

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15123, the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (SDCRAA or Authority), as the Lead Agency, has prepared a summary of the proposed actions and consequences associated with the Additional Fuel Tanks Project (the proposed Project) at San Diego International Airport (SDIA or Airport). The proposed Project would not result in any significant and unavoidable impacts during construction or operation. The analysis in the Draft EIR determined that impacts related to aesthetics and biological resources would be less than significant, and impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials would be less than significant with mitigation.

PROJECT LOCATION: SDIA is located in the northwest portion of the downtown area within the City of San Diego. The Airport is generally bounded by North Harbor Drive and San Diego Bay to the south, the Navy Boat Channel and Liberty Station mixed-use development to the west, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot to the north, and Pacific Highway and Interstate 5 to the east.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The existing fuel farm at SDIA, constructed in the early 1990s, is located in the northeast corner of the Airport property, north of Runway 9-27 and the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting facility, east of Marine Corps Recruit Depot – San Diego, and west of W. Washington Street and the Airport Traffic Control Tower. The existing fuel farm contains two 1-million-gallon aviation fuel tanks and is supplied by regional refineries via the existing Airport fuel delivery pipeline. Any lapse or shortage in fuel delivery, as well as inspection and maintenance activities of on- or off-Airport fuel pipelines or the fuel farm systems, requires fuel to be delivered to the Airport via tanker truck, which results in substantially slower and less reliable replenishment of the fuel farm supply. Since the construction of the existing fuel farm, aircraft operations and passenger enplanements have increased through the use of larger aircraft and additional scheduled operations. In July 2018, the peak aviation activity month, the fuel farm could accommodate approximately two days of fuel. The existing fuel reserve capacity is well below industry standard for airports similar to SDIA (a 5- to 7-day supply of fuel), making SDIA operations susceptible to inadequate fuel supply during pipeline malfunctions and impeding facility maintenance.

The proposed Project would increase the capacity of the Airport's fuel storage facilities to accommodate an industry standard of 6 days of peak-period fuel demand reserves by constructing three 1,146,320-gallon (shell volume) fuel tanks, with a usable storage capacity of approximately 966,000 gallons each, adjacent to the existing fuel farm. The proposed cylindrical tanks would be approximately 58 feet high and 58 feet in diameter. Containment dike walls approximately 1 foot in width and 6 feet in height would be constructed on the east, west, and south periphery of the proposed tanks. The proposed containment dike walls would be connected to the fuel farm's existing containment dike walls to create an expanded containment area. Secondary containment dike walls would also be constructed between the proposed tanks and the primary dike wall. The secondary containment dike walls would be approximately 8 inches thick and 3 feet above grade. Upon completion, containment capacity for the fuel farm would exceed regulatory capacity requirements, enabling the containment system to capture 775,000 gallons above what is required by Chapter 22 of the National Fire Protection Association code. In addition to the proposed tanks, upgrades to the existing fire suppression system would be constructed as part of the proposed Project. Twenty-one foam makers would be installed at the fuel farm; six surrounding each of the existing fuel tanks and nine surrounding the proposed storage tanks. Additionally, one foam chamber would be installed at each of the proposed fuel tanks and existing foam monitors would be updated.

Construction of three additional aviation fuel tanks at the existing fuel farm is proposed to meet the industry standards for on-airport aviation fuel reserves. The proposed Project would facilitate existing aviation activity and would also allow for repair of the fuel storage and conveyance system to occur without compromising fuel service. The proposed Project would not increase the number of passenger or aircraft operations at SDIA.