

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. Following the release of this Draft EA, a public workshop will be held to obtain input on the analyses presented. 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;
- a public workshop scheduled for **November 13, 2019**; and
- preparation of a Final EA.

Keeping agencies and the public informed and gathering their input are essential components of any environmental study. The following sections summarize the agency coordination and public involvement program for this EA.

5.2 Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Program

5.2.1 AGENCY AND PUBLIC SCOPING

5.2.1.1 Agency Scoping Letter

A scoping letter was mailed April 4, 2017, to 45 agencies and interested parties, and posted at the Marathon Library located at 3251 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida (FL). The letter described the project and invited federal, state, and local agencies to provide scoping comments. A copy of the scoping letter and mailing list is provided in the Scoping Report in **Appendix F**.

5.2.1.2 Biological Resources Web-based Conference Call

A web-based conference call was conducted with federal, state, and local agencies to discuss biological resources on June 20, 2017. Slides describing the Proposed Action were displayed. Airport and consultant staff

were in attendance to describe the Proposed Action and answer questions. A copy of the presentation materials and meeting notes are also included in the Scoping Report in Appendix F.

5.2.1.3 Scoping Comments Received

The scoping period was open for 30 days, commencing on April 5, 2017, and concluding on May 5, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. During this time, interested parties and regulatory agencies were provided the opportunity to offer input on the purpose and need for the Proposed Action, alternatives to the Proposed Action, and areas of environmental concern that should be examined in the EA.

Thirteen comment letters were received from agencies during the scoping period. No comments were received from the public. The scoping comments received are included in the Scoping Report in Appendix F.

5.2.2 AGENCY AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Draft EA is available for review by the public, government agencies, and interested parties for a period of 44 days. The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EA for review was published in the Key West Citizen on October 11, 2019 and the Keys Weekly newspaper October 17, 2019. The NOA, including the location of the documents online, was sent to elected officials and agencies on the scoping mailing list and/or that provided scoping comments. Locations where copies of the Draft EA are available are included in **Table 5-1**.

Table 5-1: Locations Where Draft Environmental Assessment is Available

LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE
Florida Keys Marathon International Airport	9400 Overseas Highway, Suite 200	Marathon, FL	33050
Monroe County Public Library	3251 Overseas Highway	Marathon, FL	33050
FAA Orlando Airports District Office	8427 South Park Circle, Suite 524	Orlando, FL	32819

SOURCE: Ricondo & Associates, Inc., October 2018.

The documents are also available online at <http://eyw.com/page/airport-public-notice>.

A Public Workshop on the Draft EA will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., local time, immediately followed by a Public Hearing from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time. The workshop/hearing will be held as follows:

November 13, 2019
5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Workshop; 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Hearing
Florida Keys Marathon International Airport
Passenger Terminal
9400 Overseas Highway
Marathon, FL 33050

Written comments on the Draft EA must be submitted by **5:00 p.m., Monday, November 25, 2019** to:

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

Comments can also be emailed to **MTHEA@ricondo.com**. All comments related to the Draft EA will be considered by the FAA and Monroe County in preparing the Final EA.

5.2.3 FINAL EA

Although the FAA is not required to formally respond to public comments concerning EAs, the Final EA will reflect the FAA's consideration of the comments received. The FAA will use the Final EA to decide on the Proposed Action and issue a determination. Notice of release of the Final EA and FAA determination will be published in the Key West Citizen and Keys Weekly newspapers.

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