

Attachment A

Draft Findings

FINDINGS AND ORDER OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION (ALUC)

HEARING DATE: March 27, 2013

SYNOPSIS:

The applicant seeks the Airport Land Use Commission's (ALUC) review of the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Specific Plan Amendment Study (SPAS) to determine consistency between proposed amendments to City of Los Angeles plans associated with the SPAS and the Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP), formally known as the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). Affected City of Los Angeles plans include the LAX Plan, LAX Specific Plan, the Westchester-Playa del Rey Community Plan and the Transportation and Noise Elements of the General Plan.

Review of the general plan amendments is necessary because the affected plans are located within the adopted Los Angeles County Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan (CLUP) planning boundary established for the Airport. The project must be reviewed for consistency with the policies of the adopted CLUP.

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION

March 27, 2013 Public Hearing

To be completed after the hearing.

FINDINGS:

1. The State Aeronautics Act Section 21670, et seq. of the California Public Utilities Code ("PUC") requires every county in which there is an airport served by a scheduled airline to establish an airport land use commission;
2. Pursuant to Section 21670.2 of the PUC, the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission has the responsibility for acting as the Airport Land Use Commission for Los Angeles County and thereby coordinating the airport planning of public agencies within the County;
3. Pursuant to Section 21670(a)(1) of the PUC the purpose of the State Aeronautics Act that establishes airport land use commissions is to provide for the orderly development of each public use airport and the area surrounding these airports and to prevent the creation of new noise and safety problems;
4. Pursuant to Section 21674 of the PUC, the powers and duties of an airport land use commission include: assisting local agencies in ensuring compatible land uses in the vicinity of new and existing airports; coordinating planning at the state, regional and local levels so as to provide for the orderly development of air transportation; preparing and adopting airport land use compatibility plans; and

- reviewing plans of local agencies to determine whether such plans are consistent with the applicable airport land use compatibility plan;
5. In 1991 the County ALUC adopted the Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Plan, which is known as the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (“CLUP”) that sets forth policies, purposes, maps with planning boundaries, and criteria for promoting compatibility between airports and the land uses that surround them;
 6. The CLUP provides for the orderly development of Los Angeles County’s public use airports and the area surrounding them. The CLUP contains policies and criteria, including a 65dB Community Noise Equivalent Level (“CNEL”) contour, that minimize the public’s exposure to excessive noise and safety hazards;
 7. Pursuant to Sections 21674(d), 21676(b), 21672(c), 21661.5, 21664.5(a), and 21664.5(b) of the PUC, the County ALUC has the responsibility to review airport master plans, specific plans, general plan amendments and zoning ordinances for consistency with the adopted CLUP, before final action is taken by the local agency;
 8. Los Angeles World Airports (“LAWA”) is a department of the City of Los Angeles (“City”) and is the owner and operator of LAX;
 9. LAWA has submitted an application, known as Project Number R2013-00396 /Aviation Case No. 201300001, to ALUC for its consideration to determine whether the proposed plan amendments are consistent with the CLUP;
 10. The fundamental consideration for the ALUC is to determine whether the amendments are consistent with the CLUP. This includes determining whether any components of the proposed general plan amendments would conflict with the goals and policies of the CLUP;
 11. The project location is the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), which is within the City of Los Angeles. This airport is bounded by:
 - North City of Los Angeles community of Westchester,
 - East City of Inglewood and the unincorporated community of Lennox
 - South City of El Segundo
 - West Pacific Ocean;
 12. The project includes amendments to the following parts of the City of Los Angeles General Plan:
 - LAX Specific Plan
 - Land Use Element
 - LAX Plan,
 - Westchester-Playa del Rey Community Plan
 - Transportation Element

- Noise Element
13. The amendments relevant to ALUC can be characterized as two types, revisions to definition of proposed facilities and plan map revisions for individual properties switching from one plan area to another;
 14. The amendments to the LAX Specific Plan and LAX Plan include standardizing definitions/terminology and deleting references to facilities that are no longer being proposed. Amendments also add new facilities and delete those that are no longer being considered. These changes are needed to ensure consistency among planning documents. An example of these changes is that the Ground Transportation Center is no longer included in an alternative and therefore references to it would be removed. The label used for the Intermodal Transportation Center will be replaced with the label Intermodal Transportation Facility. The ALUC finds that no evidence exists that the proposed plan amendments relevant to ALUC review authority are in direct conflict with the policies of the CLUP. The ALUC therefore concludes that the general plan amendments are consistent with CLUP;
 15. The Westchester-Playa del Rey Community Plan and LAX Plan are to be amended by deleting areas from plan maps for properties that will no longer be acquired by LAWA because they are no longer needed for development of the airport. The amendments would remove those properties from the LAX Plan and transfer them to the Westchester-Playa del Rey Community Plan (see Attachment B). The ALUC finds that no evidence exists that the proposed general plan amendments relevant to ALUC review authority are in direct conflict with the policies of the CLUP. The ALUC therefore concludes that the general plan amendments are consistent with CLUP;
 16. The precise language and figures that comprise of the general plan and specific plan text and map amendments are contained in the City of Los Angeles documents titled:
 - Proposed LAX Specific Plan Amendments, dated February 14, 2013
 - Proposed LAX Plan Amendments, dated February 14, 2013
 - Proposed General Plan Amendments Matrix, dated February 14, 2013(Documents attached as Attachment A)

BASED ON THE FOREGOING, THE AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION DETERMINES:

In view of the findings of fact and conclusions presented above, the project presented in Aviation Case No. 2013-00001, is **CONSISTENT** with the Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Plan.

VOTE

Dissenting:

Abstaining:

Absent:

Action Date:

Attachments:

Proposed LAX Specific Plan Amendments, February 14, 2013

Proposed LAX Plan Amendments, February 14, 2013

Proposed General Plan Amendments Matrix, February 14, 2013