

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Rolle Airfield

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Yuma Area Office

Introduction

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and based on the following, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that implementation of the Proposed Action to issue the Yuma County Airport Authority (YCAA) a license agreement to operate and maintain the Rolle Airfield (Airport) would not result in a significant impact on the quality of human health and the environment. The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) provides details on the Proposed Action and an analysis of potential impacts, and should be used as a companion document to this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to renew the contract and license agreement between Reclamation and YCAA. With the renewal of the contract and license agreement, the YCAA will continue to develop and maintain the Airport in accordance with the proposed development contained within the 2015 Airport Master Plan.

Resource Analysis

To allow Reclamation to renew the contract and license agreement with YCAA, the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed development described in the 2015 Airport Master Plan were analyzed. The EA focused on resource areas identified as potentially impacted by the alternatives considered. The resources that were evaluated for both the Proposed and No-Action Alternatives included aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural/historic resources, geology and soils, hazardous and solid waste, water resources, land use/ownership, noise, Indian Trust Assets, socioeconomics, environmental justice, and cumulative impacts.

1. The introduction of the Proposed Action would have minimal impact on the aesthetics to the existing landscape setting. Temporary equipment and dust would lower visibility as a result of some of the projects within the project limits, but this condition would end with the completion of construction. The vertical structures proposed at the Airport will be single story buildings. The remaining development consists primarily of additional pavement, elevated airfield lighting, and fencing – all of which will not be seen from a distance.
2. Air quality would be temporarily affected by increasing particulate matter and gaseous exhaust from vehicle and heavy equipment operation during development of the Proposed Projects contained in the 2015 Airport Master Plan. However, the effects would be minimal

and temporary causing no significant impact to air quality in the area. The expected increase in aircraft operations at the airport and increased emissions will have a minimal impact on air quality in the area.

3. Biological resources may be impacted as a result of the Proposed Projects contained in the 2015 Airport Master Plan. Vegetation and wildlife could be directly or indirectly impacted by construction activities and development associated with the Proposed Action, but are expected to be minimal as the effects are localized to the project area and have no significant impact to biological resources. To mitigate impacts to vegetation, all construction equipment will be washed prior to entering the project area to avoid the spread of noxious or invasive plants species. To minimize impacts to wildlife within the project area, the following best management practices are to be conducted. Construction will occur outside the migratory bird breeding season (generally February to September), or if work occurs during breeding season, the areas to be disturbed will be surveyed for the presence of nesting migratory birds prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities. Construction activities will be limited to daylight hours to avoid impacts to bats and nocturnal animals. Conservation measures described in the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard (FTHL) Rangeland Management Strategy will be followed to address impacts to FTHL. The Proposed Projects contained in the 2015 Airport Master Plan may have minimal short-term direct and indirect effects on local soil composition. Construction practices for the proposed planned development could potentially result in soil erosion at the project site. To mitigate impacts to soil composition and erosion, existing access roads will be utilized to enter and exit the work area, where practical, and replaced soils will be tightly compacted to prevent excess erosion. The Proposed Projects contained in the 2015 Airport Master Plan will have no significant impact on the geology and soils within the study area.
4. Hazardous and solid wastes associated with the construction of the Proposed Projects contained in the 2015 Airport Master Plan will be disposed of properly as to not pose a further hazard and in accordance with OSHA guidelines to ensure no impact on the surrounding environment. Site-specific spill contingency plans will be in place to provide proper handling and storage of hazardous materials. If any previously unidentified or suspect hazardous materials are encountered during construction, work will stop immediately and the Reclamation Environmental Manager will be contacted.
5. Implementation of the Proposed Projects contained in the 2015 Airport Master Plan are anticipated to have minimal to no impact to water resources both on and off the project site. Potential contamination to surface and groundwater due to spills could occur. However, proper disposal and handling of hazardous materials would be followed to prevent any contamination.
6. It is anticipated that the Proposed Projects contained in the 2015 Airport Master Plan would have minimal to no long-term direct or indirect adverse effects on existing or planned land uses. The land surrounding the Airport is undeveloped and would not be adversely affected by the proposed development.

7. The Proposed Projects contained in the 2015 Airport Master Plan would not significantly impact the existing noise levels in the project area and the surrounding environment. Temporary noise level increases due to construction equipment would be minimal and the forecasted noise levels due to air traffic at the airport are not significant enough to warrant a noise analysis as stated in FAA Order 1050.1F. To minimize the effects to noise from the Proposed Projects contained in the 2015 Airport Master Plan, it is recommended that equipment idling be minimized, mufflers or other noise-suppression technology be used, and construction activities be limited to daylight operation.
8. There would be no impacts to Indian Trust Assets, socioeconomic, or environmental justice resources.
9. Cumulative impacts that may occur as part of the Proposed Projects contained in the 2015 Airport Master Plan would be analyzed as part of the environmental clearance process associated with the implementation of the projects through the 20-year development plan.

NEPA Finding

Based on the analysis of the environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and other conservation commitments as presented in the EA, Reclamation finds no significant environmental impact and recommends implementation of the Proposed Action to renew the contract and license agreement.



Maria Ramirez, Area Manager
Yuma Area Office



Date

