

5. COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Under 40 CFR 1501.4, federal agencies are required to involve environmental agencies, applicants, and the public, to the extent practicable, when preparing EAs. Therefore, when conducting the NEPA process for the preparation of an EA, the FAA and the airport sponsor are encouraged to begin early coordination with the proper federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, including surrounding municipalities, in order to determine any possible environmental concerns. The primary components of the agency coordination and public involvement program include the following:

- agency and public scoping;
- notification of the publication of the Draft EA for agency and public review in local newspapers; and
- preparation of a Final EA.

The following sections summarize the agency coordination and public involvement program for this EA, and coordination and public involvement materials are provided in Appendix H.

5.2 AGENCY AND PUBLIC SCOPING

5.2.1.1 AGENCY AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Letters describing the Proposed Action and inviting federal, state, and local agencies to comment on the Draft EA were sent to 35 agency representatives on August 19, 2019. A web-based Agency Scoping Meeting was held September 19, 2019, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Slides describing the Proposed Action were displayed. Airport management, the County's consultant, and an FAA representative were in attendance to describe the Proposed Action and answer questions. Agency scoping materials, including a sample scoping letter, mailing list, sign-in sheet, and presentation slides are provided in Appendix H.1.

A public scoping meeting was held September 19, 2019, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Airport Administration Conference Room at Key West International Airport located at 3491 South Roosevelt Boulevard, Key West FL 33040. Presentation boards describing the proposed project were displayed, and Airport and consultant staff were available to describe the project and answer questions. Attachment H.1 provides the public scoping meeting materials, including the Public Notice, the sign-in sheet, and the display boards.

5.2.1.2 SCOPING COMMENTS RECEIVED

Scoping comments were solicited over a 30-day period, commencing on August 16, 2019, with the publication of the public notice in the *Key West Citizen*, and concluding on September 30, 2019. During this time, interested parties, responsible agencies, and the public were encouraged to provide input on the purpose and need for the project and alternatives considered as well as to identify any specific concerns that should be examined in the EA. A public scoping meeting was advertised in the public notice and held on September 19, 2019; the meeting was attended by airline and County representatives (see Appendix H.1.2). No comments were received from members of the public in response to scoping.

Scoping letters were emailed to federal, state, and local agencies on August 16, 2019, and a scoping meeting was held on September 19, 2019 (see Appendix H.1.1). Representatives from two agencies, USEPA and SFWMD, attended the agency scoping meeting. Two sets of comments were received from agencies via email during the scoping period, copies of which are provided in Appendix H.1.3. The commenters and their comments are summarized in **Table 5-1**.

TABLE 5-1 SUMMARY OF SCOPING COMMENTS RECEIVED

COMMENT DATE	COMMENTS	TOPICS IDENTIFIED IN COMMENT(S)
September 25, 2019	Seminole Tribe of Florida, Tribal Historic Preservation Office	Future coordination, Cultural resources
September 30, 2019	US Environmental Protection Agency – NEPA Section	Air quality, contaminated sites, environmental justice, Section 4(f) resources, stormwater management, threatened and endangered species, and Waters of the United States

SOURCE: Ricondo & Associates, Inc., November 2019.

No requests were received from a federal agency to be a cooperating agency for this EA.

5.3 REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Draft EA was made available for review by the public, government agencies, and interested parties for a period of 39 days. The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EA was published on the Airport’s website and in the *Key West Citizen* newspaper on November 13, 2020. The NOA, providing the location of the Draft EA documents online, was emailed to elected officials and agencies that participated in scoping and/or project consultation.¹ **Table 5-2** lists the locations where printed copies of the Draft EA were available for review. The Draft EA was also available online at <https://eyw.com/public-notice>. Appendix H.2 provides a copy of the NOA, proof of publication in the *Key West Citizen*, and a record of agency notification.

TABLE 5-2 LOCATIONS WHERE THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WAS AVAILABLE

LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE
Monroe County Public Library ¹	700 Fleming Street	Key West, FL	33040
Airport Administration Office at Key West International Airport	3491 South Roosevelt Boulevard	Key West, FL	33040

NOTE:

¹ The library was operating contact-free during the public review period, so printed copies and flash drives of the Draft EA were available for check-out.

SOURCE: Ricondo & Associates, Inc., January 2021.

A Public Information Workshop on the Draft EA was 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. The format of the Workshop was informal. During the Workshop, participants were able to view display boards presenting project information and discuss the proposed Airport improvements and ask questions of representatives from the County and its consultant team. A formal presentation was not made during the Workshop. Approximately 16 people attended the workshop, comprising 3 members of the public and 1 attendee representing the City of Key West as well as airline and County consultant team representatives (see Appendix H.2.4). The key

¹ The NOA provided a web address from which agencies and the public could download the Draft EA for review.

questions raised by members of the public related to aircraft noise, and they had an opportunity to discuss aircraft noise with the noise expert on the County's consultant team. As demonstrated in the EA, implementation of the Proposed Action would not have a significant noise impact. Anyone wishing to comment on the Draft EA was offered the opportunity to do so in writing during the Workshop. Copies of materials supporting the Public Workshop (that is, sign-in sheets and display boards) are provided in Appendix H.2. In addition to the Public Information Workshop, an overview of the Draft EA and the public review period was provided at the December 1, 2020, Key West International Airport Ad Hoc Committee on Noise. Finally, a link to information about the EA was provided on the Airport's Facebook page during the review and comment period.

The comment period on the Draft EA began on November 13, 2020, and closed on December 22, 2020. Anyone wishing to comment on the information and conclusions in the Draft EA were afforded the opportunity to do so at any time during the review and comment period. Commenters were informed to be as specific as possible and address the adequacy of the proposed action, the merits of alternatives, the analysis of potential environmental impacts, and the mitigation being considered.

Written comments on the Draft EA were accepted through Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Options for submitting comments included completing a comment form at the Public Workshop or submitting comments by mail or email, to:

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

KeyWestEA@ricondo.com

Five sets of comments were received on the Draft EA during the review and comment period. Two commenters expressed concerns about aircraft noise; one commenter expressed support for the Proposed Action; a representative of the USEPA provided comments on the topics of air quality, climate change, contaminated sites, and stormwater management; and a representative from the Florida State Clearinghouse provided information on coastal resources and permit requirements. Several of the comments resulted in clarifications to the EA, but no substantive issues affecting the conclusions documented in the EA were raised. The County and the FAA reviewed and considered all comments in the preparation of the Final EA. The comment letters and responses to these comments are provided in Appendix H.2.

5.4 FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The FAA will review this Final EA to determine its adequacy under the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Part 1500), and FAA Orders 1050.1F and 5050.4B. Based on the information and analyses in this Final EA, the FAA will decide whether to either issue a Finding of No Significant Impact or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

Copies of this Final EA are available for review at the Key West International Airport Administration Offices (3491 South Roosevelt Boulevard, Key West, Florida, 33040). Following the FAA's issuance of an environmental finding on the Final EA, the Final EA will be available for a minimum of 30 days for download from the Airport's website at: <https://eyw.com/public-notices>.

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