

**US Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration**

**Monroe County, Florida
Key West International Airport (EYW)**

**Draft Environmental Assessment for
Taxiway A Extension, Apron Expansion, and Security Fencing Improvements**

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Notice of Impacts to Wetlands and Floodplains in Accordance with Section 2(a)(f) of Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management; Section 2(b) of EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands; and Section 7 DOT Order 5650.2, Floodplain Management and Protection

Pursuant to Title 49, United States Code, Section (§) 47106(c)(1)(A), notice is hereby given that Monroe County, Florida, proposes to implement the Taxiway A Extension, Apron Expansion, and Security Fencing Improvements project at the Key West International Airport located in the City of Key West, Monroe County, Florida (the Proposed Action). The purpose of the Proposed Action is to:

- Provide taxiway access to the full Runway 9 departure length;
- Construct additional apron for commercial and general aviation (GA) aircraft; and
- Improve security fencing along the Airport's north perimeter.

The Proposed Action includes the following actions: extend Taxiway A by 274 feet; expand the commercial aircraft apron by approximately 13,200 square yards; expand the GA apron by approximately 5,400 square yards; construct approximately 860 feet of floating barrier across open water of the salt pond north of Runway 9-27, approximately 450 feet of new security fence on land to close gaps in existing fencing on the north perimeter of the Airport, and approximately 360 feet of realigned security fence around the expanded GA apron; remove approximately 2,300 square yards of excess pavement at Taxiway B; and relocate a portion of an existing vehicle service road between the GA apron and the west airfield. A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) of the economic, social, and environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and its alternatives (including the No Action Alternative) has been prepared. After comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies are reviewed by Monroe County and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Final EA will be submitted to the FAA for the agency's environmental determination.

The Draft EA evaluates the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Action described above and its alternatives and has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and Section 509(b)(5) of the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, as amended. The FAA is the lead federal agency to ensure compliance with NEPA for airport development actions. The Draft EA has also been prepared in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures*, and FAA Order 5050.4B, *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Instructions for Airport Actions*. Pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and National Historic Preservation Act, the Draft EA includes an analysis of prudent or feasible alternatives, potential impacts, and mitigation measures, as appropriate. This Notice also serves to notify the public that this EA process will satisfy the public notice and comment requirements of Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands; DOT Order 5660.1A,

Preservation of the Nation's Wetlands; Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management; and DOT Order 5650.2, Floodplain Management and Protection.

The Proposed Action would involve the placement of fill in 7.51 acres of wetlands (specifically 3.14 acres of mangrove swamp, 4.03 acres of saltwater marshes, 0.09 acres of salt ponds/embayments not opening directly to gulf or ocean, and 0.25 acres of exotic wetland hardwoods/wetland Brazilian pepper) and the clearing of 0.20 acres of mangrove swamp wetlands. The wetlands proposed for fill and clearing are considered Waters of the United States under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Mitigation for these impacts is proposed in the Draft EA. Consultation would be required with the USACE for a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit and a Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 permit for potential discharges, and with the South Florida Water Management District for an Environmental Resources Permit and for the accompanying Clean Water Act Section 401 permit related to water quality.

DRAFT EA: Beginning on Friday, November 13, 2020, the Draft EA will be available for public review on the Airport's website and at the following locations.

Website: <https://eyw.com/public-notices>

Locations of printed copies through December 22, 2020:

- **Monroe County Public Library** [700 Fleming Street, Key West, FL 33040]. The library is operating contact-free, so printed copies and flash drives of the Draft EA are available for check-out for a maximum of 5 days. If a copy is not available for check-out, please access the Draft EA on the Airport's website at <https://eyw.com/public-notices> or view a printed copy at the Airport Administration offices.
- **Airport Administration, Key West International Airport** [3491 South Roosevelt Boulevard, Key West, FL 33040; telephone (305) 809-5239]. A copy of the Draft EA is available for public review during normal business hours.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP: A Public Workshop on the Draft EA will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., local time at the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel at 3841 North Roosevelt Boulevard, Key West, FL 33040 (Salon B). Attendees must comply with the latest guidance related to COVID-19 (<http://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov/615/KEY-WEST-RECOVERS>), including use of facial coverings and practicing of social distancing.

ADA ASSISTANCE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Administrator's Office at (305) 292-4441, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., no later than five (5) days prior to the scheduled meeting. If you are hearing- or voice-impaired, call 711.

WRITTEN COMMENTS: Written comments will be accepted at the workshop or by email or mail. Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. local time on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Please ensure adequate time for mailing. Comments can only be accepted with the full name and address of the individual commenting.

Written comments on the adequacy of the information disclosed in the Draft EA may be submitted electronically at KeyWestEA@ricondo.com or by mail to:

Lisa Reznar
Ricondo & Associates, Inc.
20 North Clark Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask the FAA in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, the FAA cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so. Comments received on the Draft EA and the responses to those comments will be included in the Final EA.