Department of Toxic Substances Control

Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
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Gavin Newsom
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SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 5, 2026

Jessica Metzger
Airport Planner
City of Santa Barbara
601 Firestone Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93117
jmetzger@santabarbaraca.gov

RE: ADDENDUM FOR THE SANTA BARBARA AIRPORT MASTER PLAN DATED JULY 6, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2014061096

Dear Jessica Metzger,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Addendum (ADM) for the Santa Barbara Airport Master Plan (Project). The proposed Project has been developed to accommodate existing and forecast passenger demands at the Airport, as identified in collaboration with the Federal Aviation Administration. Improvements to the John T. Rickard Airline Terminal (Terminal) would include an additional 16,500 square feet to the Terminal footprint and the redevelopment of approximately 20,400 square yards of Terminal and overflow apron. The airside pavement would not be expanded beyond existing limits. Additionally, the proposed Project would result in one fewer passenger loading bridge and a new access roadway instead of the realignment of the Terminal loop road. The adjustment to surface parking would result in the demolition of Building 122, which was not specifically addressed in the previous environmental document, but would have been necessary for the expansion of the short-term parking lot and the extension of the Terminal loop road. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. The proposed Project appears to be located on or near the formerly used defense site (FUDS), Santa Barbara Municipal Airport. It is advised that site information pertaining to the FUDS be reviewed to see if historical uses could have impacted the property, and if mitigation measures or safety protocols should be considered during construction. During construction, it is prudent to be aware of the potential for MEC or MD. Please investigate and be aware of the historical uses of the FUDS to evaluate for potential for MEC and/or MD that may be encountered during proposed construction activities.
2. Based on information available to DTSC, the Site use included a rifle firing range, skeet range, and a free gunnery range. While the use of munitions of explosive concern (MEC) or presence of unexploded ordinance (UXO) is not documented at this particular site, if at any time during construction, you encounter buried debris that appears to be MEC or UXO, please call 911 and practice the 3 Rs of explosive safety: 1) Recognize; 2) Retreat; and 3) Report.
    a. **Recognize** that munitions are dangerous;
    b. **Retreat** do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area; and,
    c. **Report** immediately what you saw and where you saw it to local law enforcement — call 911.
3. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on any Project sites included in the proposed Project, surveys should be conducted for the presence of lead-based paints or products, mercury, asbestos containing materials, and polychlorinated biphenyl caulk. Removal, demolition, and disposal of any of the above-mentioned chemicals should be conducted in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies. In addition, sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with DTSC's Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) Guidance Manual.

DTSC would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ADM for the Santa Barbara Airport Master Plan. Thank you for your assistance in protecting California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances.

To request information on FUDS please email FOIA-SPL@usace.army.mil to submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact us via our CEQA Review email.

Sincerely,

Dave Kereazis

Dave Kereazis
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cc: (via email)

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