

CHAPTER **3**

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Background Data: Truckee Tahoe  
Airport and Environ

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# Background Data: Truckee Tahoe Airport and Environs

## INTRODUCTION

Situated in the Martis Valley at an elevation of 5,900 feet, Truckee Tahoe Airport is a regional general aviation facility serving the Town of Truckee, surrounding Sierra Nevada Mountain resort communities and ski areas, and the Lake Tahoe Basin seven miles to the south. Major facilities include two intersecting runways along with aircraft hangars, apron areas, terminal/administration building and other supporting uses. The primary runway is 7,000 feet in length and oriented northwest/southeast and the secondary runway, oriented northeast/southwest, is 4,650 feet long. In total, the airport occupies nearly 1,000 acres of land.

The airport is owned and operated by the Truckee Tahoe Airport District, a bi-county special district within the counties of Nevada and Placer. The District is governed by a five-member board elected by residents of the district and is supported by local property taxes.

The airport property straddles the boundary between Nevada and Placer counties. The Town of Truckee surrounds the airport on the north and west, but the airport property is not within the town limits. In addition to these three local land use jurisdictions, major portions of the airport environs are under the control of the federal government; specifically, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Martis Creek Lake National Recreation Area) and the U.S. Forest Service (Tahoe National Forest).

When the airport was built in the early 1960s, little development existed in the surrounding area except in Truckee itself. The town remained an unincorporated community of Nevada County until 1993. Since that time, several large resort communities have been developed around the edges of the Martis Valley. Local planning documents estimate that about half of the homes in these communities are occupied year-round and the remainder seasonally. Major portions of the area consist of large land holdings, many of which are proposed for residential development.

The exhibits on the following pages of this chapter summarize information about the Truckee Tahoe Airport and surrounding communities. Together with state laws and guidelines, this information served as the basis for preparation of this *Truckee Tahoe Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan*.

Exhibits 3-1 through 3-8 focus on the airport facilities and use, including noise impacts.

- **Exhibit 3-1: Airport Features Summary.** Presents information pertaining to the airport configuration, operational characteristics and applicable planning documents.
- **Exhibit 3-2: Airport Layout Plan.** Depicts the existing and future airfield configuration and airport building areas. This drawing was approved by the Federal Aviation Administration in January 2016.
- **Exhibit 3-3. Airport Activity Data Summary.** This table summarizes the data used in the noise contour calculations conducted for the Truckee Tahoe Airport Master Plan study adopted by the Truckee Tahoe Airport District in June 2016. The Master Plan forecast of 31,139 annual operations is used as the basis of this *Compatibility Plan's* noise policies.
- **Exhibit 3-4 and 3-5: Compatibility Factors.** Depicts the extents of the four compatibility factors upon which the *Compatibility Zones* for Truckee Tahoe Airport were derived. The four compatibility factors are defined by:
  - *Noise* – Future noise contours reflecting a forecasted aircraft activity level of 31,139 annual operations (182 average day, peak season).
  - *Safety* – Generic safety zones provided in the California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook (October 2011) are applied to the existing and future runway configurations.
  - *Overflight* – Primary traffic patterns reflecting where aircraft operating at the airport routinely fly.
  - *Airspace Protection* – Outer boundary of the Obstruction Surfaces as defined by Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 77, Safe, Efficient Use and Preservation of the Navigable Airspace.
- **Exhibit 3-6: Airport Environs Information** – Summarizes information about current and planned land uses in the environs of the Truckee Tahoe Airport. The status of local general plans and airport land use compatibility policies contained in those plans are also summarized.
- **Exhibit 3-7: County General Plan Land Uses** – Shows planned land use designations as reflected in the adopted general plan land use diagrams for the Counties of Nevada and Placer.
- **Exhibit 3-8: Town of Truckee General Plan Land Uses** – Shows planned land use designations as reflected in the adopted general plan land use diagram (2006).