SECTION 6
Agency and Public Coordination

6.1 Overview

This section of the Environmental Assessment (EA) provides a history of the East Airfield site, history of environmental permitting actions, a description of the ongoing Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the site, and public coordination efforts related to the development of the East Airfield. During previous NEPA review, the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA) had published a Draft EA in 2009 for agency and public comment. As a result of agency and public comments and on-going coordination efforts, GOAA revised the East Airfield project. The revised East Airfield project is evaluated in this EA. Due to the revised project and length of time since the 2009 EA, this Draft EA contains updated and current information and is being made available for agency review and public comment. A description of the prior and present agency and public coordination efforts is provided in this section.

GOAA used guidance contained in the FAA’s Community Involvement Policy to plan the public involvement program for the East Airfield site.

FAA Order 5050.4B Paragraph 401. FAA’S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT POLICY. FAA has a community involvement policy (FAA-EE-90-03, August 1990). That policy recognizes community involvement as an essential part of FAA programs and decisions. ARP [Office of Airports], like each FAA office, must incorporate open, effective community involvement to achieve the following goals and tasks.

a. Provide active, early, and continuous public involvement and reasonable public access to information that accurately describes a proposed project and its environmental effects.

b. Ask for and consider public input on plans, proposals, alternatives, impacts, and mitigation.

c. Use public involvement techniques designed to meet the needs of different interest groups and individuals.

d. Promote an active public role to lessen potentially adverse community reaction to agency actions needed for safe, efficient aviation.
6.1.1 History of the East Airfield Property

GOAA purchased approximately 1,125 acres of land in the East Airfield site (formerly known as the “Gee Bee Parcel”) from 1987 to 1994. In 1995, GOAA identified this area on their Airport Layout Plan (ALP) for future aviation use. In 1999, the City of Orlando identified the Southeast Orlando Sector Plan Area (which includes the Orlando International Airport (MCO)) as a Future Growth Center with the airport as the primary economic and employment generator for the area. The Southeast Orlando Sector Plan Map designated the vast majority of the East Airfield site as Airport Support District High Intensity. In 2005, GOAA made a final purchase of an additional 176 acres of Airport Support District High Intensity property along the south side of the East Airfield Site (known as the Busch Property). Since that time, GOAA has worked with the City of Orlando to update the Southeast Orlando Sector Plan Map to reflect planned Airport Support District High Intensity and Medium Intensity Use areas. This includes modifying land designated for High Intensity uses located between the NorthLake Park community and Dowden Road to provide a land use buffer. Currently, the East Airfield site has a mix of zoning categories that will be consolidated during a rezoning process that will be initiated by GOAA after the site undergoes Development of Regional Impact review. Appendix Z provides a timeline of key events that occurred over the past 20 years related to the East Airfield site.

6.1.2 History of the Environmental Permitting Actions and Previous NEPA Process for the East Airfield Site

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Coordination – Individual Permit Application

In 2006, GOAA submitted an Individual Permit Application No. SAJ-2006-2640 (IP-JSC) to the USACE to address impacts to Waters of the U.S associated with the development of the East Airfield site. The original permit application identified 256.88 acres of direct impact to federal-jurisdictional wetlands. During the review of this application, the USACE requested that GOAA discuss the need for FAA NEPA analysis for the proposed project. At that time (2007-2008), GOAA engaged the FAA to initiate the NEPA process for the East Airfield site.

A Public Notice was issued by the USACE in 2006 associated with the USACE Individual Permit Application No. SAJ-2006-2640 (IP-JSC); in 2008, a meeting with GOAA management was requested by representatives of the NorthLake Park community to discuss GOAA’s preliminary conceptual site plan for the East Airfield area. Two key concerns expressed by the community in that meeting included the:

- Location of the proposed fuel farm in proximity to residential areas (originally located on the south side of the East Airfield site, just north of Dowden Road); and
- Request for a buffer area between the residential areas and the high intensity aviation activity.
After coordination with local and regional planning departments and prior public outreach to stakeholder groups, GOAA revised the initial concept plan. The revisions included:

- Relocating the proposed fuel farm from the south side of the site to the north side, south of SR 528; and

- Expanding the previously designated medium intensity land use buffer area between the residential areas and the high intensity aviation use by modifying the proposed land use along the north side of Dowden Road from high intensity aviation use to a medium intensity use.

A second meeting was held in 2008 with representatives of the NorthLake Park community and GOAA management to discuss the revisions made to the original conceptual plan. The revised plan became the conceptual plan for the East Airfield site at the initiation of the NEPA process for the 2009 Draft EA.

As a result of ongoing agency and public coordination, the USACE permit application was revised and information was resubmitted to the USACE in November 2010. Currently, the USACE permit application has been revised to reflect the East Airfield site within this 2015 Draft EA and to address 171.13 acres of Federal-jurisdictional wetlands impacts. The 2015 revisions to the USACE permit application resulted in an 85.75 acre reduction in direct impacts to Federal-jurisdictional wetlands. The current USACE permit application is under review by the USACE concurrent with the USACE review of the 2015 Draft EA. Mitigation to be provided for 171.3 acres of federal-jurisdictional wetlands has already been completed by GOAA at the BRENSSOLA site (see 5.17.3.2). Available mitigation credits at BRENSSOLA (182.59) are more than needed to offset the 102.2 mitigation credits needed for impacts to Federal-jurisdictional wetlands on the East Airfield.

**South Florida Water Management District Coordination – Conceptual ERP**

In 2006, GOAA submitted an application to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) for a Conceptual Environmental Resource Permit (ERP). The SFWMD issued a Conceptual ERP for the development of the East Airfield Site in August 2010. The SFWMD permit constitutes conceptual approval for the surface water management system to serve future development on the East Airfield site and to serve as the Section 401 water quality certification for the project. The conceptual ERP approves direct impacts to 247.77 acres of state-jurisdictional wetlands. GOAA submitted a mitigation plan to the SFWMD that identified the mitigation necessary to fully offset the wetland functional loss associated with full development of the East Airfield. Mitigation credits were purchased from three wetland mitigation banks located in Osceola County (south of MCO); Southport Mitigation Bank, Quick Draw Mitigation Bank, and Bullfrog Bay Mitigation Bank. In addition to these credits, GOAA purchased a 29-acre off-site parcel referred to as the “Hampton Bay parcel” in Orange County, east of MCO as part of the SFWMD permitted wetland mitigation plan. GOAA completed these transactions in advance of any wetland impacts. GOAA has purchased all required state mitigation for the impacts addressed in the Conceptual ERP which cost approximately $12 million dollars.
FAA Coordination - NEPA

As mentioned above, GOAA initiated the NEPA process with the FAA in the 2007-2008 time frame. During preparation of the 2009 Draft EA, GOAA held two public workshops to share information with the community about the EA process, the conceptual plan for the East Airfield site, and to collect input from the community. The two public workshops were held on September 18, 2008 and October 5, 2008.

The 2009 Draft EA document was made available for public and agency review on October 5, 2009. The public notice of availability of the document for review was published in the Orlando Sentinel on October 4, 2009, and repeated on October 8, 2009. Copies of the Draft EA document were available for review at the Orange County Public Library, Lake Nona YMCA, GOAA offices, and the FAA Orlando Airports District Office; a digital version was published on the GOAA’s project website. The 2009 Draft EA analyzed potential environmental impacts related to the development of the entire East Airfield site. GOAA identified the full build-out of the East Airfield site as the EA’s Proposed Action. Federal, state, and local agencies, and the public provided comments on the 2009 Draft EA. As a result of the agency and public comments, the EA was put on hold while GOAA and FAA considered the comments received.

From 2010 to the present time, GOAA and the FAA coordinated to address agency and public comments. The East Airfield project, through a series of modifications, was revised by GOAA to include only the development actions summarized below and described in more detail in Section 1.2 of this EA (see Figure 6.1-1):

- Site selection of the East Airfield as a large contiguous site at MCO for development of high and medium intensity aviation and aviation support facilities, medium intensity land uses, and related infrastructure.

- Reduction of existing wildlife hazard attractants on the East Airfield site through removal of wetlands and non stormwater management surface waters and active wildlife hazard management.

- The development of a secondary fuel storage and distribution facility that provides a redundant fuel supply at MCO to improve security from fuel supply disruptions related to storm events or other disruptions.

Ongoing Public Coordination

In addition to the 2008 public workshops and the 2009 public hearing, GOAA and neighboring communities initiated the GOAA Lake Nona Estates/ NorthLake Park Neighborhood Partnership in 2011. Multiple coordination meetings were held that included updates on the East Airfield project as well as topics such as review of the airport’s master planning process, noise program, airport financing, traffic analysis, and review of the history of land acquisition at the airport. These meetings were also attended by the City of Orlando Planning Department. Information presented and discussed at these meetings is provided on the GOAA project website (http://www.orlandoairports.net/east_airfield/index.htm.).
Figure 6.1-1
Proposed Action

SOURCE: Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, 2015; and ESA Airports, 2015
The 2014 Conceptual Development Plan (a long-term land use plan for the site) shown in Figure 6.1-2, was developed to incorporate comments from the community as it relates to traffic, noise, buffering, potential environmental impacts, and the location of the fuel farm.

In addition to the recent coordination meetings with the North Lake Park community, Appendix W provides a timeline of key events that occurred over the past 20 years related to the East Airfield site and the North Lake Park community.

6.2 Agency, Tribal, and Local Governmental Coordination

As part of the current agency review and public comment process, this EA was provided to Federal, state and local agencies; interested Tribal Nations; and local governments listed in Table 6.2-1. The 45 day agency and public review and comment period for this EA will be open from March 30, 2015 to May 14, 2015. All parties were also notified via mail of the Draft EA Public Workshop to be held April 30, 2015.

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<th>AGENCY, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRIBUTION LIST</th>
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<td>Mrs. Irene Sadowski – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</td>
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<td>Mr. Heath Rauschenberger – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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<td>Mr. James Giattina – Environmental Protection Agency - Region 4</td>
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<td>Federal Emergency Management Agency - Region 4</td>
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<td>Dapne Fuller – Federal Aviation Administration</td>
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<td>Danielle Rinsler - Federal Aviation Administration</td>
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<td>Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida</td>
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<td><strong>State Clearing House</strong></td>
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<td>Ms. Lauren Milligan, Florida Department of Environmental Protection State Clearinghouse</td>
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<td>(NOTE: this agency coordinates with all other state of Florida departments including the SHPO and SWFWMD and provides consolidated comments from each department)</td>
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<td><strong>Local</strong></td>
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<td>Greater Orlando Aviation Authority Board Members</td>
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<td>Executive Director Greater Orlando Aviation Authority</td>
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<td>Greater Orlando Aviation Authority Executive Staff</td>
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<td>Mr. Marcos Marchena - Marchena &amp; Graham, P.A</td>
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### Elected Officials

Mayor Buddy Dyer - City of Orlando  
Commissioner Jim Gray - City of Orlando District 1  
Commissioner Tony Ortiz - City of Orlando District 2  
Commissioner Pete Clarke - Orange County District 3  
Commissioner Jennifer Thompson - Orange County District 4  
Commissioner Ted Edwards - Orange County District 5  
Commissioner Victoria Siplin - Orange County District 6  
Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs  
Commissioner S. Scott Boyd - Orange County District 1  
Commissioner Bryan Nelson - Orange County District 2  
Commissioner Pete Clarke - Orange County District 3  
Commissioner Jennifer Thompson - Orange County District 4  
Commissioner Ted Edwards - Orange County District 5  
Commissioner Victoria Siplin - Orange County District 6  
Commissioner Michael Harford - Osceola County  
Commissioner Viviana Janer - Osceola County  
Commissioner Brandon Arrington - Osceola County  
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb - Osceola County  
Commissioner Fred Hawkins, Jr. - Osceola County  
Senator Marco Rubio - US Senate  
Senator Bill Nelson - US Senate  
Congressman Alan Grayson - US House of Representatives  
Congresswoman Frederica Wilson - US House of Representatives  
Congressman John Mica - US House of Representatives  
Congresswoman Corrine Brown - US House of Representatives  
Office of the Governor  
Representative Victor Manuel Torres, Jr. – State House, District 48  
Representative Mike Miller – State House, District 47  
Representative Tom Goodson – State House, District 50  
Senator Andy Gardiner – State Senate, District 13  
Senator Darren Soto – State Senate, District 14

### Local Government Officials

Mr. Dean Grandin, Jr., Planning Division Manager - City of Orlando  
Mr. Paul Lewis, Chief Planner - City of Orlando  
Ms. Deborah Girard, Deputy Chief of Administration - City of Orlando  
Ms. Kyle Shephard, Assistant City Attorney - City of Orlando  
Mr. Byron Brooks, Chief Administrative Officer - City of Orlando  
Mr. Graciela Noriega Jacoby, Chief of Staff - Orange County Mayor's Office  
Mr. Christopher Testerman, Deputy County Administrator - Orange County  
Mr. Hugh W. Harling, Jr., Executive Director - East Central FL Regional Planning Council  
County Manager, Don Fisher – Osceola County  
MetroPlan Orlando  
Orlando Economic Development Commission  
Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority  
GOAA Lake Nona Estates/ NorthLake Park Neighborhood Partnership – Representative
6.3 Public Coordination

This EA was developed through the ongoing agency and public coordination efforts described in Section 6.1.2, which resulted in a revised East Airfield project. In light of the revised East Airfield project, FAA determined that this (draft) EA should be circulated to agencies, Tribes and the public for review and comment. The EA was made available for review both online at MCO’s website and at the locations listed below in Section 6.3.1. A forty-five (45) day public review and comment period will start on March 30, 2015 and end on May 14, 2015. A Public Workshop is scheduled to be held on April 30, 2015.

Public comments on the Draft EA are encouraged. Comments should be as specific as possible and address the analysis of potential environmental impacts, the adequacy of the proposed action, or the merits of alternatives. Comments should be postmarked no later than May 14, 2015. Comments should be mailed to:

Mr. Brad Friel, Director of Planning  
Greater Orlando Aviation Authority  
5855 Cargo Road  
Orlando, Florida 32827

6.3.1 Notice of Availability

The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EA and Public Workshop was published in the Orlando Sentinel on March 29, 2015. Copies of the Draft EA were made available for public review during regular business hours at the:

- Orange County Public Library (Southeast Branch Library 5575 South Semoran Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32822)
- Lake Nona YMCA (9055 Northlake Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32827),
- GOAA Administrative offices (5855 Cargo Road, Orlando FL, 32827 ), and
- FAA Orlando Airports District Office (5950 Hazeltine National Dr. Suite, Orlando FL, 32822).

An electronic copy of the Draft EA, in PDF format, was also made available on March 30, 2015 at GOAA’s project website (http://www.orlandoairports.net/east_airfield/index.htm). Instructions for providing comments via mail were also provided in the NOA. The 45 day public comment
Figure 6.1 - 2014 East Airfield Conceptual Plan

SOURCE: Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, 2015; and ESA Airports, 2015

Orlando International Airport E.A. - East Airfield, 207524

2014 East Airfield Conceptual Plan
period on the EA will be open from March 30, 2015 to May 14, 2015. GOAA and the FAA will review and consider all comments received during the public comment period.

6.3.2 Public Workshop Meeting

GOAA will hold a Public Workshop meeting on April 30, 2015 at the Lake Nona High School between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. The purpose of the Public Workshop is to provide information about the Proposed Action and its environmental impacts and to solicit comments on the Draft EA. The Public Meeting will be held in an informal workshop format where participants will be able to view maps, display boards, and informational materials and speak with GOAA representatives and GOAA’s consultants. No formal presentation or formal public hearing session will be conducted.

Both written and verbal comments relative to the Draft EA will be invited during the Public Workshop. Comment forms will be accepted at the Public Workshop or written comments can be mailed to GOAA. A court reporter will be available at the Public Meeting to record spoken comments individually. All comments will be reviewed and considered by GOAA and the FAA during the preparation of the Final EA.