

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

GENERAL PLAN, FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT, PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO

Description of Proposed Action: This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and implementing regulations set forth in 32 CFR §989 (*Environmental Impact Analysis Process*), as amended, to analyze a United States Air Force (USAF) proposal to implement the General Plan, Five-year (GP5) Development Component at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The Proposed Action is driven by current and future USAF requirements for more modern facilities and/or expansion of mission-critical operations and to improve the facility planning process. The intent of GP5 is to provide infrastructure improvements necessary to support the mission of Peterson AFB and their tenants. The GP5 links the Peterson AFB Area Development Plans (ADPs) to individual funding programs. The goal of the GP5 is to document the projects needed over the next five years, provide an environmental analysis of these projects, and be prepared to implement the appropriate facility improvements as funds become available.

Specific components of the Proposed Action include:

- Outdoor Multi-functional Training Facility,
- Construction of the Security Forces Facility (SFF) and companion facilities,
 - Reserve Forces Training Facility (RFTF),
 - Command Complex Fire Station,
- Construction of a Military Working Dog (MWD) Kennel,
- Construction of Headquarters Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) Annex,
- Construction to add/alter communications facility,
- Construction of 36 two-bedroom apartments as part of a Temporary Living Facility (TLF),
- Construction of a 25kW Photovoltaic Solar Array,
- Construction of a Fire Station and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Facility (EOD), and
- Construction of Peak View Park and Family Camp.
- Construct Fitness Center Annex

Description of the Alternatives Analyzed: Air Force leadership began to examine alternatives to upgrade and expand existing mission critical operations and facilities at PAFB in 2009. A number of alternatives were considered and all action alternatives were eliminated as no other feasible alternatives were identified which would meet the *purpose* and *need* of the Proposed

Action. No potential acquisition areas are immediately available to Peterson AFB and no additional Alternatives would be suitable to support mission efficiency and current mission requirements and needs. Thus, the mission would be compromised.

Summary of Findings: Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts regarding air resources, hazardous materials and waste, utilities and infrastructure, geology and soils, biological resources, land use, water resources, cultural resources, noise, and safety were analyzed for the proposed actions at Peterson AFB. Implementation of the proposed action would result in a temporary increase in air emissions, and a minimal increase in infrastructure demand. A number of measures will be implemented to minimize the potential for impacts to these resources. To minimize noise impacts, construction and outdoor training activities would take place only during normal working hours, and only on weekdays. To minimize impacts to air resources (i.e., fugitive dust emissions) implementation of standard best management practices (BMPs) for dust control (e.g., regularly watering exposed soils, soil stockpiling, soil stabilization, etc.) would reduce potential impacts to negligible levels. Any plans, standards, or practices required by local, state, or federal law or USAF regulation would be observed in an effort to avoid or minimize impacts to the resources including BMPs commonly required in construction or renovation contracts for resource protection at Peterson AFB. Therefore, the analysis in the EA concluded the following:

- There would be no significant impact from the proposed action to air resources, hazardous materials and waste, utilities and infrastructure, geology and soils, biological resources, land use, water resources, cultural resources, noise, and safety.
- The proposed action is not expected to contribute appreciably to cumulative environmental impacts when considered in the context of other projects that have recently been completed, are currently under construction, or are anticipated in the near future.

Finding of No Significant Impact: Based on information and analysis presented in the EA and review of public and agency comments submitted, I conclude that implementation of the Proposed Action alternative would not constitute an action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment due to the findings listed above and expanded upon in the EA. Accordingly, a finding of no significant impact is made for this project and an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act is therefore not necessary.

Name
21st Wing CC, USAF

Date