

SECTION 7

Coordination and Public Involvement

7.1 Introduction

A public involvement program was conducted to ensure that information was provided to the general public and interested agencies from the earliest stages of the Environmental Assessment (EA) analysis. Comments were solicited from interested agencies and individuals and the comments received were evaluated and incorporated into the EA document. The program included early notification to Federal, state and local agencies, and two public information meetings. Newspaper advertisements were used to inform the public of the times, locations and dates for both of the public meetings.

7.2 Agency Coordination

Early notification letters were sent to Federal, state and local agencies to secure initial information from them regarding the Proposed Action. Coordination with appropriate Tribal representatives was handled by the FAA Orlando Airports District Office. Distribution of the early notification letters to state agencies was handled through the State of Florida Clearinghouse. The early notification letters, agency letters, and responses are included in **Appendix B**.

7.3 Public Information Meetings

Two public information meetings were held during the development of the Draft EA to inform the public of the EA process, identify the Proposed Action, provide preliminary technical analysis and receive information and comments. The public information meetings were advertised in the Miami Herald, the Miami Times, and the el Nuevo Herald (Spanish language newspaper). Copies of the newspaper advertisements for the public information meetings are provided in **Appendix C**.

The first public information meeting was held on Thursday April 20, 2006 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Arvida Middle School which is located approximately one mile from the Airport. The second public information meeting was held on May 15, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the West Kendall Regional Library which is located approximately one mile from the Airport. The same information was provided at both meetings. The public was provided a handout that included a description of the Proposed Action, a list of exhibits on display, and a comment form. Representatives of MDAD and their consultant, ESA, were on hand at both meetings to discuss

the Proposed Action and answer questions on a one-on-one basis. Exhibits available at the meetings included the study process, airport layout plan, the Proposed Action, existing and forecast aircraft operations, the general study area, the environmental topics being evaluated, aircraft flight corridors and draft existing and future noise exposure contours.

A total of 33 people signed in at the first public information meeting and 22 signed in at the second meeting. Following the first public meeting, three comment forms were received from interested citizens. An additional four comment forms were received following the second meeting. These citizen comments (and responses to the comments) are provided in **Appendix C**. The sign-in sheets and a copy of the handout are also provided in **Appendix C**.

7.4 Draft Environmental Assessment Availability

The Draft EA was made available to the public for review and comment on August 7, 2006. The notice of availability was published in the Miami Herald and the el Nuevo Herald (Spanish language newspaper). Copies of the notices are included in **Appendix G**. The Draft EA was available for review at MDAD's office, the Kendall-Tamiami Executive Airport, and was posted on MDAD's website. The Draft EA was also sent to the regulatory agencies included in Section 8 for review and comment. All agency comments (and responses to comments) on the Draft EA are included in **Appendix H**.

7.5 Public Hearing

A Public Hearing was held from on September 13, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Arvida Middle School. A total of 31 people signed in for the hearing (10 people were with MDAD or its consultant team). Exhibit display boards presenting the findings of the Draft EA were available. The official public hearing began at 7:00 p.m. with a 30-minute formal presentation followed by an opportunity for citizens to comment. Six citizens provided comments during the hearing, all in support of the Proposed Action. Two comment forms and two letters were submitted by citizens following the hearing. Three raised concerns about the burrowing owls, and one supported the Proposed Action. The newspaper advertisements, sign-in sheets, and the hearing transcript are included in **Appendix G**. All citizen comments (and responses to comments) are included in **Appendix H**.