



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** July 19, 2022

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Administration Division, Airport Department

**SUBJECT:** Santa Barbara Airport Master Plan Update (Resolution; Contract)

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Authorize the Airport to execute a City Professional Services contract with Mead and Hunt Inc. in the amount of \$919,383, for master planning services to update the Santa Barbara Airport Master Plan and authorize the Airport Director to approve expenditures of up to \$91,938 for extra services that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work; and
- B. Adopt a Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Amending Resolution No. 22-059, Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023, to appropriate funds for professional services contract for Santa Barbara Airport Master Plan Update.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) completed its last Airport Master Plan in 2017. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) encourages updating airport master plans every five to ten years to ensure the document is responsive to current and forecasted needs and accounts for changes in conditions and operations. Since 2017, SBA has experienced healthy growth and a change in commercial aircraft from regional jets to widebody jets. This Master Plan Update (MPU) will provide updated aviation forecasts and necessary capital improvements for the next 20 years. Development of the MPU will include a robust stakeholder involvement program, incorporate sustainability and resilience principles, and be subject to environmental review. After conducting a thorough qualifications-based selection process, staff recommends that City Council award a contract with the highest rated firm, Mead and Hunt, Inc., to provide a MPU.

### DISCUSSION:

SBA is a "small hub" airport currently served by United, Alaska, American, and Southwest Airlines and their affiliates. Since the new Airline Terminal opened in August 2011, SBA has experienced approximately 40 percent growth in enplanements (i.e. commercial passenger boardings).

SBA's capital project program is "demand based," meaning development occurs in response to reasonably anticipated demand for facilities. In 2012, an aviation forecast was prepared in support of the 2017 Airport Master Plan, which identified growth in commercial aviation at SBA reaching 657,000 annual enplanements by the year 2032.

In March 2022, the FAA's Terminal Area Forecast (TAF) estimated SBA exceeding 657,000 annual enplanements in 2027. However, that forecast anticipated SBA's 2021 enplanements at 332,658, while final numbers now are in the range of 475,000. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the 2017 Airport Master Plan build-out figure of 657,000 annual enplanements may be exceeded in the next few years.

While the most recent Santa Barbara Airport Master Plan (AMP) was completed in 2017, FAA guidance encourages updating Airport Master Plans periodically (every 5-10 years). Such updates ensure that the document is responsive to current and forecasted needs, and account for changes in conditions and operations, such as the recent change in fleet mix from regional jets to widebody jets at SBA. Today, SBA endeavors to update the 2017 Master Plan, as the Airport has experienced growth outpacing the 2017 AMP and the most recent FAA TAF.

### Background

An Airport Master Plan evaluates an Airport's needs over a 20-year planning period for airfield, terminal areas, and landside facilities. The goal is to document the orderly development of facilities essential to meet an airport's needs, in accordance with FAA standards and in a manner complementary with community interests. The plan results in a 20-year development plan for a financially resilient facility, reflective of the updated Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) and graphically depicted by Airport Layout Plan (ALP) drawings. An approved plan shows how an airport will satisfy FAA design standards and seek project funding eligible under the respective federal and state airport aid programs.

An MPU was included in the Fiscal Year 2022 Airport Capital Improvement Plan, which is 90.66% funded by FAA entitlement funds. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued by SBA staff in February 2022. Two proposals were received in March 2022, and interviews were held with both qualified firms in April 2022. Consultant interviews were held with a panel of Airport staff, which unanimously agreed to select Mead and Hunt, Inc. based on their qualifications and proposed team. During the period of May through June 2022, staff worked with Mead and Hunt to prepare a scope and contract for the MPU. City staff presented the MPU consultant selection to the Airport Commission in June 2022 and received positive feedback. In addition, Airport staff worked closely with the FAA Western-Pacific Airport District Office on the consultant selection, Independent Fee Estimate, and preparation of the release of FAA funds for the MPU.

### Project Description

As outlined in the RFQ, the objective of the MPU is to provide the community and public officials with proper guidance for future development, which will satisfy aviation demands and be wholly compatible with the environment. Additionally, this project has the specific objective of re-examining the recommended direction from the 2017 AMP, while incorporating subsequent changes when conditions and circumstances may have invalidated previous recommendations. Still-valid concepts may be retained, while new concepts will be developed for those alternatives no longer valid or considered unacceptable or unworkable.

The MPU will follow the adopted guiding principles from the 2017 AMP, which guide the operations and long term planning at SBA:

Safety and Security. *Provide safe and secure facilities and operating environment for aviators and the general public;*

Economic Vitality. *Continue to serve as a vital economic contributor to the region while maintaining the Airport's economic self-sufficiency;*

Transportation Diversity. *Provide modern, quality facilities to serve a variety of aviation needs and services. Facilitate ground transportation options for travel to and from the Airport;*

Community. *Be a good neighbor by coordinating planning, being responsive to community concerns, and proactive in our environmental stewardship.*

Sustainability. *Support sustainable design of airport facilities and the wise use of resources.*

Environmental Preservation. *Assess future development as it relates to the Goleta Slough and other sensitive habitats.*

Cultural Resource Protection. *Preserve and enhance our archaeological and historic resources.*

The scope for the MPU contract includes: a robust stakeholder involvement program and community input committee; a revised Airport Geographic Information Survey; an existing conditions inventory; an environmental inventory; an updated Airport Recycling, Reuse, and Waste Reduction Plan; aviation forecasts; facility requirements analysis; alternatives development and evaluation; a financial feasibility analysis and facilities implementation plan; an aircraft noise analysis; and the development of an Airport Layout Plan. The schedule for the MPU is approximately 18 months after the notice is given to proceed.

Lastly, SBA has multiple planning and design projects that will be occurring at the same time as the MPU. For purposes of consistency and efficiency, Mead and Hunt will coordinate with other consultants employed by SBA on other projects that will affect the development of the Master Plan. These are expected to include the following projects and project teams:

- Passenger Terminal Expansion and Parking Structure Design – Led by CORGAN. This project will be ongoing during the entire Master Plan.
- General Aviation Redevelopment – Led by JACOBS. This project will finish in the summer of 2023.

- Drainage Master Plan – Led by Mead & Hunt. This project will be ongoing during the entire Master Plan.
- Sea Level Rise and Coastal Resiliency Study – Lead consultant TBD. This project will be ongoing during the entire Master Plan.

#### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The FAA, under authorization from the United States Congress, distributes Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds each year. Half of each year's authorized level of AIP funding is distributed to all eligible commercial service airports through an entitlement program that guarantees a minimum level of federal assistance each year based on prior year passenger enplanement levels. The remaining AIP funds are distributed on a discretionary basis. Santa Barbara's estimated total funding amount for the 2022 entitlement grants is \$3,393,183.

Staff requests that Council approve appropriations in the Airport Operating Fund in the amount of \$94,457, funded from available reserve funds in the Airport Operating Fund, authorize a transfer of such funds to the Airport Grants Fund, and approve an increase in revenue and expenditure appropriations in the Airport Grants Fund in the amount of \$1,011,321, funded by the transfer of \$94,457 for the City match and \$916,864 from the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Grant 3-06-0235-070-2022 for the Airport Master Plan Update. The FAA grants fund will cover 90.66% of City staff time as well as consultant costs for the MPU.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

The Santa Barbara General Plan focuses on a stated mission statement of "Living within Our Resources" and stresses sustainability for development (City of Santa Barbara 2011). In addition, a guiding principle of the 2017 AMP and the MPU is to support sustainable design of airport facilities and the wise use of resources. The MPU will be consistent with the Santa Barbara General Plan and will incorporate the guiding principles throughout the development of alternatives.

The MPU will also incorporate updated forthcoming sea-level rise data into the alternatives and will examine aircraft electrification and sustainable aviation fuels. The MPU will also address known and foreseeable environmental challenges that may complicate projects, which will facilitate sustainable project implementation. Lastly, the MPU will update the existing SBA Recycling, Reuse, and Waste Reduction Plan.

A copy of the contract may be requested from the Airport Department for public review by contacting [Airport@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:Airport@SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

The projects and alternatives identified in the 2017 AMP were included in the adopted 2017 Airport Master Plan EIR. The MPU, and any new projects or alternatives will be subject to additional California Environmental Quality Act review. Any projects that are selected for development as part of the MPU will be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act, as well as the California Coastal Act.

**PREPARED BY:** Sara Iza, Airport Land Development Manager/mg

**SUBMITTED BY:** Brian D'Amour, P.E., Interim Airport Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office