

Appendix H

Agency Coordination

H-1: Agency Coordination

**H-2: Agency Notice of Preparation
(NOP) Letter**

H-1: Agency Coordination

APPENDIX H-1

Agency Coordination

Under 40 CFR § 1501.4, federal agencies are required to involve environmental agencies, applicants, and the public, to the extent practicable, in the preparation of environmental assessments (EAs). The primary components of the agency coordination and consultation and public involvement program for this EA include:

- Notice of Preparation of an EA
- Publication of the Draft EA Notice of Availability
- Circulation of the Draft EA and for agency and public review
- Preparation of a Final EA that will include responses to comments received on the Draft EA

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

H.2 Agency and Tribal Consultation

H.2.1 Early Agency Coordination

Early agency coordination was performed by engaging with federal, state, and local agencies that have an interest in the Proposed Project. In coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Palm Beach County (PBC) notified several agencies of the intent to prepare an EA for the proposed extension of Runway 14-32 at the North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport (F45). On behalf of the FAA, PBC sent a notice of preparation to 1) inform agencies of the preparation of the EA, 2) request any information relevant to the project's environmental setting to be considered in the EA, and 3) to obtain an understanding of any interest, issues, concerns an agency may have regarding the proposed runway extension. Some agency and Tribes received consultation letters specific to the resources under their purview (e.g., SHPO and Tribes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, etc.).

Coordination was conducted with two federal, five state, ten local agencies with five recognized Native American tribes and one citizen group. A letter providing notice of preparation of the Draft EA was distributed by e-mail to all agencies in May, June, and July 2021. PBC received comments and recommendations from five different agencies, which included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management (ERM), and Muscogee (Creek)

Nation. Appendix H-2 includes an example of the Notice of Preparation and **Table H-1** provides a list of the agencies notified of the Proposed Project, the date notices were distributed, dates of consultation, and the date(s) of a response, if any.

The main concerns received through early consultation were regarding questions about the potential impacts of the Proposed Project on Section 4(f) resources. More information on the impacts of the Proposed Project on Section 4(f) resources, including descriptions of agency coordination meetings, can be found in Appendix G, *Department of Transportation, Section 4(f)*.

H.2.2 Federal Agency Consultation

H.2.2.1 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The FAA initiated consultation with the Department of the Interior, U.S. FWS through email transmittal of a formal Biological Assessment on February 6, 2023. FWS reviewed the information provided and found that the proposed action is “not likely to adversely affect” any federally listed species or designated critical habitat protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This was signed by the Florida Ecological Services Field Office on February 9, 2023, and consultation has been completed. FWS provided a separate comment via email transmittal that is being addressed through letter response. For more information on Section 7 Consultation, please see Appendix C-2, *Section 7 Consultation*.

H-2.3 State Agency Consultation

H.2.3.1 Florida Division of Historic Resources – State Historic Preservation Office

To identify Historical, Architectural, Archeological, and Cultural Resources, the FAA established an Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the Proposed Project. A desktop analysis for the North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport Runway Extension and Connected Actions project was conducted by Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (ACI) on behalf of Environmental Science Associates. This study, conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), included the identification and description of all known archaeological sites and historic resources located within or proximate to the APE, as well as a discussion of potential archaeologically sensitive areas. Background research indicated that no archaeological sites have been recorded within or near the APE. There is a low probability for sites based on the environmental setting. A review of the property appraiser data suggests no potential for historic structures and the historic aerial photos and maps revealed no historic buildings or structures (FDOT 1986; State of Florida 1845d, 1846; USDA 1953a, 1953b; USGS 1945, 1950). There was also a low potential for archaeological and historic sites and a Cultural Resource Assessment Survey (CRAS) does not appear to be warranted for this project.

Consultation with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), representative Timothy A. Parsons, was initiated on March 28, 2021. A response was not received from the Florida SHPO. The letter initiating consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA is provided in **Appendix F**.

H-2.4 Tribal Consultation

Consultation for this EA was prepared in compliance with Section 106 and its implementing regulations. The Section 106 process is accomplished through consultation with the federally recognized Native American tribes, in addition to the SHPO, local governments, and other interested parties. Consultation with Native American tribes regarding issues related to Section 106 must recognize the government-to-government relationship between the federal government and tribes, as set forth in EO 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments* and the *Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation* (2009). As such, consultation with Native American tribes was initiated on July 27, 2021. Consultation letters included descriptions of the proposed undertaking (Proposed Project), the APE, and the potential historic and archaeological resources in the APE. The letters initiating consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA is provided in Appendix F. Four recognized tribes did not respond to the consultation letters. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation responded to consultation in September 2021 with concurrence that there should be no effects to any known historic properties.

**TABLE H-1
 NOTICE OF PREPARATION RECIPIENTS AND AGENCY CONSULTATION**

Agency	Point of Contact	Address	Consultation/ Coordination	
			Submitted	Comments Received
Federal				
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)		South Florida Ecological Services Field Office 1339 20th St Vero Beach, FL	2/6/2023	2/9/2023
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	Douglas White Region 4 Strategic Programs Office, NEPA Section	Atlanta Federal Center 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303-8960	6/11/2021	7/15/2021
State				
Florida State Clearinghouse	Chris Stahl, Clearinghouse Coordinator	Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Intergovernmental Programs 2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 47 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400	6/11/2021	
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)	Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D., State Historic Preservation Officer	Division of Historical Resources R.A. Gray Building 500 S. Bronough Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250	5/28/2021	
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Local District	District Four Secretary Gerry O'Reilly / cc Laurie McDermott Aviation Dept	3400 West Commercial Boulevard Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309 (866) 336-8435	6/11/2021	
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC)	Kristal Walsh, Office of Conservation Planning Services	Kristal Walsh Office of Conservation Planning Services Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Milton, Florida	6/11/2021	7/15/2021
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) - 404 permitting	Program Administrator - Permitting & Waste Cleanup, Norva Blandin	3301 Gun Club Rd MSC 7210-1 West Palm Beach, FL 33406	6/11/2021	

**TABLE H-1
NOTICE OF PREPARATION RECIPIENTS AND AGENCY CONSULTATION**

Agency	Point of Contact	Address	Consultation/ Coordination	
			Submitted	Comments Received
Local				
Palm Beach County	Mayor Dave Kerner, cc: County Administrator, Verdenia Baker	301 N. Olive Avenue West Palm Beach, FL 33401	6/11/2021	
Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management	cc: Deborah Drum, Director	2300 North Jog Road, 4th Floor West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2743	6/11/2021	6/28/2021 7/29/2021 9/24/2021 2/1/2022
Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (formerly Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization [MPO] doing business as TPA)	cc: Nick Uhren, P.E., Executive Director	Palm Beach TPA 301 Datura Street West Palm Beach, FL 33401	6/11/2021	
Palm Beach County Planning, Zoning, and Building Department	cc: Ramsay J. Bulkeley, Esq., Executive Director	2300 N Jog Road West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2741	6/11/2021	
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council	Thomas Lanahan, Executive Director	421 SW Camden Avenue Stuart, Florida 34994	6/11/2021	
North County Neighborhood Coalition	Sal Faso	9055 Ibis Blvd West Palm Beach, FL 33412	6/11/2021	
District 1 County Commissioner	Maria Marino	301 North Olive Ave. Suite 1201 West Palm Beach, FL 33401	6/11/2021	
City of Palm Beach Gardens	Mayor Rachelle A. Litt, cc: Ron Ferris, City Manager, Natalie Crowley, Director of Planning and Zoning	10500 N. Military Trail Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410	6/11/2021	
City of West Palm Beach	Mayor Kieth James, cc: Angella Jones-Vann, Planning and Zoning Manager	401 Clematis Street West Palm Beach, FL 33401	6/11/2021 emailed 7/2/2021	

**TABLE H-1
 NOTICE OF PREPARATION RECIPIENTS AND AGENCY CONSULTATION**

Agency	Point of Contact	Address	Consultation/ Coordination	
			Submitted	Comments Received
Town of Jupiter	Mayor Todd Wodraska, cc: Matt Benoit, Town Manager	210 Military Trail Jupiter, FL 33458	6/11/2021 emailed 7/2/2021	
Tribal				
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Mr. Billy Cypress, Chairman	Mr. Kevin Donaldson, Environmental Specialist	Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Tamiami Station PO Box 440021 Miami, FL 33144	7/27/2021	
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mr. David Hill, Principal Chief	Corrain Loe-Zepeda, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer RaeLynn Butler, Manager of the Historic and Cultural Preservation Department	Historic and Cultural Preservation Department Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation PO Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447	7/27/2021	9/8/2021
Poarch Band of Creek Indians Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair	Larry D. Haikey, PBCI Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	PBCI Tribal Historic Preservation Officer 5811 Jack Springs Road Atmore, AL 36502	7/27/2021	
Seminole Tribe of Florida Mr. Marcellus W. Osceola, Chairman	Heritage and Environmental Office, Dr. Paul N. Backhouse, Sr. Director Anne Mullins, Director Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Compliance Review Section, Mr. Bradley Mueller, Compliance Review Supervisor Victoria Menchaca, MA, Compliance Review Specialist	Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Compliance Review Section 30290 Josie Billie Highway, PMB 1004 Clewiston, FL 33440	7/27/2021	
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Mr. Gregory Chilcoat, Principal Chief	Historic Preservation Office, Brigita Leader, MS, Interim Director/TCNS Coordinator	Historic Preservation Office Seminole Nation of Oklahoma PO Box 1498 Wewoka, OK 74884	7/27/2021	
Citizen				

TABLE H-1
NOTICE OF PREPARATION RECIPIENTS AND AGENCY CONSULTATION

Agency	Point of Contact	Address	Consultation/ Coordination	
			Submitted	Comments Received
Pilot and Aircraft Owners Permittees of Signature Flight Support, F-45 Hank Harms			NA	NA

NOTES: Table represents comments received to date, February 2023.

H-2: Agency Notice of Preparation (NOP) Letter

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
Dave Kerner, Mayor
Robert S. Weinroth, Vice Mayor
Maria G. Marino
Gregg K. Weiss
Maria Sachs
Melissa McKinlay
Mack Bernard



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Verdenia C. Baker
DEPARTMENT OF AIRPORTS



June 9, 2021

**CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH
ANGELLA JONES-VANN, PLANNING AND ZONING MANAGER
401 CLEMATIS STREET
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401**

**RE: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Assessment
Extension of Runway 14-32 and Related Improvements
North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport (F45)
Palm Beach County, Florida**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Palm Beach County, in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed extension of Runway 14-32 at the North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport (F45). The EA is being prepared in accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969 (NEPA), Council of Environmental Quality regulations, and FAA policy. It is anticipated the Draft EA will be completed in late 2021 for agency and public review. After consideration of comments, the FAA will make its decision to either prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or issue a Finding of No Significant Impact.

On behalf of the FAA, we are sending you this letter to: 1) inform you of the preparation of the EA, 2) request any information relevant to project's environmental setting to be considered in the EA, and 3) to obtain an understanding of any interest, issues, concerns your agency may have regarding the proposed runway extension.

Description of the Proposed Development Project

The Proposed Development Project would extend Runway 14-32 from its present length of 4,300 feet to 6,000 feet. Other related improvements include widening the runway from 75 feet to 100 feet, grading and drainage improvements, and relocating a section of the airport's entrance road. A more descriptive summary of Project elements is included as **Enclosure 1**. The airport is located southwest of State Road 710/Bee Line Highway and is flanked by the Sweetbay Natural Area, the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area, and the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. The airport location is shown on **Enclosure 2**, and the Proposed Development Project is depicted on **Enclosure 3**.

846 PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406-1470
(561) 471-7400 FAX: (561) 471-7427 www.pbia.org

PALM BEACH COUNTY GLADES AIRPORT
Pahokee

PALM BEACH COUNTY PARK AIRPORT
Lantana

NORTH COUNTY GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT
Palm Beach Gardens

June 9, 2021
Page 2.

We appreciate your input on the proposed runway extension project. If you would like additional information or to discuss the project, you can contact me at (561) 471-7474 or gsypek@pbia.org. You may email your comments and information to me or mail them to my attention at 846 Palm Beach International Airport, West Palm Beach, FL, 33406-1470. If possible, please provide your input within 14 days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,



Gary M. Sypek
Deputy Director of Airports
Palm Beach County Department of Airports

CC: FAA: Peter Green
U.S Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
Florida State Clearinghouse: Chris Stahl
Florida Department of Transportation District 4: Gerry O'Reilly and Laurie McDermott Florida
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Habitat and Species Conservation and
Land Use Planning
Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 404 Permitting: Norva Blandin Palm
Beach County: Mayor Dave Kerner and County Administrator Verdenia Baker Palm Beach
County, Environmental Resource Management: Deborah Drum
Palm Beach County, Transportation Planning Agency: Nick Uhren Palm
Beach County, Planning, Zoning, and Building: Ramsay Bulkeley Treasure
Coast Regional Planning Council: Thomas Lanahan
North County Neighborhood Coalition: Sal Faso
District 1 County Commissioner: Maria Marino
City of Palm Beach Gardens: Mayor Rachelle Litt, City Manager Ron Ferris, Director of
Planning and Zoning Natalie Crowley
City of West Palm Beach: Mayor Keith James and City Planning and Zoning Manager
Angella Jones-Vann
Town of Jupiter: Town Manager Matt Benoit

Enclosures:

1. Description of the Proposed Development Project
2. Project Location
3. Proposed Development Project

Enclosure 1

**Description of the Proposed
Development Project**

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Proposed Development Project consists of the following airfield and access improvements at the North Palm Beach County Airport (F45).

- Runway 14-32 improvements:
 - Shift Runway 14-32 approximately 60 feet to the southwest to provide 300 feet centerline separation from Taxiway F.
 - Extend Runway 14-32 to the northwest 1,700 feet to provide a new runway length of 6,000 feet.
 - Widen Runway 14-32 from its present width of 75 feet to 100 feet.
 - Remove sections of existing runway pavement.
 - Reconstruct, rehabilitate, and re-pave sections of remaining existing runway pavement to match the new sections of runway pavement.
- Extend parallel Taxiway F to the northwest 1,700 feet and construct a connector taxiway to the new Runway 14 threshold. Reconstruct, rehabilitate, and re-pave sections of existing Taxiway F pavement.
- Install new runway and taxiway edge lights and directional signs; relocate or install new Runway 14 threshold lights, Precision Approach Path Indicator Lights, and Runway End Identifier Lights; and remark Runway 14-32 and Taxiway F pavement.
- Clear objects and compact and grade soils within the new Runway 14-32 and Taxiway F Safety Areas (RSA)¹ and new Runway and Taxiway Object Free Areas (ROFA).²
- Update existing and develop new non-precision instrument approach procedures to Runway 14. Remove close-in obstructions (e.g., trees).
- Relocate a 2,300-foot section of Aviation Road, the airport's public-use access road, out of the new Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) on the north end of the runway.³ The relocated section of roadway would be approximately 2,800 feet long by 32 feet wide, within a 60-foot right-of-way. Portions of the existing road will remain in place for restricted use by airport and County personnel.
- Construct two single-lane, gravel airfield service roads for Runway 14-32. Service Road A would be approximately 467 feet in length would connect a closed section of Airport Road to an existing service road. Service Road B would be approximately 1,665 to 1,760 feet in length and located adjacent to the new ROFA.
- Construct a new Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) near the southeast corner of the aircraft parking apron, with access from Aviation Road. The ATCT facility would be owned and constructed by Palm Beach County and operated by a private contractor.
- Modify the airport's existing stormwater management system to accommodate drainage from the proposed runway, taxiway, roadway, and related improvements.

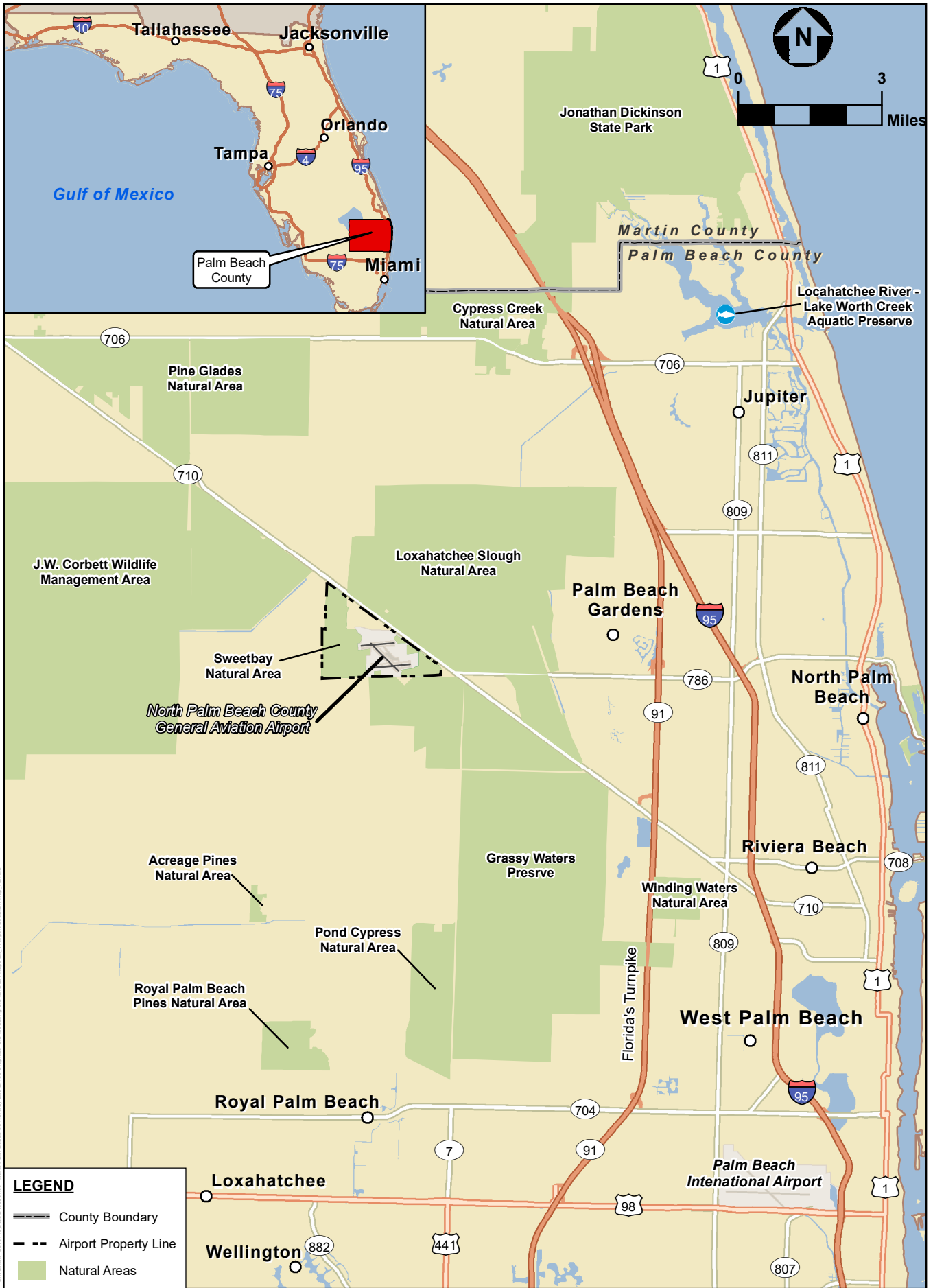
¹ Runway Safety Areas (RSA) are a defined surface surrounding the runway prepared or suitable for reducing the risk of damage to aircraft in the event of an undershoot, overshoot, or excursion from the runway. The RSA is designed to support aircraft and emergency vehicles. Similarly, taxiway safety areas reduce the risk of damage to an aircraft deviating from the taxiway pavement.

² Runway and taxiway Object Free Areas (OFA) are areas around runways and taxiway pavements provided to enhance the safety of aircraft operations by having the area free of objects, except for those that need to be in the OFA for air navigation or aircraft ground maneuvering purposes.

³ A Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) is an area at ground level prior to the threshold or beyond the runway end to enhance the safety and protection of people and property on the ground.

Enclosure 2
Airport Location

EXAMPLE



Source: Esri; SFWMD, 2010; ESA, 2019

North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport Runway Extension EA

AIRPORT LOCATION

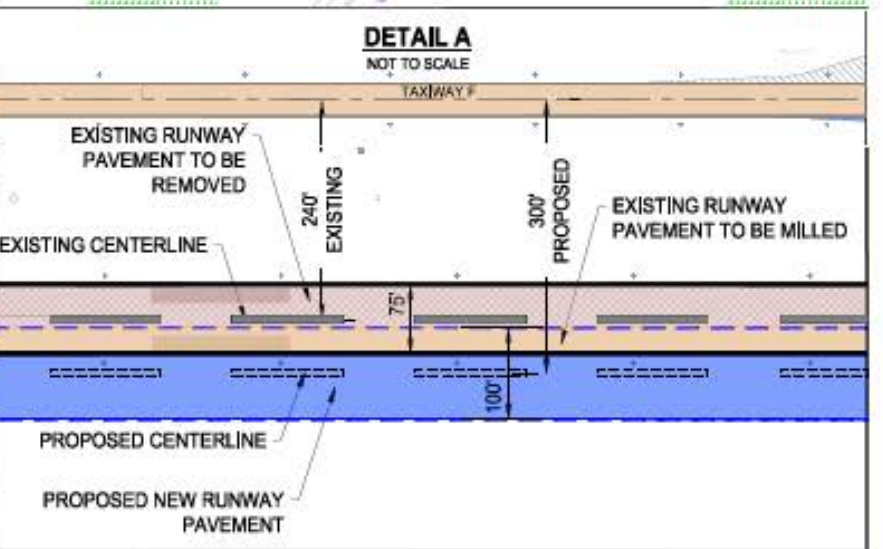
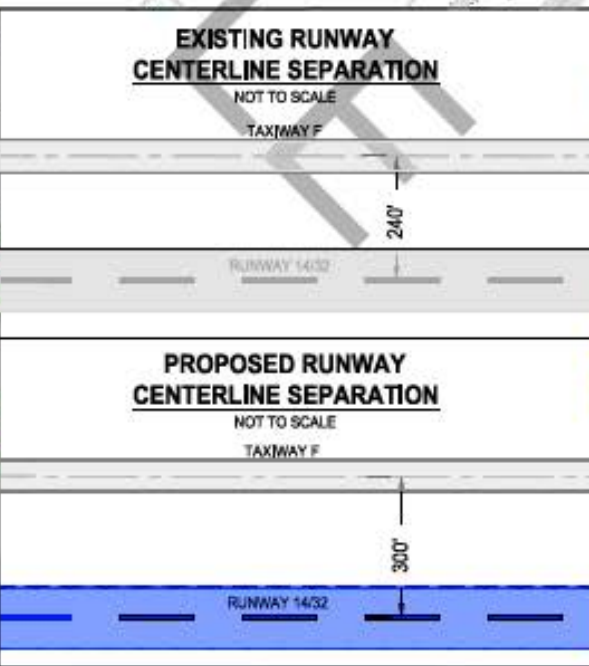
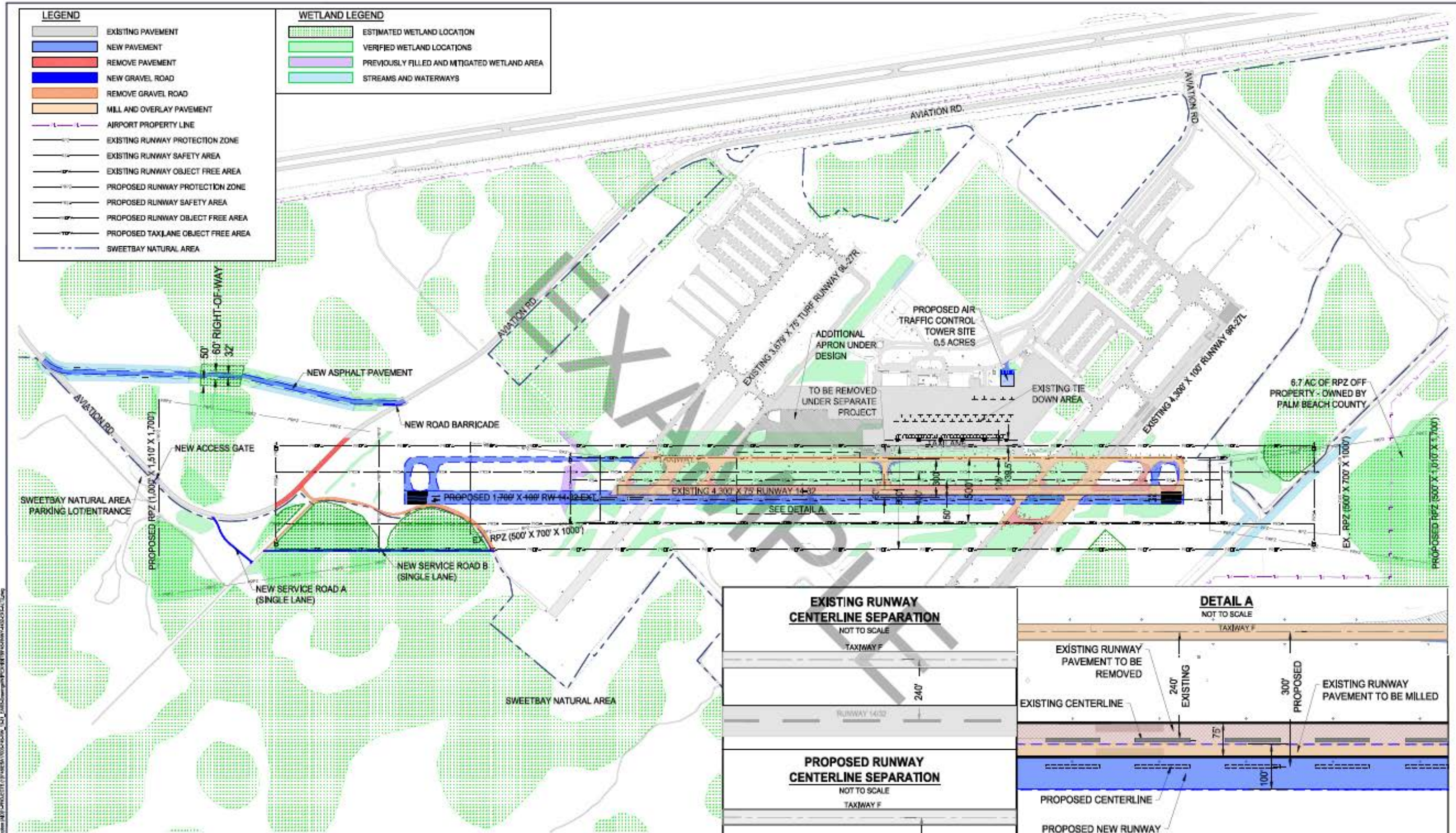
Enclosure 3

Proposed Development Project



- LEGEND**
- EXISTING PAVEMENT
 - NEW PAVEMENT
 - REMOVE PAVEMENT
 - NEW GRAVEL ROAD
 - REMOVE GRAVEL ROAD
 - MILL AND OVERLAY PAVEMENT
 - AIRPORT PROPERTY LINE
 - EXISTING RUNWAY PROTECTION ZONE
 - EXISTING RUNWAY SAFETY AREA
 - EXISTING RUNWAY OBJECT FREE AREA
 - PROPOSED RUNWAY PROTECTION ZONE
 - PROPOSED RUNWAY SAFETY AREA
 - PROPOSED RUNWAY OBJECT FREE AREA
 - PROPOSED TAXI LANE OBJECT FREE AREA
 - SWEETBAY NATURAL AREA

- WETLAND LEGEND**
- ESTIMATED WETLAND LOCATION
 - VERIFIED WETLAND LOCATIONS
 - PREVIOUSLY FILLED AND MITIGATED WETLAND AREA
 - STREAMS AND WATERWAYS



ESTIMATED WETLANDS DATA SOURCE: U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY, 2019.
VERIFIED WETLANDS DATA SOURCE: CECOS, FLUCCS IMPACTS, 2020.



**PROPOSED RUNWAY LAYOUT
SHIFT RUNWAY 14-32 ALTERNATIVE**

SCALE: 1" = 700'
DATE: APR. 30, 2021