

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING RE
MAMMOTH YOSEMITE AIRPORT
PROPOSED TERMINAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA**

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**REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
OF
VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING**

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Monday, July 19, 2021

4:30 P.M. to 5:31 P.M.

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**CERTIFIED
TRANSCRIPT**

**21-199
Stenographically Reported By:
ROSE GONI DAVIS, CRR/RMR, CSR 8760**



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1 MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021, 4:30 P.M.

2 VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

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4 MS. COOKE: All right. I have 4:30 on my
5 clock.

6 Good afternoon. I'm Kim Cooke, planner with
7 the Town of Mammoth Lakes. We are going to be opening
8 the public hearing at this time and take any public
9 comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment document.

10 If we don't have anybody else on the line who
11 can provide comments, we are going to stay on the line
12 in case they join later.

13 Jim, I think I'll mute myself and just turn
14 off my camera, unless I see anybody join us.

15 MR. WALLACE: All right. Do you think we
16 should do a very short introduction so that it's on the
17 record that this meeting is being called and just a
18 short description of the project and maybe just repeat
19 some of what was said in the workshop just so it's on
20 the record?

21 MS. COOKE: Sure.

22 MR. WALLACE: Okay.

23 MS. COOKE: I'll just go back through some of
24 my introduction for the workshop.

25 So the purpose of holding a public workshop

1 and public hearing today is to provide the public with
2 information and interested agencies regarding the
3 proposed project and the environmental analysis that was
4 prepared for the project.

5 A 35-day public comment period for the draft
6 EA began on June 19th of this year. We are nearing the
7 end of the advertised public comment period, and we're
8 providing this opportunity for the public to give verbal
9 or written comments on the draft document.

10 All comments that we receive during this
11 public hearing portion of the meeting will be taken.
12 Responses will be prepared and included in the final EA
13 document.

14 The public comment period will end at
15 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 23rd. And any public comment
16 will be received up until that time.

17 So preparation of this environmental
18 assessment was initiated after town council approved the
19 2018-2019 through 2023-2024 Airport Capital Improvement
20 Program, which was approved December 19th, 2018.

21 Adoption of the ACIP does not compel the town
22 to complete or fund any of the listed projects, but it
23 does make the identified projects eligible for Federal
24 Aviation Administration airport improvement program
25 funding.

1 Environmental review must be completed for all
2 of the identified projects prior to construction. And
3 all of the proposed airport actions that are subject to
4 FAA approval require environmental impact analysis to be
5 prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy
6 Act, which we will refer to as NEPA.

7 The project is also subject to the California
8 Environmental Quality Act, which we refer to as CEQA.
9 And that is why both an environmental assessment and an
10 environmental impact report were prepared for the
11 project.

12 Town council authorized the preparation of the
13 CEQA and NEPA review for projects included in the ACIP
14 on June 26th, 2019. At that time, staff reported to
15 town council that the completion of the environmental
16 analysis would not necessarily lead to the terminal or
17 apron projects moving on to design -- a design or
18 construction phase. And it was stated that the
19 comprehensive environmental review was being completed
20 in order to address all of the projects that were
21 included on the ACIP.

22 So the project site is identified as a 22-acre
23 area of the Mammoth Yosemite Airport property. The town
24 owns a total of 196 acres of the airport property. And
25 approximately 8.7 acres of undeveloped land within the

1 22-acre project area will be occupied by the proposed
2 improvements as a part of the project.

3 The scope of the environmental analysis for
4 both NEPA and CEQA evaluates the implementation of the
5 Terminal Area Development Plan at the Mammoth Yosemite
6 Airport. The project includes construction of a new
7 39,288 square foot passenger terminal; a new 8,400
8 square foot maintenance building, including required
9 Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting vehicle; an 850
10 square -- an 850-foot extension of Airport Road; new
11 aircraft parking apron; a new de-icing apron; two
12 vehicle parking lots and related infrastructure, which
13 will include a new package wastewater treatment
14 facility.

15 The proposed terminal area improvements are
16 intended to allow the airport to function more
17 efficiently and effectively to meet existing and
18 projected demand.

19 So that concludes my description of the
20 project. Our next steps are to receive any public input
21 on the draft EA document. We will not be taking an
22 action on the draft EA today. And we will be accepting
23 verbal comments during this meeting. And we will accept
24 any written comments that are provided up until the end
25 of the public comment period.

1 And that is all I have.

2 MR. WALLACE: Okay. Well, let me read into
3 the record the FAA's role in this project, if that's all
4 right, Kim.

5 MS. COOKE: Yes.

6 MR. WALLACE: So the Town of Mammoth Lakes is
7 the sponsor of the Mammoth Yosemite Airport and has
8 prepared this Draft Environmental Assessment to evaluate
9 the potential environmental effects of the construction
10 and operation of a new passenger terminal, airport
11 parking aprons, new maintenance facility, and supporting
12 infrastructure as proposed in the Mammoth Yosemite
13 Airport Terminal Area Development Plan, which was
14 published in 2017.

15 The FAA has requested the Federal Aviation
16 Administration's approval of the proposed Terminal Area
17 Development Project on the airport layout plan and
18 potential federal funding assistance for eligible
19 elements of its proposed project.

20 The environmental assessment has been prepared
21 pursuant to the requirements of the National
22 Environmental Policy Act, as codified by the Council on
23 Environmental Quality.

24 The FAA has also -- also uses specific
25 guidance in specific FAA orders -- in this case, FAA

1 Order 1050.1F, which is called the Environmental Impacts
2 Policies and Procedures, and FAA Order 5050.4B, National
3 Environmental Policy Act implementing instructions for
4 airport actions.

5 The FAA is the lead federal agency, and this
6 EA analyzes and documents potential environmental
7 impacts of implementing the proposed action -- that is,
8 the Terminal Area Development Project -- and identifies
9 mitigation measures that may be necessary to reduce the
10 magnitude of those impacts.

11 The FAA is the lead federal agency for
12 environmental compliance on the airport, and as such,
13 they will have approval process over the EA and will
14 make those decisions only after all public comments have
15 been submitted.

16 Thank you. That's what we have.

17 (Time noted: 4:39 p.m.)

18 (No public comments made.)

19 MS. COOKE: Okay. So it is 5:30. We've
20 reached the end of our public hearing portion of the
21 meeting, and that will end our meeting for tonight. We
22 did not receive any public comment on the draft EA
23 document.

24 Jim, do you have any final items that we need
25 to include in the record?

1 MR. WALLACE: No. I think we've got it
2 covered, Kim.

3 MS. COOKE: Okay. Great.

4 Then shall we end the meeting?

5 (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned
6 at 5:31 p.m.)
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**I, ROSE GONI DAVIS, a Certified Shorthand
Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby certify this transcript at my office in the County of Sacramento, State of California, this July 22, 2021.

Rahat Dair

ROSE GONI DAVIS, CSR NO. 8760
Certified Shorthand Reporter of
the State of California

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