

## SECTION 1

# INTRODUCTION



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### BACKGROUND

The City of Fullerton owns and operates Fullerton Municipal Airport, a busy general aviation airport that has served the aviation needs of Fullerton and all of Orange County since 1928 (Figure 1-1).



**Figure 1-1  
Fullerton Municipal Airport**

The last master plan for the airport was completed in 1981<sup>1</sup>, during a period of strong growth in general aviation activity, particularly by single engine aircraft. Much of the development

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<sup>1</sup> CH2Mhill, Master Plan and ANCLUC Report, Fullerton Municipal Airport, July 1981.



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proposed in the 1981 master plan has been completed, and the airport now faces new challenges and opportunities. The general aviation climate has changed dramatically since the 1980's. Although the growth in based aircraft and general aviation operations envisioned in the 1980's has not been sustained, the demand for larger, high-performance general aviation aircraft activity is strong. Furthermore, the increased risk of terrorism associated with aviation has made airport security an ever more important consideration in planning for future airport facilities. This Airport Master Plan update addresses the needs of the general aviation community of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The airport remains in a populated urban environment. The Master Plan responds to issues of aviation safety and compatibility with the surrounding community. In the master planning process, community needs have been addressed through regular meetings with a Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) established for this project and composed of community leaders and affected agencies, and through public meetings.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The overriding objective of the Master Plan is to prepare a document and set of plans that will provide the City of Fullerton with a "roadmap" for the long-term development of the airport in a manner that is safe, environmentally sound and economically efficient. The Airport Master Plan update will assist the City in providing facilities that serve present and future airport users in a way that will continue to ensure the reliability and safety of aircraft operations and will be compatible with community development plans. It will ensure that the airport remain an important economic asset to the City of Fullerton and promote economic growth of the area.

The airport plans are submitted to the FAA for approval and for FAA's use in evaluating grant requests and other actions involving the airport. Thus, the Master Plan provides guidance on the priority of airport development projects to be submitted to the FAA for funding. The FAA has provided funding assistance for this master planning project.

The Master Plan also provides an important update to the Orange County Land Use Commission's Airport Environs Land Use Plan.

The City of Fullerton has established program goals and objectives for the operation of the airport. The Airport Master Plan update will support these goals and objectives. The stated airport program goals are:

- Administer a safe, efficient airport with sensitivity to environmental issues.
- Plan and execute business plans to ensure financially sound operations.
- Provide an aviation gateway to the National Transportation System.
- Provide a user-friendly aviation facility for personal and business travel and aviation public safety operations.





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Specific airport program objectives established by the City are:

- Manage the airport to comply with all federal rules, regulations, and grant assurances.
- Pass the annual state airport inspection, and pass a monthly airport inspection performed by a Noise and Safety Committee member.
- Ensure all tenants comply with lease and franchise conditions.
- Conduct the annual customer survey to assess customer satisfaction and maintain at least an 80 percent customer satisfaction rating.
- Operate the airport as a business enterprise with no subsidy from the General Fund.
- Report 100 percent of noise and safety complaints to the Noise and Safety Committee; respond to 80 percent of these complaints within two working days.
- Utilize state and federal grants to implement airport capital improvements and update the Master Plan.
- Install oil/water separators at critical points in the storm water runoff system.
- Rehabilitate the northwest aircraft parking ramp.

Additionally, at the first Planning Advisory Committee meeting it was suggested that the following objective be added, which is consistent with the City's goals:

- Provide additional facilities such as hangars, at affordable rates, to meet airport demand.

## **PROJECT APPROACH**

The master planning objectives will be accomplished by following some fundamental steps that are recommended in FAA airport master planning guidelines and briefly stated here as an overview of the work to be accomplished. The initial step involves taking inventories of existing facilities and systems, documenting existing conditions, and coordinating activities with other agencies. Next, air traffic demand forecasts are prepared and then used to identify required facilities. Then, requirements are compared with existing facilities to identify deficiencies. Alternative development concepts that satisfy the deficiencies are developed and evaluated so that a recommended concept can be identified. Once a preferred development concept is identified, the detailed master plan of facility improvements is prepared, including a phased development plan and capital cost estimates. The recommended development is presented for three planning periods: short-term (2004-2008), intermediate-term (2009-2013), and long-term (2014-2023).



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Land use and environmental studies are conducted to ensure that airport activity is not restricted by surrounding development and that surrounding development is compatible with airport operations.

## **Summary of Tasks**

The work program for the Fullerton Municipal Airport Master Plan is organized according to the following study elements:

- Element 1 - Project Administration and Management
- Element 2 - Inventory and Data Collection
- Element 3 - Forecasts of Aviation Demand
- Element 4 - Demand/Capacity Analysis
- Element 5 - Facility Requirements
- Element 6 - Airport Alternatives Analysis
- Element 7 - Airport Plans
- Element 8 - Financial Program
- Element 9 - Environmental Evaluation / Overview
- Element 10 - Final Report
- Element 11 - Coordination Meetings

## **Planning Issues**

Some issues identified early in the planning process that will be addressed in the Airport Master Plan are:

- Compliance with all FAA design standards for aviation safety.
- Improvements needed to accommodate the projected aviation needs.
- The need to replace aging wooden hangars.
- The potential need for improvements to the administration building.
- Updated analysis of aircraft noise at the airport.
- Enhancing the airport's financial viability.
- Pavement management needs.
- Review of airport security issues and compliance with new standards.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

Six Working Papers were prepared during the project: at the completion of the inventory, forecasts, facility requirements, alternative concepts evaluation, financial and environmental tasks. Working Papers present interim findings of the project and facilitate the review of study results by the City of Fullerton, the Planning Advisory Committee and others. Each Working Paper contains one or more sections, in draft form, of the complete Master Plan report.



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Working Papers address the following topics:

- Working Paper 1 – Inventory: the current airport facilities and airport setting.
- Working Paper 2 – Aviation Forecasts: long-term forecasts of activity at the airport.
- Working Paper 3 – Facility Requirements: airport facilities required to accommodate the projected long-term aviation demand.
- Working Paper 4 – Alternative Development Concepts: an identification and evaluation of alternative concepts for future airport development.
- Working Paper 5 – Airport Plans and Financial Plan: development plans, schedule, cost estimates and financial plan for the proposed airport improvements.
- Working Paper 6 – Environmental Evaluation: an evaluation of potential environmental concerns associated with the proposed airport development.

A glossary with abbreviations used in this Master Plan has been provided as Appendix A.

