the FAA to ensure all FAA safety standards are met.

Additional Recommendations and Acknowledgments

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

- **Wetland Impact Avoidance:** Although the MND states there are no impacts to mapped wetlands, we encourage avoiding any potential ecological disruptions, as wetlands provide essential environmental functions.
- **Traffic and Circulation Improvements:** Since the project aims to improve vehicle circulation, we recommend quantifying these improvements within the MND by providing estimated changes in traffic volume or reductions in congestion levels.

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

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

The Division of Aeronautics commends the City of Paso Robles for its efforts to enhance airport access and circulation. We recommend that the MND address the comments provided to ensure a comprehensive and thorough review of the project's potential aviation impacts.

We look forward to supporting the successful completion of this project. Please feel free to reach out to our office with any questions or for further collaboration.

Caltrans Division of Aeronautics recommends contacting us for further guidance on ensuring compliance with the current City of Paso Robles ALUCP and FAR Part 77 requirements. We are happy 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 nirupama.stalin@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

 Recoverable Signature

X Nirupama Stalin

Signed by: 63660214-085a-4ef0-b241-6d45438a3fcf

Nirupama Stalin
Senior Transportation Planner
Division of Aeronautics

Mr. Keith Gronendyke, Planner
November 4, 2024
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c: State Clearing House <state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov>,
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