



April 22, 2015

Marina Landis  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Western Service Area- Operation Support Group, AJV-W22  
Federal Aviation Administration  
1601 Lind Ave SW  
Renton, WA 98507

Dear Ms. Landis:

This letter is in response to the request for comment provided in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) notification letter, dated March 27, 2015, regarding the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Phoenix Metroplex Project. We appreciate receiving your letter to inform us of FAA's intent to conduct this Assessment.

For your information, the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority (PMGAA) is comprised of 6 member governments that include:

- City of Apache Junction
- City of Mesa
- City of Phoenix
- Town of Gilbert
- Town of Queen Creek
- Gila River Indian Community

All of our member communities' should be recognized as key stakeholders in this process.

PMGAA requests to be included on any Project stakeholder's list, along with the member communities listed above, as there is increased sensitivity to any changes in air traffic procedures. We understand that each of the member governments will provide their point of contact in a separate letter to you.

PMGAA also requests the opportunity to participate in a NEPA scoping process per FAA Order 1050.1E, Change 1, Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures, as stated in Section 208c:

208c. Public input is important in defining the scope of FAA NEPA documents. Public involvement is required when the FAA prepares an EIS (40 CFR 1501.4(d)). Public involvement must be provided for, to the extent practicable, while an EA is being drafted (40 CFR 1501.4(b)). Although there is no standard approach to public scoping, it is important that FAA facilitate public participation in that process as well. Therefore, the FAA should tailor public scoping processes to match the complexity of the proposal.



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PMGAA also would additionally request:

1. The FAA conduct formal public scoping meetings to fulfill the specific direction and intent of FAA Order 1050.1E regarding public input for scoping of an EA.
2. The FAA provides a minimum of 45-day extension of the scoping comment deadline to afford stakeholders, including the public, the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the NEPA scoping process.
3. The FAA permits airports representation in all route and procedure design meetings, relevant to that airport, as representatives of the communities they serve. This is consistent with the provisions of FAA Order 7100.41, related to the Performance Based Navigation Implementation Process, which calls for inclusion of the airport operators in the working group process to provide "input on procedure and route design, including any potential operational or environmental impacts to the airport and surrounding communities". FAA Order 7100.41 on A-5.
4. The FAA provide a copy to all airport representative in the study area with the current stakeholder scoping contact distribution list and the contract scoping document for the Phoenix Metroplex Environmental Assessment to PMGAA.

PMGAA has identified a staff point of contact for this Metroplex Project. We request notifications be provided to the following point of contact:

Mr. Tony Bianchi, Airport Planner  
Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority  
5835 South Sossaman Road  
Mesa, AZ 85212  
(480) 988-7649 / [tbianchi@phxmesagateway.org](mailto:tbianchi@phxmesagateway.org)

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Jane L. Morris, A.A.E.  
Executive Director

cc: Hon. Gail Barney, Mayor of Queen Creek  
Hon. Thelda Williams, Councilmember of Phoenix  
Hon. John Lewis, Mayor of Gilbert  
Hon. John Giles, Mayor of Mesa  
Hon. John Insalaco, Mayor of Apache Junction  
Hon. Monica Antone, Lt. Governor of the Gila River Indian Community  
Mr. Tony Bianchi, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority