

## McClellan-Palomar Airport Master Plan Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### 1. What is an Airport Master Plan and why is one needed?

The purpose of the Master Plan is to provide decision-makers a roadmap of the community and airport's strategic vision for the airport that provides flexible options to meet the long-term needs of the community for the next 20 years. The last Master Plan was developed in 1997, and given the modernization of FAA Design and Safety Standards for airports, it is nearing the end of its useful life. Airport Master Plans consist of a report documenting existing conditions of the Airport, a forecast of aviation activity, facility requirements (the airport's needs based on the forecast and compliance with current FAA Design Standards for airports), development and evaluation of alternatives to meet those needs, and a flexible phasing plan for implementation. It is used as a planning and decision-making tool intended to complement other local and regional plans. Components of the Airport Master Plan are illustrated in an Airport Layout Plan (ALP), described below.

### 2. What is an Airport Layout Plan and why do we need one?

An Airport Layout Plan (ALP) graphically depicts planned development at the airport within the 20-year planning period as determined in the Airport Master Plan. Each individual component of the Master Plan is shown on the drawing, and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval of the ALP is required in order to be eligible for federal funding for airport improvements and maintenance under the FAA's Airport Improvement Program.

### 3. How often are Airport Master Plans undertaken?

Based on FAA guidance, Airport Master Plans are recommended to be completed every five to 10 years based on the development needs of the airport.

### 4. Why are you doing this Airport Master Plan?

As mentioned above, the FAA requires an updated and approved ALP for an airport to be eligible for federal funding. In the years since the Airport's previous ALP and Airport Master Plan were prepared, there have been several changes that necessitate an update. These include updated FAA Design standards for airport design, transformational changes in aviation, and shifts in the types and levels of activity at the Airport.

### 5. How is the community involved in the planning process?

The County welcomes community input at all stages of the Airport Master Plan process, and has hosted four public workshops to review development proposals at the City of Carlsbad Faraday Center:

- Public Workshop #1: February 5, 2014
- Public Workshop #2: May 7, 2014
- Public Workshop #3: April 30, 2015
- Public Workshop #4: February 29, 2016

Airport management regularly provides development and operational updates to the community, including the status and findings of the Master Plan, at the Palomar Airport Advisory Committee (PAAC) meetings (<http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/airports/palomar/paac.html>). On December 16, 2015 draft findings of the Master Plan were presented to the County Board of Supervisors' public hearing, and staff was directed to proceed with the environmental evaluation of

the preferred development option in a Program-Level Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The next opportunity for comment will come in early 2017 when the draft Program EIR and Master Plan are released for 45 day public review. Updates on the progress of the Airport Master Plan and environmental review process will be posted on the County's website ([www.PalomarAirportMP.com](http://www.PalomarAirportMP.com)). To provide feedback or notifications of future document releases please see contact information at the link above.

**6. Will the Airport Master Plan report be made available to the public?**

The Airport Master Plan will be presented in draft form and include documentation of the existing conditions, forecast of activity, facility requirements (needs), development and evaluation of alternatives to meet those needs, selection of the preferred alternative, project phasing plan along with the draft ALP drawing set. Once complete, the Master Plan, ALP drawings, and environmental review document will be considered by the County Board of Supervisors for approval. All draft reports and the final submission will be posted on the County's website for public review ([www.PalomarAirportMP.com](http://www.PalomarAirportMP.com)).

**7. The County's Feasibility Study outlined potential changes to runway; will the Master Plan include a runway extension?**

In 2013, staff presented a completed Feasibility Study for Potential Improvements to the McClellan-Palomar Airport Runway to the County Board of Supervisors, which reviewed whether a runway extension was feasible. The study's findings are considered in the Master Plan, and the proposed project may include a phased approach to safety and length improvements to the runway.

**8. Will there be a noise study as part of the Master Plan?**

The Airport Master Plan report and Program EIR will include a noise impact analysis and figures that graphically depict the existing and future aviation noise footprints that would result from implementation of Master Plan improvements.

**9. Who makes the final decision on this project?**

The County of San Diego Board of Supervisors will ultimately review and consider for approval the final Master Plan document. The FAA, state and federal resource agencies, and state aviation officials will also evaluate the document from a technical standpoint. The ALP will be reviewed by the FAA for approval, and once specific improvements are identified for federal funding and proposed, environmental review shall commence under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**10. When will this process be complete?**

Staff anticipates presenting the Master Plan and associated Program EIR to the County Board of Supervisors for approval at the end of 2017. The timing of implementation/construction of individual elements relies on securing local, state, and/or federal funding. Updates on the Master Plan process are available County's website ([www.PalomarAirportMP.com](http://www.PalomarAirportMP.com)).