

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA)

Notice of Availability for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Otay Mesa Land Port of Entry (LPOE), San Diego, California.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the FEIS, which examines the impacts of a proposal by the GSA to modernize and expand the existing Otay Mesa LPOE. The FEIS describes the reason for the project, alternatives considered, potential environmental impacts, and mitigation measures.

GSA is acting on behalf of this facility's major tenant, the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

DATES: The comment period for the FEIS ends 15 March 2019. After this date, GSA will prepare the Record of Decision (ROD).

ADDRESSES: Further information, including an electronic copy of the FEIS, may be found online on the following website: <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/regions/welcome-to-the-pacific-rim-region-9/land-ports-of-entry/otay-mesa-land-port-of-entry/otay-mesa-environmental-review>. Questions or comments concerning the FEIS should be directed to: Osmahn Kadri, NEPA Project Manager, 50 United Nations Plaza, 3345 Mailbox #9, San Francisco, CA 94102, or via email to osmahn.kadri@gsa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: The Otay Mesa LPOE is located 17 miles southeast of San Diego, on the U.S.-Mexican border. When built in 1983, its primary purpose was to divert growing commercial truck traffic from the increasingly busy San Ysidro LPOE. The Otay Mesa LPOE handles commercial and privately-owned vehicle and pedestrian traffic, which have all grown substantially. It is now the busiest commercial port on the California-Mexico border. Ever-increasing traffic loads and new security initiatives require increased capacity and new inspection technology.

The Project's purpose is to improve the LPOE's efficiency, effectiveness, security and safety. The Project's need is to increase capacity due to increased demand, and to address safety and border security concerns.

The FEIS considers two "action" alternatives and one "no action" alternative. The Preferred Alternative would develop a 10-acre GSA-owned property east of the existing commercial import lot. The new lot would be used to construct commercial inspection buildings and additional commercial import lanes. Other improvements and renovation of existing facilities would also occur, as well as new construction.

The Reduced Build Alternative is a scaled-down version of the Preferred Alternative. Notably, no new construction would occur on the 10-acre GSA-owned plot of land. Instead, this plot would be used as additional space for the commercial vehicle inspection booths, reconfigured to increase traffic flow. Limited renovation of existing facilities would still occur.

The No Action Alternative assumes that modernization and expansion of the existing LPOE would not occur and that a new facility would not be constructed adjacent to the existing LPOE.

PUBLIC MEETING: A public meeting for the FEIS will be held on Thursday, March 7 from 4 to 6 PM at:

Holiday Inn Express and Suites San Diego
2296 Niels Bohr Court
San Diego, CA 92154
619-710-0900

The meeting will use an open house format, where project information will be presented and distributed. Interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide written comments on the FEIS.

NEXT STEPS: After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, the GSA may

1. Give environmental approval to the Project by signing a ROD no sooner than 30 days after the FEIS is issued. In the ROD, GSA will explain all the factors that were considered in reaching its final decision, including the environmental factors. GSA will identify the environmentally preferable alternative or alternatives and may select one of the alternatives or a combination of alternatives analyzed in the EIS.
2. Undertake additional environmental studies, or
3. Abandon the Project.

If the Project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, the GSA could design and construct all or part of the Project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Osmahn A. Kadri, NEPA Project Manager, General Services Administration at 415-522-3617. Please also call this number if special assistance is needed to attend and participate in the public meeting.