

Panama City-Bay County International Airport
Appendix B Comment & Response Summary

STATE AGENCY INDEX

Agency	Commentor	Type of Comment	Code #
State of Florida Office of the Governor	Jeb Bush	Individual Letter	S001
Florida House of Representatives	Allen G. Bense	Individual Letter	S002
Florida Department of Transportation	H.E. Prescott, P.E.	Individual Letter	S003
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Sally B. Mann	Individual Letter	S004

Governor Jeb Bush
State of Florida
S001 Individual Letter

- Comment 1** On behalf of the State of Florida, I am writing to express my continuing support for the relocation of the Panama-City Bay County International Airport.
- Response** Thank you for your participation in the EIS process. Your support of the relocation of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport is noted.
- Comment 2** Florida concurs with the conclusions of the FEIS, and looks forward to the FAA's Record of Decision approving the airport's relocation.
- Response** Section 7.3 of the ROD identifies the FAA's Selected Alternative which is the relocation of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport to the West Bay site with an 8,400 foot primary runway.



STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com
850-488-7146
850-487-0801 fax

3001

JUL - 3 2006

JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

June 27, 2006

Ms. Marion Blakely, Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Blakely:

On behalf of the State of Florida, I am writing to express my continuing support for the relocation of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport.] 1

In May, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) regarding the proposed relocation of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport. In the FEIS, the FAA selected relocation of the airport to the proposed West Bay site with a runway length of 8,400 feet as the Agency's preferred alternative because of "its superior ability to meet the purposes and needs of the project with fewer constraints than presented by any of the other alternatives."

The FAA is to be commended for its extraordinarily thorough and objective analysis of the alternatives to address the deficiencies and constraints at the existing airport. Florida concurs with the conclusions of the FEIS, and looks forward to the FAA's Record of Decision approving the airport's relocation.] 2

Your consideration of these comments is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jeb Bush

- cc: Ms. Catherine Lang
- Ms. Carolyn Blum
- Mr. Rusty Chapman
- Mr. Dean Stringer
- Virginia Lane



Governor's Mentoring Initiative
BE A MENTOR. BE A BIG HELP.
1-800-825-3786



STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com
850-488-7146
850-487-0801 fax

3001

JUL - 3 2006

JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

June 27, 2006

Ms. Marion Blakely, Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Blakely:

On behalf of the State of Florida, I am writing to express my continuing support for the relocation of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport.] 1

In May, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) regarding the proposed relocation of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport. In the FEIS, the FAA selected relocation of the airport to the proposed West Bay site with a runway length of 8,400 feet as the Agency's preferred alternative because of "its superior ability to meet the purposes and needs of the project with fewer constraints than presented by any of the other alternatives."

The FAA is to be commended for its extraordinarily thorough and objective analysis of the alternatives to address the deficiencies and constraints at the existing airport. Florida concurs with the conclusions of the FEIS, and looks forward to the FAA's Record of Decision approving the airport's relocation.] 2

Your consideration of these comments is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jeb Bush

- cc: Ms. Catherine Lang
- Ms. Carolyn Blum
- Mr. Rusty Chapman
- Mr. Dean Stringer
- Virginia Lane



Governor's Mentoring Initiative
BE A MENTOR. BE A BIG HELP.
1-800-825-3786

Allen G. Bense
Florida House of Representatives
S002 Individual Letter

Comment 1 I am writing in support of the Federal Aviation Administration's recent Final Environmental Impact Statement which concludes that the relocation of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport to the proposed site on CR 388 is a preferred alternative.

Response Thank you for your participation in the EIS process. Your support of the relocation of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport is noted.

Comment 2 The State has not only approved land use changes and permitting for the proposed project, but we have also provided funding for the project. Our community has worked constantly on this project for a number of years and we believe that with the findings of the FEIS, this project is ready for approval and construction.

Response The FAA understands that the state has issued a Notice of Intent to issue an Ecosystem Management Agreement (EMA) and all related state environmental permits for the FAA's preferred alternative. The EMA has not yet been issued. In addition, the USACE has not taken final action under its permitting responsibilities. Therefore, the ROD is not the final environmental action required for project construction.



JUL - 3 2006

5002

Florida House of Representatives

Allan G. Bense
Speaker

420 The Capitol
(850) 488-1450

June 30, 2006

The Honorable Marion C. Blakey
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW, Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Blakey,

I am writing in support of the Federal Aviation Administration's recent Final Environmental Impact Statement which concludes that the relocation of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport to the proposed site on CR 388 is a preferred alternative.] 1

As a Legislative member for this District, I am personally knowledgeable of the positive improvements which are available to this area with the relocation of our airport. The State of Florida has worked diligently to improve the surface transportation near the proposed site. Those improvements will serve as hurricane evacuation routes for our coastal area as well as convenient routes for access to the proposed airport site.

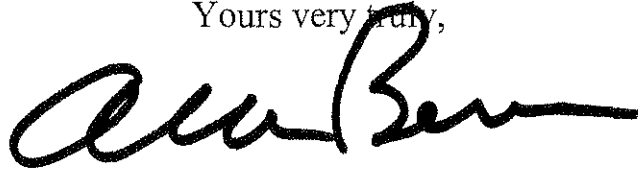
The State has not only approved land use changes and permitting for the proposed project, but we have also provided funding for the project. Our community has worked constantly on this project for a number of years and we believe that with the findings of the FEIS, this project is ready for approval and construction.] 2

Our region will be best served by further improvements to our transportation system, with the approval and support from the State of Florida as well as the federal government.

I urge your support and diligence in the continued progress of this relocation project.

With best personal regards, I am

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Bense". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Allan G. Bense
Speaker

H.E. Prescott, P.E.
Florida Department of Transportation
S003 Individual Letter

Comment 1 I reviewed the sections indicated. I also reviewed the responses to the comments FDOT submitted on the Draft EIS in December 2004. All of FDOT's comments were adequately addressed based on the responses given.

Response Thank you for your participation in the EIS process.

Comment 2 1. Appendix R, Mitigation Commitments, Endangered and Threatened Species: In the first bullet, "...acres of..." should be deleted to be consistent with the other sections that use the same sentence. Otherwise, the number of acres is missing and should be inserted in this sentence and in each similar sentence in the other sections (Water Quality and Biotic Communities) as well.

Response The Commentor is correct. The FEIS errata sheet includes a correction for the typographical error.

Florida Department of Transportation
District Three Administration Building
Office of the District Secretary
Post Office Box 607
Chipley, Florida 32428-0607

S003

Ms. Virginia Lane, Environmental Specialist
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration, Orlando FSDO
5950 Hazeltine National Drive, Suite 500
Orlando, Florida 32822-5023

RE: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
Proposed Relocation of the Panama City - Bay County International Airport

Dear Ms. Lane:

We have received a copy of the referenced transmittal requesting the Department's review of the associated documents. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Pursuant to request, Department staff have reviewed the aforementioned transmittal, and the following comments are provided for your reference. The attachment, entitled "The Final EIS.doc" is regarding Threatened and Endangered Species.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this vital document in the relocation process. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

/s/ H. E. Prescott

H. E. Prescott, P.E.
District Secretary

Handled by:
Greg Vickery
District Performance Management & Communications Coordinator
Office of the District Secretary
Office (850) 415-9529
Fax (850) 638-6159
Cellular (850) 260-5324
<mailto:greg.vickery@dot.state.fl.us>

Please note:

Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials or staff regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure. (Florida Statute, Ch. 119)



The Final EIS.doc

The Final EIS (*signed*) was submitted for review. The cover letter from the FAA indicated they were seeking comments on "updated and/or refined information" in certain sections of the document. I reviewed the sections indicated. I also reviewed the responses to the comments FDOT submitted on the Draft EIS in December 2004. All of FDOT's comments were adequately addressed based on the responses given. I have one comment for the FEIS:] 1

1. Appendix R, Mitigation Commitments, Endangered and Threatened Species: In the first bullet, "...acres of..." should be deleted to be consistent with other sections that use the same sentence. Otherwise, the number of acres is missing and should be inserted in this sentence and in each similar sentence in the other sections (Water Quality and Biotic Communities) as well.] 2

Natalie F. Kent
Environmental Specialist

Sally B. Mann
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
S004 Individual Letter

Comment 1 The Division of Forestry of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) notes that while Pine Log State Forest is located outside the study area, the location of an airport within 1.5 miles of the forest may impact staff's ability to conduct its prescribed burn program due to smoke management concerns. The nearby location of the airport may reduce the number of days available to conduct prescribed burns and will require the use of modified burning techniques. Coordination and cooperation between the FDACS Division of Forestry's Chipola River District and the Airport Authority can overcome any issues associated with the continued use of prescribed fire in Pine Log State Forest.

Response The FAA will encourage coordination between the Airport Sponsor and the Division of Forestry of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

Comment 2 As a technical matter, please note the following correction that should be made in the EIS: in the second sentence of the first paragraph in section 5.11.2.3, "Pine Log State Park" should be revised to "Pine Log State Forest." The Airport Authority is advised to continue coordination with the FDACS divisions of Forestry to resolve prescribed burn issues.

Response The Commentor is correct. The FEIS errata sheet includes a correction for the typographical error.

Comment 3 Based on the information contained in the EIS and comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that, at this stage, the subject project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The State has issued a Notice of Intent to issue an Ecosystem Management Agreement (EMA) and all related state environmental permits for the airport project, including permits for the construction and operation of stormwater management facilities, the construction and operation of a wastewater collection system and treatment plant, and a Wetland Resource Permit (WRP) for dredging and filling in waters of the state.

Issuance of the WRP will constitute the state's final concurrence that the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the FCMP. The foregoing comments regarding the final EIS do not affect the FAA's ability to rely on issuance of the WRP as the state's final consistency concurrence. The WRP will also serve as the state's water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Response Thank you for the updated information and clarification of the status of the state's coastal zone management program review.



5004

JUL - 7 2006

Department of Environmental Protection

Jeb Bush
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

July 5, 2006

Ms. Virginia Lane, Environmental Specialist
Orlando Airport District Office
Federal Aviation Administration
5950 Hazeltine National Drive, Suite 400
Orlando, Florida 32822-5024

RE: Federal Aviation Administration – Final Environmental Impact Statement
Proposed Relocation of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport
Panama City, Bay County, Florida.
SAI # FL200605152296C (Reference SAI # FL200412070282C)

Dear Ms. Lane:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the referenced final environmental impact statement (EIS).

The Division of Forestry of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) notes that while Pine Log State Forest is located outside the study area, the location of an airport within 1.5 miles of the forest may impact staff's ability to conduct its prescribed burn program due to smoke management concerns. The nearby location of the airport may reduce the number of days available to conduct prescribed burns and will require the use of modified burning techniques. Coordination and cooperation between the FDACS Division of Forestry's Chipola River District and the Airport Authority can overcome any issues associated with the continued use of prescribed fire in Pine Log State Forest. Development of workable and accommodating solutions to similar problems has occurred elsewhere in the state. As a technical matter, please note the following correction that should be made in the EIS: in the second sentence of the first paragraph in section 5.11.2.3, "Pine Log State Park" should be revised to "Pine Log State Forest." The Airport Authority is advised to continue coordination with the FDACS division of Forestry to resolve prescribed burn issues.

1
2

"More Protection, Less Process"

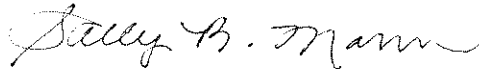
Printed on recycled paper.

Based on the information contained in the EIS and comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that, at this stage, the subject project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The State has issued a Notice of Intent to issue an Ecosystem Management Agreement (EMA) and all related state environmental permits for the airport project, including permits for the construction and operation of stormwater management facilities, the construction and operation of a wastewater collection system and treatment plant, and a Wetland Resource Permit (WRP) for dredging and filling in waters of the state.

Issuance of the WRP will constitute the state's final concurrence that the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the FCMP. The foregoing comments regarding the final EIS do not affect the FAA's ability to rely on issuance of the WRP as the state's final consistency concurrence. The WRP will also serve as the state's water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. For further information on the EMA, state regulatory permits, and conservation easement for the mitigation area, please contact Mr. Larry O'Donnell in the Department's Northwest District Office in Pensacola.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the final EIS. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Lauren P. Milligan at (850) 245-2170.

Yours sincerely,



Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/lm
Enclosures

cc: Larry O'Donnell, DEP, Northwest District
Forrest Watson, FDACS



Florida

Department of Environmental Protection

"More Protection. Less Process"



Categories

[DEP Home](#) | [OIP Home](#) | [Contact DEP](#) | [Search](#) | [DEP Site Map](#)

Project Information	
Project:	FL200605152296C
Comments Due:	06/15/2006
Letter Due:	07/05/2006
Description:	FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION - FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT - PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE PANAMA CITY-BAY COUNTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - PANAMA CITY, BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Keywords:	FAA - FINAL EIS - RELOCATION OF THE PANAMA CITY-BAY COUNTY AIRPORT
CFDA #:	20.106
Agency Comments:	
AGRICULTURE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES	
The FDACS Division of Forestry notes that, while Pine Log State Forest is located outside the study area, the location of an airport within 1.5 miles of this State Forest may have impacts on how we are able to conduct our prescribed burning program due to smoke management concerns. This location could potentially reduce the number of days available to prescribe burn and will require the use of modified burning techniques. However, any issues associated with the continued use of prescribed fire on Pine Log State Forest in the proximity of the airport can be overcome with coordination and cooperation between the Division of Forestry's Chipola River District, and the Airport Authority to develop workable and accommodating solutions that have occurred elsewhere in the state. Within the second sentence of the first paragraph in section 5.11.2.3 "Pine Log State Park" should be revised to say "Pine Log State Forest."	
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION - FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
No Comments per Barbara Lenczewski - 6/30/2006.	
STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
No Comments Received	
TRANSPORTATION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	
No Comments	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
Please continue to coordinate with Mr. Larry O'Donnell in the DEP Northwest District office in Pensacola regarding the pending Ecosystem Management Agreement and associated conservation easement for the mitigation area.	
NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD - NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	
No Comment	

For more information please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
 FAX: (850) 245-2190

Visit the [Clearinghouse Home Page](#) to query other projects.

[Copyright and Disclaimer](#)
[Privacy Statement](#)