



PROJECT	LAX SOUTH AIRFIELD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
CLIENT	LOS ANGELES COUNTY
LOCATION	LOS ANGELES, CA
INDUSTRY	GOVERNMENT
SERVICES	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
WEBSITE	CAO.LACOUNTY.GOV/

THE CHALLENGE

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is one of the busiest airports in the nation and a vital gateway from Southern California to the rest of the United States and over 30 countries around the world. It is also one of the region’s most important economic engines. As such, the city department that owns and operates LAX, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), continually works to enhance safety, security and services at the airport. To accommodate ever growing demands, LAWA planned to expand LAX to improve airfield safety, facilitate more efficient baggage security screening, incorporate the latest information technology, and enhance passenger comfort and convenience.

Any construction project as large in scope as the expansion of an airport is likely to have environmental impacts on the surrounding area. Significant findings of health, biological, cultural or environmental impact could potentially delay development and increase costs, or worse, have an adverse effect on the surrounding population. To avoid costly delays and ensure the health and safety of the local populace, it was essential that the assessments of these impacts be handled quickly and expertly. Given the level of scrutiny that any such project is likely to generate, it is also essential that the results of those assessments be captured in very high quality documentation in full accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Documentation that would stand up to potential legal challenge and public scrutiny was needed.

While LAX is technically owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles through LAWA, as is typical with US airports, the lead agency managing these environmental assessments was Los Angeles County. Therefore, Los Angeles County looked to contract with an environmental consulting expert to provide guidance on navigating the many applicable environmental regulations and to provide expert environmental assessments and documentation. They selected FirstCarbon Solutions (FCS) as part of a larger team of consultants, as primed by A.C. Lazzaretto & Associates, and based upon FCS’ broad environmental service offerings and excellent reputation in the environmental field.

FCS was contracted to review the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and associated impacts assessment in the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the LAX South Airfield Improvement Project. Issues to be addressed included the adequacy and reasonableness of the HHRA and impact assessment, impacts to County health services, adverse impacts to the health of individuals within the County, and use of the HHRA to address Environmental Justice issues. FCS quickly and expertly prepared a preliminary summary of findings of the review and made recommendations for the County’s Board of Supervisors’ consideration.

OUR SOLUTION

FCS’ environmental review culminated in several high-quality reports, submitted by the County to LAWA, and reflecting a complete and accurate assessment of airport expansion health and environmental impacts. Some of the enhanced measures recommended to reduce impacts of the surrounding communities include:

- Enhanced mitigation measures to reduce impacts on surrounding communities
- Viable regional airport solutions that would reduce impacts on communities surrounding LAX
- Master Plan Alternative “D”, which prevents any runways from being added to the airfield, resulting in reduced environmental impact.

These measures recommended by FCS in the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/EIR helped maintain local property values, reduced potential health risks and worked to enhance the quality of life of the residents and businesses in the surrounding communities.

On behalf of the Chief Administrative Office, thanks to everyone for doing such an exceptional job on this project! I especially appreciated how all of you were respectful of the deadlines and responded in a timely fashion when called upon.

Andy Lazzaretto, A.C. Lazzaretto & Associates

THE FCS ADVANTAGE

FCS helps organizations responsibly grow and operate, improve environmental and compliance performance, and boost their bottom line. Our expert services allowed LAX to properly move forward with their expansion plan, in the most timely and cost-efficient manner possible. Over a three-year period, we provided this information on the advanced level necessary for Los Angeles County to move forward with their project. The expertise of the FCS team demonstrated technical credentials in a broad range of environmental disciplines, resulting in a more thorough and accurate public disclosure of the regional and local impacts of the proposed airport expansion.

DELIVERABLES AND RESULTS

Provided pre-construction recommendations for:
Air Quality, Noise, Biological Resources, Water Resources and Environmental Justice

Completed third-party environmental review

Drafted supplemental and final EIS/EIR