

**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**

**EASTERN REGION**

AIRPORTS DIVISION

 **Short Environmental**

 **Assessment Form**

**for**

**AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT**

**PROJECTS**





Airport Name: Identifier:

Project Title:

This Environmental Assessment becomes a Federal document when evaluated, signed, and dated by the Responsible FAA official.

Responsible FAA Official Date

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**This form is For limited use on specific types of projects. Airport Sponsors must contact your local Airports District Office (ADO) Environmental Protection Specialist (EPS) before completing this form.**

**This form was prepared by FAA Eastern Region Airports Division and can only be used for proposed projects in this region.**

**Introduction:** This Short Environmental Assessment (EA), is based upon the guidance in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Orders 1050.1F – *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures*, and the *Environmental Desk Reference for Airport Actions* and 5050.4B – *NEPA Implementing Instructions for Airport Actions.* These orders incorporate the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as US Department of Transportation environmental regulations, and other applicable federal statutes and regulations designed to protect the Nation's natural, historic, cultural, and archeological resources. The information provided by sponsors, with potential assistance from consultants, through the use of this form enables the FAA ADO offices to evaluate compliance with NEPA and the applicable special purpose laws.

**Use:** For situations in which this form may be considered, refer to the APPLICABILITY Section below. The local ADO has the final determination in the applicability of this form to a proposed Federal Action. Proper completion of the Form will allow the FAA to determine whether the proposed airport development project can be processed with a short EA, or whether a more detailed EA or EIS must be prepared. **If you have any questions on whether use of this form is appropriate for your project, or what information to provide, we recommend that you contact the environmental specialist in your local ADO.**

This Form is to be used in conjunction with applicable Orders, laws, and guidance documents, and in consultation with the appropriate resource agencies. Sponsors and their consultants should review the requirements of special purpose laws (See 5050.4B, Table 1-1 for a summary of applicable laws). Sufficient documentation is necessary to enable the FAA to assure compliance with all applicable environmental requirements. Accordingly, any required consultations, findings or determinations by federal and state agencies, or tribal governments, are to be coordinated, and completed if necessary, prior to submitting this form to FAA for review. Coordination with Tribal governments must be conducted through the FAA. We encourage sponsors to begin coordination with these entities as early as possible to provide for sufficient review time. Complete information will help FAA expedite its review. This Form meets the intent of a short EA while satisfying the regulatory requirements of NEPA for an EA. Use of this form acknowledges that all procedural requirements of NEPA or relevant special purpose laws still apply and that this form does not provide a means for circumvention of these requirements.

**Submittal: When using this form for an airport project requesting *discretionary funding*, the documentation must be submitted to the local ADO by April 30th of the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which funding will be requested**. **When using this form for an airport project requesting *entitlement funding*, the documentation must be submitted to the local ADO by November 30th of the fiscal year in which the funding will be requested.**

**Availability**: *An electronic version of this Short Form EA is available on-line at* [*http://www.faa.gov/airports/eastern/environmental/media/short-form-ea-final.docx*](http://www.faa.gov/airports/eastern/environmental/media/C10.DOC)*. Other sources of environmental information including guidance and regulatory documents are available on-line at* [*http://www.faa.gov/airports\_airtraffic/airports/environmental*](http://www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/airports/environmental)*.*

#### **APPLICABILITY**

**Local ADO EPSs make the final determinations for the applicability of this form. If you have questions as to whether the use of this form is appropriate for your project, contact your local EPS BEFORE using this form.** Airport sponsors can consider the use of this form if the proposed project meets either Criteria 1 or Criteria 2, 3, and 4 collectively as follows:

1) It is normally categorically excluded (see paragraphs 5-6.1 through 5-6.6 in FAA Order 1050.1F) but, in this instance, involves at least one, but no more than two, extraordinary circumstance(s) that may significantly impact the human environment (see paragraph 5-2 in 1050.1F and the applicable resource chapter in the 1050.1F Desk reference).

2) The action is one that is not specifically listed as categorically excluded or normally requires an EA at a minimum (see paragraph 506 in FAA Order 5050.4B).

3) The proposed project and all connected actions must be comprised of Federal Airports Program actions, including:

(a) Approval of a project on an Airport Layout Plan (ALP),

(b) Approval of Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding for airport development,

 (c) Requests for conveyance of government land,

 (d) Approval of release of airport land, or

 (e) Approval of the use of Passenger Facility Charges (PFC).

4) The proposed project is not expected to have impacts to more than two of the resource categories defined in the 1050.1F Desk Reference.

**This form cannot be used when any of the following circumstances apply:**

1. The proposed action, including all connected actions, requires coordination with or approval by an FAA Line of Business of Staff Office other than the Airports Division. Examples include, but are not limited to, changes to runway thresholds, changes to flight procedures, changes to NAVAIDs, review by Regional Counsel, etc.
2. The proposed action, including all connected actions, requires coordination with another Federal Agency outside of the FAA.
3. The proposed action will likely result in the need to issue a Record of Decision.
4. The proposed action requires a construction period exceeding 3 years.
5. The proposed action involves substantial public controversy on environmental grounds.
6. The proposed project would have impacts to, or require mitigation to offset the impacts to more than two resources[[1]](#footnote-1) as defined in the 1050.1F Desk Reference.
7. The proposed project would involve any of the following analyses or documentation:
	1. The development of a Section 4(f) Report for coordination with the Department of the Interior,
	2. The use of any Native American lands or areas of religious or cultural significance,
	3. The project emissions exceed any applicable *de minimis* thresholds for criteria pollutants under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, or
	4. The project would require noise modeling with AEDT 2b (or current version).

If a project is initiated using this form and any of the preceding circumstances are found to apply, the development of this form must be terminated and a standard Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement (if applicable) must be prepared.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Complete the following information:**

**Project Location**

Airport Name: Identifier:

Airport Address:

City: County: State: Zip:

**Airport Sponsor Information**

Point of Contact:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone: Fax:

Email:

**Evaluation Form Preparer Information**

Point of Contact:

Company (if not the sponsor):

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone: Fax:

Email:

**1. Introduction/Background:**

**2. Project Description** (List and clearly describe **ALL** components of project proposal including all connected actions). A**ttach a map or drawing of the area with the location(s) of the proposed action(s) identified:**

**3. Project Purpose and Need:**

**4. Describe the affected environment (existing conditions) and land use in the vicinity of project:**

**5. Alternatives to the Project: Describe any other reasonable actions that may feasibly substitute for the proposed project, and include a description of the “No Action” alternative. If there are no feasible or reasonable alternatives to the proposed project, explain why** (attach alternatives drawings as applicable)**:**

Alternatives

No Action Alternative

Explanation

**6. Environmental Consequences – Special Impact Categories (refer to the Instructions page and corresponding sections in 1050.1F, the 1050.1F Desk Reference, and the Desk Reference for Airports Actions for more information and direction. Note that when the 1050.1F Desk Reference and Desk Reference for Airports Actions provide conflicting guidance, the 1050.1F Desk Reference takes precedence. The analysis under each section must comply with the requirements and significance thresholds as described in the Desk Reference).**

**(A)** **Air QualitY**

(1) Will the proposed project(s) cause or create a reasonably foreseeable emission increase? Prepare an air quality assessment and disclose the results. Discuss the applicable regulatory criterion and/or thresholds that will be applied to the results, the specific methodologies, data sources and assumptions used; including the supporting documentation and consultation with federal, state, tribal, or local air quality agencies.

(2) Are there any project components containing unusual circumstances, such as emissions sources in close proximity to areas where the public has access or other considerations that may warrant further analysis? If no, proceed to (c); if yes, an analysis of ambient pollutant concentrations may be necessary. Contact your local ADO regarding how to proceed with the analysis.

(3) Is the proposed project(s) located in a nonattainment or maintenance area for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) established under the Clean Air Act?

4) Are all components of the proposed project, including all connected actions, listed as exempt or presumed to conform (See FRN, vol.72 no. 145, pg. 41565)? If yes, cite exemption and go to (B) Biological Resources. If no, go to (e).

(5) Would the net emissions from the project result in exceedances of the applicable *de minimis* threshold (reference 1050.1F Desk Reference and the *Aviation Emissions and Air Quality Handbook* for guidance) of the criteria pollutant for which the county is in non-attainment or maintenance? If no, go to (B) Biological Resources. If yes, stop development of this form and prepare a standard Environmental Assessment.

**(B) BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Describe the potential of the proposed project to directly or indirectly impact fish, wildlife, and plant communities and/or the displacement of wildlife. Be sure to identify any state or federal species of concern (Candidate, Threatened or Endangered).

1) Are there any candidate, threatened, or endangered species listed in or near the project area?

(2) Will the action have any long-term or permanent loss of unlisted plants or wildlife species?

(3) Will the action adversely impact any species of concern or their habitat?

(4) Will the action result in substantial loss, reduction, degradation, disturbance, or fragmentation of native species habitats or populations?

(5) Will the action have adverse impacts on a species’ reproduction rates or mortality rate or ability to sustain population levels?

(6) Are there any habitats, classified as critical by the federal or state agency with jurisdiction, impacted by the proposed project?

(7) Would the proposed project affect species protected under the Migratory Bird Act? (If **Yes**, contact the local ADO).

If the answer to any of the above is “Yes”, consult with the USWFS and appropriate state agencies and provide all correspondence and documentation.

**(C) CLIMATE**

(1) Would the proposed project or alternative(s) result in the increase or decrease of emissions of Greenhouse gases (GHG)? If neither, this should be briefly explained and no further analysis is required and proceed to (D) Coastal Resources.

(2) Will the proposed project or alternative(s) result in a net decrease in GHG emissions (as indicated by quantitative data or proxy measures such as reduction in fuel burn, delay, or flight operations)? A brief statement describing the factual basis for this conclusion is sufficient.

(3) Will the proposed project or alternative(s) result in an increase in GHG emissions? Emissions should be assessed either qualitatively or quantitatively as described in 1050.1F Desk Reference or Aviation Emissions and Air Quality Handbook.

**(D) COASTAL RESOURCES**

(1) Would the proposed project occur in a coastal zone, or affect the use of a coastal resource, as defined by your state's Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP)? Explain.

(2) If **Yes**, is the project consistent with the State's CZMP? (If applicable, attach the sponsor's consistency certification and the state's concurrence of that certification).

(3) Is the location of the proposed project within the Coastal Barrier Resources System? (If **Yes**, and the project would receive federal funding, coordinate with the FWS and attach record of consultation).

### **(E) SECTION 4(f) RESOURCES**

(1) Does the proposed project have an impact on any publicly owned land from a public park, recreation area, or wildlife or waterfowl refuge of national, state, or local significance, or an historic site of national, state, or local significance? Specify if the use will be physical (an actual taking of the property) or constructive (i.e. activities, features, or attributes of the Section 4 (f) property are substantially impaired.) If the answer is “No,” proceed to (F) Farmlands.

(2) Is a *De Minimis* impact determination recommended? If “yes”, please provide; supporting documentation that this impact will not substantially impair or adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes of the Section 4 (f) property; a Section 106 finding of “no adverse effect” if historic properties are involved; any mitigation measures; a letter from the official with jurisdiction concurring with the recommended *de minimis* finding; and proof of public involvement. (See Section 5.3.3 of 1050.1F Desk Reference). If “No,” stop development of this form and prepare a standard Environmental Assessment.

### **(F) FARMLANDS**

Does the project involve acquisition of farmland, or use of farmland, that would be converted to non-agricultural use and is protected by the Federal Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)? (If **Yes**, attach record of coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), including form AD-1006.)

### **(G) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, SOLID WASTE, AND POLLUTION PREVENTION**

(1) Would the proposed project involve the use of land that may contain hazardous materials or cause potential contamination from hazardous materials? (If Yes, attach record of consultation with appropriate agencies). Explain.

(2) Would the operation and/or construction of the project generate significant amounts of solid waste? If **Yes**, are local disposal facilities capable of handling the additional volumes of waste resulting from the project? Explain.

(3) Will the project produce an appreciable different quantity or type of hazardous waste? Will there be any potential impacts that could adversely affect human health or the environment?

**(H) HISTORIC, ARCHITECTURAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

(1) Describe any impact the proposed project might have on any properties listed in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. (Include a record of your consultation and response with the State or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (S/THPO)).

(2) Describe any impacts to archeological resources as a result of the proposed project. (Include a record of consultation with persons or organizations with relevant expertise, including the S/THPO, if applicable).

**(I) LAND USE**

(1) Would the proposed project result in other (besides noise) impacts that have land use ramifications, such as disruption of communities, relocation of residences or businesses, or impact natural resource areas? Explain.

(2) Would the proposed project be located near or create a wildlife hazard as defined in FAA Advisory Circular 150/5200-33, "Wildlife Hazards On and Near Airports"? Explain.

(2) Include documentation to support sponsor’s assurance under 49 U.S.C. § 47107 (a) (10), of the 1982 Airport Act, that appropriate actions will be taken, to the extent reasonable, to restrict land use to purposes compatible with normal airport operations.

**(J) NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY SUPPLY**

What effect would the project have on natural resource and energy consumption? (Attach record of consultations with local public utilities or suppliers if appropriate)

**(K) NOISE AND NOISE-COMPATIBLE LAND USE**

Will the project increase noise by DNL 1.5 dB or more for a noise sensitive area that is exposed to noise at or above the DNL 65 dB noise exposure level, or that will be exposed at or above the DNL 65 dB level due to a DNL 1.5 dB or greater increase, when compared to the no action alternative for the same timeframe? (Use AEM as a screening tool and AEDT 2b as appropriate. See FAA Order 1050.1F Desk Reference, Chapter 11, or FAA Order 1050.1F, Appendix B, for further guidance). Please provide all information used to reach your conclusion. If yes, contact your local ADO.

**(L) SOCIOECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, and CHILDREN’S HEALTH and SAFETY RISKS**

(1) Would the project cause an alteration in surface traffic patterns, or cause a noticeable increase in surface traffic congestion or decrease in Level of Service?

(2) Would the project cause induced, or secondary, socioeconomic impacts to surrounding communities, such as changes to business and economic activity in a community; impact public service demands; induce shifts in population movement and growth, etc.?

### (3) Would the project have a disproportionate impact on minority and/or low-income communities? Consider human health, social, economic, and environmental issues in your evaluation. Refer to DOT Order 5610.2(a) which provides the definition for the types of adverse impacts that should be considered when assessing impacts to environmental justice populations.

(4) Would the project have the potential to lead to a disproportionate health or safety risk to children?

If the answer is “YES” to any of the above, please explain the nature and degree of the impact. Also provide a description of mitigation measures which would be considered to reduce any adverse impacts.

**(M) VISUAL EFFECTS INCLUDING LIGHT EMISSIONS**

(1)Would the project have the potential to create annoyance or interfere with normal activities from light emissions for nearby residents?

(2) Would the project have the potential to affect the visual character of nearby areas due to light emissions?

(3) Would the project have the potential to block or obstruct views of visual resources?

If the answer is “YES” to any of the above, please explain the nature and degree of the impact using graphic materials. Also provide a description of mitigation measures which would be considered to reduce any adverse impacts.

### **(N) WATER RESOURCES (INCLUDING WETLANDS, FLOODPLAINS, SURFACE WATERS, GROUNDWATER, AND WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS)**

### **(1) WETLANDS**

(a) Does the proposed project involve federal or state regulated wetlands or non-jurisdictional wetlands? (Contact USFWS or appropriate state natural resource agencies if protected resources are affected) (Wetlands must be delineated using methods in the US Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual. Delineations must be performed by a person certified in wetlands delineation Document coordination with the resource agencies).

(b) If yes, does the project qualify for an Army Corps of Engineers General permit? (Document coordination with the Corps).

(c) If there are wetlands impacts, are there feasible mitigation alternatives? Explain.

(d) If there are wetlands impacts, describe the measures to be taken to comply with Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands.

### **(2) FLOODPLAINS**

(a) Would the proposed project be located in, or would it encroach upon, any 100-year floodplains, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)?

(b) If Yes, would the project cause notable adverse impacts on natural and beneficial floodplain values as defined in Paragraph 4.k of DOT Order 5620.2, *Floodplain Management and Protection*?

(c) If Yes, attach the corresponding FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and describe the measures to be taken to comply with Executive Order 11988, including the public notice requirements.

**(3)** **SURFACE WATERS**

(a) Would the project impact surface waters such that water quality standards set by Federal, state, local, or tribal regulatory agencies would be exceeded or would the project have the potential to contaminate a public drinking water supply such that public health may be adversely affected?

(b) Would the water quality impacts associated with the project cause concerns for applicable permitting agencies or require mitigation in order to obtain a permit?

If the answer to any of the above questions is “Yes”, consult with the USEPA or other appropriate Federal and/or state regulatory and permitting agencies and provide all agency correspondence.

**(4)** **GROUNDWATER**

(a) Would the project impact groundwater such that water quality standards set by Federal, state, local, or tribal regulatory agencies would be exceeded or would the project have the potential to contaminate an aquifer used for public water supply such that public health may be adversely affected?

(b) Would the groundwater impacts associated with the project cause concerns for applicable permitting agencies or require mitigation in order to obtain a permit?

(c) Is the project to be located over an EPA-designated Sole Source Aquifer?

If the answer to any of the above questions is “Yes”, consult with the USEPA or other appropriate Federal and/or state regulatory and permitting agencies and provide all agency correspondence as an attachment to this form.

### **(5) WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

Would the proposed project affect a river segment that is listed in the Wild and Scenic River System or Nationwide River Inventory (NRI)? (If Yes, coordinate with the jurisdictional agency and attach record of consultation).

**(O) CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Discuss impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects both on and off the airport. Would the proposed project produce a cumulative effect on any of the environmental impact categories above? Consider projects that are connected and may have common timing and/or location. For purposes of this Form, generally use 3 years for past projects and 5 years for future foreseeable projects.

**7. PERMITS**

List all required permits for the proposed project. Has coordination with the appropriate agency commenced? What feedback has the appropriate agency offered in reference to the proposed project? What is the expected time frame for permit review and decision?

**8. MITIGATION**

Describe those mitigation measures to be taken to avoid creation of significant impacts to a particular resource as a result of the proposed project, and include a discussion of any impacts that cannot be mitigated.

**9. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Describe the public review process and any comments received. Include copies of Public Notices and proof of publication.

**10. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

**Project Title:** **Identifier:**

**11. PREPARER CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the information I have provided above is, to the best of my knowledge, correct.

Signature Date

Name

Title

Affiliation Phone #

**12. AIRPORT SPONSOR CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the information I have provided above is, to the best of my knowledge, correct. I also recognize and agree that no construction activity, including but not limited to site preparation, demolition, or land disturbance, shall proceed for the above proposed project(s) until FAA issues a final environmental decision for the proposed project(s), and until compliance with all other applicable FAA approval actions (e.g., ALP approval, airspace approval, grant approval) and special purpose laws has occurred.

Signature Date

Name

Title

Affiliation Phone #

1. A resource is any one of the following: Air Quality; Biological Resources (including Threatened and Endangered Species); Climate; Coastal Resources; Section 4(f); Farmlands; Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste, and Pollution Prevention; Historical, Architectural, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources; Land Use; Natural Resources and Energy Supply; Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use; Scoioeconomics; Environmental Justice; Children’s Environmental Health and Safety Risks; Visual Effects; Wetlands; Floodplains; Surface Waters; Groundwater; Wild and Scenic Rivers; and Cumulative Impacts. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)