

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Mr. Peter Ciesla
Federal Aviation Administration, Western Pacific Region, Airports Division
PO Box 92007
Los Angeles, CA 90009-2007

Subject: EPA Comments on the Adoption of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Oakland International Airport Connector (CEQ #20090404)

Dear Mr. Ciesla:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Federal Register Notice published on November 27, 2009, describing Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) intent to adopt the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the Oakland International Airport Connector. The Final EIS prepared by FTA for this project was completed in 2002. Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

Because your agency is adopting the Final EIS that EPA previously reviewed and commented on, we are attaching the previous Draft EIS and Final EIS comment letters prepared for the project. At the time of our agencies review of the Final EIS, in 2002, our agency had no remaining concerns with the project. However, we note that seven years have passed since the completion, and review, of that document. In the Record of Decision, we urge FAA to confirm that data and analysis (including modeling and assumptions used), as well as additional information used to support decisions, are still timely, appropriate, and supported. Where new information (available in the last seven years) leads FAA to additional analysis and/or measures to further reduce environmental impacts, additional commitments to reduce impacts should be presented in the Record of Decision.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the adoption of the Final EIS. Once the Record of Decision is signed, please send a copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me, at 415-947-4161, or dunning.connell@epa.gov.

Sincerely,
/s/

Connell Dunning, Transportation Team Supervisor
Environmental Review Office (CED-2)

Enclosure: EPA's September 17, 2001 comment letter on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Oakland International Airport Connector
EPA's May 10, 2002 comment letter on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Oakland International Airport Connector

CC: Ray Sukys, Federal Transit Administration