



U.S Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Western-Pacific Region
Airports Division

Federal Aviation Administration
P.O. Box 92007
Los Angeles, CA 90009-2007

January 13, 2006

Dear Aviation Stakeholder:

The Western-Pacific Region of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has prepared the enclosed *Draft Extraordinary Circumstance Documentation form for Categorical Exclusions* for your review and comment. I intend to replace the Categorical Exclusion (CatEx) form that some of my staff are using with this new one. FAA intends for airport sponsors to complete and submit this form for proposed projects that you would like to receive consideration for both Federal funding and a CatEx determination. We expect sponsors to include this form with its yearly Capital Improvement Program.

This form will help the FAA document the existence or extent of any extraordinary circumstances, as defined in FAA Order 1050.1E, *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures*. This form will help the FAA to determine if a CatEX is appropriate for your proposed project or whether the existence of extraordinary circumstances require the FAA to prepare an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement.

We are asking for your comments on this form. Please provide comments on the ease of understanding; time required to complete the form; and degree of difficulty in securing this information.

Please submit any comments you may have by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, Friday, February 17, 2006, to:

David B. Kessler, MA, AICP
Regional Environmental Protection Specialist, AWP-611
Federal Aviation Administration
P.O. Box 92007
Los Angeles, California 90009-2007

You may also send comments via e-mail to dave.kessler@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark A. McClardy
Manager, Airports Division

Enclosure

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES EVALUATION INFORMATION SUBMITTAL FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION OF AIRPORT PROJECTS

I. INTRODUCTION

The FAA must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act for all proposed airport development projects that require a federal action. The FAA is seeking information from the airport sponsor that will allow the FAA to more quickly determine whether the sponsor's proposed airport development project can be categorically excluded from the NEPA requirement to conduct a formal Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The need for this information is based upon the guidance in paragraph 304 of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 1050.1E, *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures*, see: http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices/media/ALL1050-1E.pdf.

II. DIRECTIONS

The airport sponsor is to submit narrative responses to the questions in Section V below and provide supporting documentation to ensure the FAA can determine that no extraordinary circumstances exist. Suggested sources for this information include, and are not limited to, previous Master Plan or environmental studies and associated documents, or research. The jurisdictional federal, state and local resource agencies responsible for protecting specially-protected resources often contain internet web site information that will be of assistance. This information will also assist sponsors in complying with applicable federal laws, regulations, and executive orders as they relate to the proposed project.

III. ASSISTANCE

The Environmental Protection Specialists in your respective Airports District Office are available to provide guidance and answer questions about the submittal of information to support a Categorical Exclusion and/or environmental resource categories.

IV. APPLICABILITY

Submission of this form and supporting information is not required for equipment purchases such as Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting equipment and vehicles, snow removal equipment, security equipment such as computers, scanners, etc.; runway/taxiway edge lighting and other electrical purchases such as regulators, control panels, etc); various studies such as planning documents, feasibility studies, and environmental disclosure documents.

V. PROJECT INFORMATION AND EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCE INFORMATION SUBMITTAL

A. Airport/Sponsor/Address/Contact Information:

B. Proposed Project Description/Purpose & Need for Project:

C. Identify the appropriate category for the proposed project: (1) Approval of a project on an airport layout plan (ALP); (2) Approval of federal funding for airport development; (3) Requests for conveyance of government land; (4) Approval of release of airport land; (5) Approval of the use of passenger facility charges (PFC); (6) Approval of development or construction on a federally obligated airport.

D. Identify the applicable Categorical Exclusion: The proposed project must be specifically identified in Order 1050.1E paragraphs 307 through 312 "Categorical Exclusions" and cannot involve any conditions identified in paragraph 501 (projects normally requiring an EIS); paragraph 401 (projects normally requiring an EA); or paragraph 304 (extraordinary circumstances).

E. Review of Extraordinary Circumstances (FAA Order 1050.1E paragraph 304): Include a description of the project site as it relates to each of the following resource categories:

- 1. AIR QUALITY – Paragraph 304g.** Is the proposed project in an air quality attainment, nonattainment or maintenance area for a specific criteria pollutant? Would the project worsen the air quality? See the EPA Green Book at www.epa.gov/oar/oagps/greenbk for current nonattainment areas for each criteria pollutant.
- 2. COASTAL RESOURCES – Paragraph 304c (For Airports in California, Hawaii and Pacific Islands only).** Is the proposed project in a coastal zone, as defined by a state's Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP)? If "yes," Describe how the project is consistent with the State's CZMP.

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3. **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SECTION 4(f) – Paragraph 304b.** Would the proposed project directly or indirectly use any land from a public park, recreation area, or wildlife or waterfowl refuge of national, state, or local significance, or land of an historic site of national, state, or local significance? If “yes,” describe the proximity of the park to the project site and explain how much of the park would be affected and why the land is needed.
4. **NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY SUPPLY – Paragraph 304c.** Would the proposed project affect energy or other natural resource consumption where demand exceeds the capacity of the supplier?
5. **FARMLANDS – Paragraph 304c.** Would the proposed project convert any farmland to non-agricultural uses? If yes, identify the current approved zoning classification for the project area.
6. **FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PLANTS – Paragraph 304c.** Does the proposed project area contain any federally-listed endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna, or designated critical habitat? Describe the site and specific species or habitat designation, if any, and results of any consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service, if available.
7. **FLOODPLAINS – Paragraph 304c.** Would the proposed project be located in, or would it encroach upon, any designated 100-year floodplains? Floodplain maps can be viewed at <http://www.hazardmaps.gov/atlas.php>.
8. **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, POLLUTION PREVENTION, AND SOLID WASTE -- Paragraph 304k.** Would the proposed project require the use of land that may contain hazardous substances or may be contaminated? Identify any documented hazardous materials issues on the project site. (Agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and/or the applicable state environmental agency have publicly available information on their websites that may be of assistance.)
9. **HISTORIC, ARCHITECTURAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES – Paragraph 304a and 304j.** Does the proposed project affect any documented properties that are prehistoric, historic, archeological, or cultural resources? Provide copy of any prior consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the proposed project area.
10. **NOISE – Paragraph 304f.** Would the proposed project increase airport noise over noise sensitive land uses. (e.g. residences, schools, churches, and hospitals)? See Table 1 of 14 CFR Part 150 for descriptions of various noise sensitive land uses.
11. **SECONDARY (INDUCED) IMPACTS – Paragraphs 304d & e.** Does the proposed project require relocation of any homes or businesses, or increase off-airport surface traffic congestion? Describe the number of relocations needed for the proposed project.
12. **WATER QUALITY – Paragraph 304h.** Would the proposed project degrade water quality, including ground water, surface water bodies, or any public water supply systems? Does the sponsor have a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)? Give date of Plan.
13. **WETLANDS - Paragraph 304c.** Would the proposed project be built in or near any wetlands? If yes, provide any documentation to indicate that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined if the wetlands are jurisdictional or not.
14. **WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS – Paragraph 304c.** Would the proposed project be built near or affect a designated Wild and Scenic River? If yes, identify the wild and scenic river segment and distance to the proposed project. See <http://www.nps.gov/rivers/wildriverslist.html> for additional information.
15. **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS – Paragraph 304d, 304i, and 304j** Is the proposed project likely to be highly controversial on environmental grounds? Is there organized opposition to the project on environmental grounds? Is the proposed project reasonably consistent with plans, goals, and policies adopted by the community in which the project is located?